

RICHARD S. BENJAMIN  
3415 W. HURLEY POND RD. stereo  
WALL, NEW JERSEY 07719

# Heritage of the March

The United States Navy Band

Commander Donald W. Stauffer, Leader



## HAROLD L. ALFORD

1883 - 1939

Harry Alford was born in Blissfield, Michigan, in 1883, and studied music at Dana's Musical Institute in Warren, Ohio. He progressed from church organist to trouper to director of musical comedies, and is best known for his 'professional arranging bureau' in the Chicago area. In the days of vaudeville, his pit-orchestra music for "Eva Taguay" made him so famous that every act wanted their music scored by him. He also published many of his own works; some will fondly remember his edition of the "Hungry Five" books for German band.

Dr. Harding, Director of the University of Illinois Bands, commissioned him to do some of the first big football band extravaganzas, such as "My Hero" and "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise." He is thus an important pioneer in this most flourishing area of school band development during the last 40 years. His two most popular marches are "Glory of the Gridiron" and, of course, "Purple Carnival." He died on March 4, 1939, in Chicago.

**Harry L. Alford** is quite often confused with Kenneth J. Alford, who is included on this album to provide a convenient comparison between their lives and works.

## KENNETH J. ALFORD (Major Frederick J. Ricketts) 1881 - 1945

Frederick Joseph Ricketts was born in London in 1881. At fifteen he enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers as a cornetist, and eight years later transferred to the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. He

### SIDE ONE - HARRY L. ALFORD

- |   |        |       |
|---|--------|-------|
| IMP   | [2:27] | ASCAP |
| <i>"A Devilish Good March"</i>  |        |       |
| LAW AND ORDER   | [2:51] | ASCAP |
| MARCH OF THE JACKIES  | [1:58] | ASCAP |
| <i>"Dedicated to Bandmaster Brown of the U.S. Naval Training Station"</i>                                       |        |       |
| MARCH OF THE ILLINI   | [2:07] | ASCAP |
| <i>"To Director A. A. Harding of the University of Illinois Bands" (original title: "Battle of Tippicanoe")</i> |        |       |
| SKYLINER  | [2:32] | ASCAP |
| <i>"To my son, Harold, Transport Pilot - Instructor of Blind Flying"</i>  |        |       |
| CALL OF THE ELK   | [3:02] | ASCAP |
| <i>-official march of the B.P.O.E.</i>  |        |       |
| HUSTLER   | [2:15] | ASCAP |

### SIDE TWO - KENNETH J. ALFORD

- |            |        |      |
|------------|--------|------|
| OLD PANAMA | [2:43] | BIEM |
|------------|--------|------|

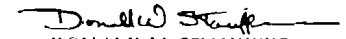
Dear Listeners,

We hope you enjoy this recording of marches performed by your United States Navy Band. We have found in programming our nationwide tours that many people love best of all to hear stirring marches by the band, for it is in the march that a band is most at home, with invigorating music specifically composed to enhance its best qualities.

In anticipation of our coming bicentennial observances, we are circulating these records to interested radio stations throughout the country, so Americans can become more aware of the great heritage of march music that is theirs. It seems fitting to include in our salute the many foreign march composers who, like their American counterparts, are threatened by historic obscurity. The marches used are previously unrecorded in this country, and their order of presentation is unrelated to historic chronology or judgements of importance.

I wish to give special recognition and appreciation for much vital assistance to Mr. Robert Hoe, a prominent businessman in Poughkeepsie, New York. Bob, a most ardent band 'buff' who collects and classifies band music and recordings, gives freely of his expertise in assisting bandmasters in this country and abroad. Without his financial aid and technical counsel, this 'Heritage of the March' series would not have been produced. The assistance of others [listed below] is gratefully acknowledged.

Again, we hope you obtain much pleasurable listening from this record, and would appreciate hearing from you concerning any suggestions as to the continuing series.

  
DONALD W. STAUFFER  
Commander, United States Navy  
Leader, United States Navy Band

The United States Navy Band has been a leading proponent of inspiring music since its inception by act of Congress in 1925 under