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John J. Baughman was born in Evansville, Indiana. He graduated from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana in 1948 with a BA in history. He received an AM in history from Harvard and PhD in European history from the University of Michigan and then taught at DePauw University for 37 years before he retired in 1990. A combat infantryman in World War II, he received a Purple Heart for his service. Dr. Baughman published several books, articles and reviews on a variety of historical topics. Among his other civic and historical activities, Dr. Baughman was a long-time friend and supporter of the DePauw University Archives and received the Midwest Archives Conference President's Award. He served as president of the Joint Archives Committee, chairman of the United Methodist Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History and was a co-founder and president of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society.