G.H. “Gus” Poesch has devoted over six decades of distinguished service to the floriculture industry. Gus Poesch’s contributions to floriculture and Pi Alpha Xi have been immeasurable and unsurpassed. In 1973, he was elected to the Floriculture Hall of Fame. On this occasion, the trustees of this prestigious organization state:

“An innovator and stimulator of research, influential educator, and respected businessman, Gus Poesch has made an indelible mark in his profession.”

Poesch’s personal history is as notable and important as his accomplishments and attests to his present position of leadership in floriculture.

Lockwood, Missouri was his birthplace and early childhood home. At the age of ten, he moved with his parents to Monroe, Michigan, where he worked in the greenhouse of Otto Cron. His college education began at Michigan State College (now University), where he was a charter member of the Delta Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi - the national floriculture/landscape horticulture scholastic honorary fraternity - in the company of such men as Alex Laurie and Kenneth Post. After graduating in 1930, Poesch and Alex Laurie came to The Ohio State University, where Poesch earned a M.S. degree and served on the faculty. During his eleven years at Ohio State, Poesch deciphered, along with Prof. Laurie the photoperiodic (light/dark) responses of chrysanthemums so that this crop could be flowered year-round. He also developed with Arnold Wagner, the “W.P. Solution,” which was formerly used in gravel culture. Poesch served 10 years in the National Pi Alpha Xi offices of Secretary (1937-39), 1941-47) [sic] and Treasurer (1939-41), (1941-47). His 10 year tenure in these offices is a record unequalled by any member or national officer.

Poesch joined the Fred C. Gloeckner and Co., Inc., in 1941. In the intervening years he has continued to be active in the firm, presently serving as its vice president. His accomplishments and recognitions during nearly a half-century with the Gloeckner organization are numerous: He is a member of the President’s Club at the University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, and The Ohio State University. He was active for many years in Alpha Gamma Rho, a national agriculture fraternity; traveled through Asia, North America, Europe, and South America, visiting floriculture establishments; was recognized by both The Ohio State University and Michigan State University as a distinguished alumnus; served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Florists’ Association and served as the first president of the Ohio State Floriculture/Landscape Horticulture Alumni Association. All of these activities and honors, however, are merely a brief excerpt from Poesch’s impressive record.
Poesch’s tenure for a decade and a half as chairperson of the Ohio Florist Short Course Planning Committee must rank as one of his most significant contributions. Under Poesch’s leadership, the Short Course has increased significantly both in quality and attendance. It is now considered by many florists as an industry event.

Although Poesch has maintained an enormously busy schedule during his career, he has always found time to foster the principles upon which Pi Alpha Xi is founded. He has been ever alert to find other persons with worthy of achievement in ornamental horticulture. He’s encouraged, supported and guided young people young people [sic] interested in the industry and education.

Poesch’s accomplishments in industry and education, past and present, represent true dedication to Pi Alpha Xi and to the field of floriculture, ornamental and landscape horticulture. He is, indeed, very worthy oof [sic] the honor of National Charter Class Fellow - 2 of Pi Alpha Xi.

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