

Bandleaders honor E-town's Kitchen

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Elizabethtown College professor of music emeritus Otis Kitchen was recently recognized by the American Bandmasters Association for his outstanding lifetime achievements.

Kitchen, 79, was one of 12 members of the association honored by the prestigious group during its 77th annual convention in Norfolk, Va., for excellence in concert band conducting and composing, and for his military service.

Kitchen is a Korean War veteran, having served in the Army.

"It was a very nice event. It was real and very moving. There are only two living veterans in the association and we are both from Pennsylva-



Otis Kitchen

nia," said Kitchen.

An accomplished conductor, Kitchen became a member of the ABA in 1986.

ABA is the professional association of master conductors and musicians. Membership is considered the highest honor achievable by American bandmen.

"What amazes me about this whole thing is that there were all these other big shots from all over the world and then there was me from Lancaster County," said Kitchen.

"It boosted my ego a little bit," he chuckled.

A Manheim Township resident, Kitchen retired from the Elizabethtown faculty in 1996 after serving for 32 years as professor of music.

His proficiency in conducting has taken him around the world. The highlights of his career include conducting in a command performance in Rome for Pope John Paul II and performing at the Vienna Music Festival.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from Bridgewater College, studied at the U.S. Navy School of Music and holds a master's degree from Northwestern University.

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