

**Mr. Eric Kalkhurst**  
**2013 Outstanding Alumnus**

Mr. Eric Stanley Kalkhurst graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 1919. He grew up as Stanley Kalkhurst and changed his name to Eric in 1926. Mr. Kalkhurst was an outstanding performer on Broadway, regional theater, Shakespearean theater and movies, in addition to being a public relations leader. He attended Carroll College where he developed a passion for acting. He spent his last semester of college at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, which led to his first significant role on Broadway.

Mr. Kalkhurst went on to appear in 21 Broadway productions and became a featured player in a preeminent international Shakespearean touring company. He also appeared in four movies and directed one. As movies transferred from silent to talking motion pictures, Eric was retained by MGM studios to teach the more personal acting techniques used on the stage. Among his earliest pupils were Clark Gable and Jimmy Stewart. Mr. Kalkhurst was instrumental in creating, producing, directing, and authoring for several high quality east coast theater stock companies, which created hundreds of jobs during the depression.

Mr. Kalkhurst retired from acting in 1941 due to the impact of the impending WWII. He became a sales representative for The Bureau of National Affairs (BNA), one of the largest international publishers of research of industry and political trends. After 3 years, he was promoted to the Pacific Regional Manager in Los Angeles and then the Midwest Regional Manager in Chicago. In 1952, Eric was appointed the bureau's Director of Public Relations and Government Relations at the corporate headquarters in Washington D.C. In this position, he worked with President Eisenhower, White House staff, the cabinet, senators, representatives, and captains of the industry. Mr. Kalkhurst's success in his position led to selection by his peers to be the National Treasurer and President-Elect of the American Public Relations Association. He was rumored to be the next president of BNA when he was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in 1957 at the age of 56. He chose to be buried in his beloved hometown of Beaver Dam in Oakwood Cemetery.