

## **THE ARION AWARD in memory of Eleanor Reeves Gaiden of the class of 1941**

Late 2021, the Okemos Alumni Association was contacted by Vivian Hoette, daughter of Eleanor Reeves Gaiden, OHS Class of 1941! Vivian and her sister expressed interest in remembering their mother who talked fondly of her experiences growing up in Okemos and playing Tuba in the marching band. Eleanor marched proudly along with her sister Alberta and brother Robert. Eleanor's class graduated 32 members, so one can imagine totaling the football team, marching band and cheerleaders didn't leave a lot of students in the cheering section!



Vivian and family were interested in offering a band scholarship in their mother's name. This wonderful gesture is particularly appreciated since it would honor a distinguished student from a traditionally high achieving academic program at Okemos. This school year, OHS Band again achieved the highest state honors. Vivian asked OHS Band Director, Mark Stice, to create the award at his discretion.

From Okemos Band Director, Mark Stice: "What I would love to do is put a monetary honorarium with the Arion Award so that it would be the Arion Award in memory of Eleanor Reeves Gaiden of the class of 1941. Since coming to Okemos, I've always wondered why the highest musical award did not come with a scholarship. I think this would be a great way to honor both our finest musician and Mrs. Gaiden."

### **THE ARION AWARD in memory of Eleanor Reeves Gaiden of the class of 1941: MOST OUTSTANDING SENIOR PERFORMER**



*Mark Stice*

The Arion Award recipient is selected by the Band Director. It is a national award for outstanding achievement by a high school musician. It is presented to the senior band member who has achieved the highest level of musical performance on his/her instrument. The award has been presented at OHS every year since 1983. The award is named after the legendary poet and musician who mythology tells us lived about 625 B.C. The most popular musician of his time, Arion's musical lyre is still visible in the constellation Lyra.

A note to OHS Alumni, their families and friends: Consider sponsoring a scholarship in Memory or in Honor of Alumni, their Teachers or Administrators.

Okemos Alumni Association

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