

Robert “Bob” Flynn

Bob Flynn started in corps as a drummer with the Rockford VFW Drum & Bugle Corps, known as “the black and white,” because of their uniform colors. This was one of the first Midwestern corps to gain national fame with their second place finish at the VFW National contest in 1946 in Boston. Later, this corps went senior as the Rockford Eagles (sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles). Bob played snare and helped instruct the percussion section in this unique senior corps—the only one who would take on the top juniors of the area in open competition.

In the early 1950's, Bob became an All-American M&M and Drum Judge, though he almost always preferred the marching caption. About this time he also was an instructor, then director of the Aurora Moose Corps. Under his leadership, the corps changed to a Spanish theme and became the Vaqueros. Their high point was a sixth place finish at the Dallas VFW Nationals, where their competition guard took second. Later, it was alumni from this unit that set up the Fox Valley Raiders. He was also an advisor during the formation of the present Phantom Regiment.

In 1959, in spite of having had several important officerships in the All-American, he stood by the courage of his convictions about judging, and when the call came, he helped form the Central States Judges Association. He was one of the three M&M judges involved, and helped formulate the original examination. Later he was active in caption administration. Bob also was a specialist in General Effect (at that time a separate caption) and Color Guard. He judged many, many local, regional, state and national contests for CSJA., MWCGA, American Legion and V.F.W. Apart from corps, Bob was involved in inspection supervision at a large machine tool company in Rockford. He was very active with the local Civil Defense program.