

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



WILLIAM VESSELS

THE WILLIAM VESSELS ENDOWMENT

PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE NATS INTERN PROGRAM

I respected him so much, especially for his deep commitment, his positive encouragement and advice, and his excellent servant leadership during times of great change and important transitions in NATS. – Linda J. Snyder, NATS President 2016-2018

William "Bill" Vessels served as executive director of NATS from 1990 until 2005, during which time he helped guide it through challenging times and created a solid foundation for a thriving, impactful organization.

Vessels was instrumental in moving the NATS executive office headquarters to Jacksonville, where initially it was housed on the Jacksonville University (JU) campus before transitioning to its current office space. As one of Vessel's first students at JU and a NATS member, Carole Clifford saw firsthand how he helped steer the ship during those uncertain times.

"I believe Bill literally 'saved' NATS back in the day when he rescued the organization," Clifford said. "He also facilitated planning for the purchase of the current NATS office so that it continued to thrive and grow."

Vessels not only served as NATS executive director for 15 years but also had an active teaching career for many years at JU. What started as a part-time leadership position with the National Association of Teachers of Singing grew into a role as the full-time executive director after he retired from teaching in May 2002.

Vessels was born in Gadsden, Alabama, and he went on to attend Samford University near Birmingham, Alabama. Later, he earned his doctorate in music from Indiana University. He served in the U.S. Army before he began his teaching career.

The National Association of Teachers of Singing has established the William "Bill" Vessels Endowment honoring the former NATS executive director. The endowment provides a dedicated and permanent source of funding for the NATS Intern Program and honors Vessel's years of distinguished service to the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

With the establishment of the endowment, there is now a “William Vessels Master Teacher” named each year.

“Bill advanced our organization in countless ways, and it seems fitting that his legacy would be honored by an endowment that will provide funding for a program he championed,” says Allen Henderson, current NATS Executive Director.

GIVING to NATS

You may [contribute to this fund here](#). You also may contact the NATS Executive Office at (904) 992-9101 for assistance.

