

TRIBUTE TO NEIL

by Gil Peterson

Let me say right out front, with my limited vocabulary, I will be unable to pay the tribute to Neil Lantz that he truly deserves. Neil is a very low-profile individual that never has sought accolades or praise. As the President of the FFS and staunch supporter of The Four Freshmen and the FFMF for the past eight years, he has simply dedicated hundreds of hours as our President and leader that very few of us know anything about.

Very seldom does an individual come along who has natural leadership skills. That is a very special quality for anyone to possess. Neil Lantz, without question, happens to be one of those very rare individuals who possesses remarkable leadership qualities. The Four Freshmen Society, The Four Freshmen and the FFMF were extremely fortunate to have had Neil as our President and leader for the past eight years.

During Neil's tenure as President, the FFS and The Four Freshmen have experienced a number of issues that required serious and prompt consideration. Neil addressed each situation thoughtfully, methodically and carefully. After much consideration, he would present his recommendations to the FFS Board of Directors for approval. I don't remember a single time that the Board did not unanimously approve his recommendations.

For the past several years, I have had the honor and privilege collaborating with Neil while negotiating the hotel contracts for our annual



Conventions. Some of the negotiations were very involved and, in some cases, took several months to finalize. Neil has a very keen eye for detail and I was always impressed with his intellectual approach to finalizing these contracts. I think we did pretty well.

Beside serving as our President, Neil and Sara Lou Co-chaired two of our most successful conventions. Indianapolis in 2008 and Louisville in 2016. Approximately 600 members attended Indianapolis and 400 attended Louisville. I don't know if we will ever see numbers like that again.

I feel comfortable in stating on behalf of the entire membership of the FFS, The Four Freshmen and the FFMF our sincere appreciation to you, Neil, for your remarkable leadership over these past eight years. Without question, you did a masterful job and with much gratitude, we all stand and salute you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. **(Continued on page 4)**

