

Hans Schmelzer

passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, October 29th. He was surrounded by his family when he passed away. Maybe it was all those years of as a trumpeter that gave him his strong heart ... he was 95! He is survived by his wife Anna, children Hans Jr. and Anneliese, grandchildren Samantha, Andrew, Eric, Christopher and Julie Anna and great-grandchild Geraldine.

Hans Schmelzer was the Donauschwäbische "Music Man" for as long as I can remember. If there was a local German band, he generally had a hand in it.

He was born in Ortzidorf, Rumania on Dec 11, 1919. He loved music as a child and started playing the accordion at a young age. He was in a military band during the war. Afterwards, he formed a band calling themselves "Die Rhythmischen 5". He brought his love of family and music



to America in 1955 and shortly thereafter formed "The Vienna Melody Boys". That band became today's "The Dominos". He didn't stop there. In 1962 he formed "The German American Brass Band" and served as the band's Kapellmeister Emeritus until his death. The band, now under the able leadership of Ernie Star, are often at German functions. (www.alemanniamusic.org). For all of his many years in music, he was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross

of The Federal Republic of Germany, given to those that promote the understanding of German cultures and music. He is proudly wearing his cross in the picture on the left.. His family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be given to Herr Schmelzer's favorite charity, the Alemannia Music Foundation. The foundation has a Hans Schmelzer Scholarship Fund which gives a scholarship yearly to a student or high school that promotes German music. Donations in his name can be made by going to the Foundation's website at <http://www.alemanniamusic.org/donationpopup.html>.

As fate would have it, Herr Schmelzer played at the 50th commemoration of Father Lani's passing in 2004. This month, we'll commemorate the 60th year of Father Lani's death. The remembrance will be on Saturday, November 15 at 10:30 at his gravesite at Calvary Cemetery. The address is 4201 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023, Phone 323-261-3106. *Karl Seitz*

Die donau-schwäbische Gemeinde der St. Stephan Kirche gedenkt des Kirchengründers und Wohltäters Fr. Mathias Lani



Am Samstag, 15. November gedenken die Donauschwaben Ihres "Schutzengels" und Wohltäters Pater Mathias Lani. Dessen Todestag jährt sich zum 60. Mal. Das obige Bild entstand bei den Gedenkfeiern zum 50. Todestag im Jahre 2004. Der Trompeter ist Hans Schmelzer, der legendäre Musiker der Donauschwaben, der kürzlich verstarb. (Siehe Seite 22)

