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Effingham's George H. Bauer Remembered for Role in Drafting WWII's G.I. Bill of Rights

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Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine**Effingham's George H. Bauer Remembered for Role in Drafting WWII's G.I. Bill of Rights**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--As U.S. troops were fighting on far-flung battlefields in November, 1943, George H. Bauer and seven others were meeting to draft what became landmark federal legislation--the G.I. Bill, which provided education, housing, and other benefits to more than 15 million veterans.

Bauer's role in conceiving the G.I. Bill is recounted in the Fall, 1995, edition of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine* in an article, "A Change in Plans: IWU and the War," marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The article, written by Bob Aaron, IWU's director of public relations, is attached to this news release.

Bauer was a 1918 graduate of IWU's law school and a World War I veteran.

George J. Bauer, explained his father's support for the G.I. Bill this way: "He didn't want a repeat of what happened after the World War I troops came home. They had nothing to look forward to."

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls 1,860 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. The university's endowment is valued at more than \$100 million. A \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research opened Aug. 28. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."