

## AOG AWARDS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO EDMUND L. LADOUCEUR

**M**r. Edmund L. Ladouceur was awarded Honorary AOG Membership during an induction ceremony that was held at Doolittle Hall on February 2, 2012.

Mr. Ladouceur was Director of the Cadet Catholic Choir, Associate Director of the Cadet Chorale, Director of Cadet Chapel Music, Director of Cadet Choral Activities and organist at the Cadet Chapel for 28 years from 1961 to 1989.

“Mr. L,” as he was known to the more than 3,100 members of the Catholic Choir and Cadet Chorale, was born on October 7, 1933. At the age of fifteen he became the youngest graduate of the five-year music program at Detroit’s Palestrina Institute of Ecclesiastical Music. He earned bachelor degrees in music education and organ/piano, and a master of fine arts degree in organ performance from Carnegie-Mellon University.

Mr. Ladouceur has been a faculty member of several colleges and universities, is a member of the American Guild of Organists, and has performed in concert extensively throughout the United States.

In February 1961, “Mr. L” joined the Academy staff and, together with James Roger Boyd, brought the Academy much national recognition through performances at the 1974 Super Bowl, the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, the inauguration of President Richard M. Nixon, annual performances at St Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City and many others. A nationally renowned organist himself, Mr. L brought other world-renowned organists to the Academy for its Summer Organ Recital Series.

Mr. L’s biography is impressive but it doesn’t capture the real reason for this award—his direct impact on more than 3,100 cadets and the entire Academy community. As Tom Lockie ’79 said in the nomination package “... he wore many hats besides musical director. He was mentor, father figure and friend to all who knew him.” He not only built the Cadet Chapel music programs, he built the Catholic music programs at the Commu-

nity Center Chapel as well, said AOG Honorary Member Brigadier General (Ret.) Mal Wakin.

Mr. L’s choirs included many notable graduates. General (Ret.) Mike Ryan ’65, former Air Force Chief of Staff wrote, “Mr. L touched many cadets,” and that he “strengthened their faith and uplifted their lives.” Former Academy Superintendent, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John Regni ’73, wrote “Mr. L is an incredibly accomplished musician [and] the main reason I went to Sunday choir was to just watch and marvel at his skills, and listen as he played.”

The AOG Honorary Membership Award can be bestowed upon non-graduates who demonstrate prolonged, outstanding and conspicuous service to the Air Force, the Academy, and the AOG. Only 25 living persons can hold the title of Honorary Member at any given time. It was first awarded in 1981 to Mrs. Gail McComas, the beloved Cadet Wing Hostess. Past recipients include Barry Goldwater, Jimmie Doolittle, Coach Ben Martin and Coach Fisher DeBerry. ✓



AOG Board Chair Terry Storm '61 presents Edmund Ladouceur with the Honorary AOG Membership Award.