



Paris Brenton York

August 17, 1934 - June 3, 2015

Paris Brenton York, 80, passed away Wednesday June 3, 2015 in Tulsa, OK. Born in Indianola, OK. on August 17, 1934, the son of G.W. & Ruby York. He moved to Vinita in 1939. He became interested in music as an 8th grader when an uncle introduced him to recordings of the big bands such as, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, etc... Paris had the opportunity to play in four different high school bands: Vinita, McAlester, Wewoka and finally graduating from Picher High School. By then he was playing most of the woodwinds and some of the brass. He started his teaching career early. His band director at Picher, Bob Highland, asked him to tutor some of the younger students. One of those students was Burl Lane, retired contra bassoonist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Paris played in the All Oklahoma All State band in 1950 at Oklahoma A & M College in Stillwater. The guest conductor was Bohumil Makovski. This was one of Bo's final performances before he passed away. He made a strong impression on a young man aspiring to become a band director just as Paris did with so many of his former students. After graduating high school in 1952, Paris married his high school sweet heart Rose Jones. Paris spent the next three years in The U.S. Marine Corps Bands finishing with the San Diego Post Band. While in San Diego, Paris studied flute with fellow marine Gunther Kane, who before being drafted, was a flutist with the Chicago Symphony. His most impressionable and influencing musician in the Marine Corps was the late great jazz saxophonist and composer, Oliver Nelson. After his discharge from the Corps in 1955, Paris attended the University of Oklahoma, receiving his bachelors & masters degrees. He was a grad assistant to Leonard Haug in the spring of 1959 and took his first teaching position in the fall of 1959 at Eufaula. He then moved to Poteau in 1960-64 where his concert & marching bands were consistent superior winners at district, state and Tri-State music contests. Then off to Adair to become principal and band director (a combination job for two years) where his bands rated superior. In 1967, Paris became supervisor of music and high school band director at Broken Arrow, starting the tradition of excellence and naming the band "The Pride of Broken Arrow" that still continues today. During his tenure at Broken Arrow, then a class 4-A school, he had consistent superior ratings with his concert bands, marching bands and two competitive jazz bands. His jazz band competed and won the first state stage band contest in Oklahoma at Bethany High School

in 1967. Paris was a charter member of the National Association of Jazz Educators in Oklahoma. He was chairman of the OMEA all state bands in 1968-69 and was a song leader for many years at the Broken Arrow Church of Christ. In 1972, Paris and former partner Bill Harris started The Music Store, Inc. in Tulsa. In 1986 Paris served as president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Band and also served as president of the Oklahoma Music Merchants Association. In 1988 he was awarded honorary conductor of the University of Oklahoma campus Band Association. In 1997 Paris was inducted into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame. Paris retired in 2010 as Associate Conductor of The Tulsa Community Band after 14 years. In 2011 he was the first recipient of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his mentoring of young band directors during his long career at The Music Store. Paris was always very proud of his many former students that are now either professional musicians or successful teachers. He served as a clinician for many Oklahoma school bands over the last 43 years as a road man for The Music Store and worked with his oldest son Larry, grandson Adam and great grandson Zachary at the four generation family business. Paris always had a smile on his face and a super positive attitude that inspired students, employees, band directors, and all whom he came in touch with to achieve perfection. Most people know that Paris usually had a good joke or a "groaner" as some will say, and whether it was good or not, his laugh was always contagious. He was a kind hearted, devoted husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, and friend whose name is written in the Book of Life. He was preceded in death by his parents & great grandson Jon Parsons. He is survived by his loving wife Rose, brother Charles W. York, son Larry & wife Liz, daughter Cindy Eberting & husband Casey, son Victor & wife Teresa, granddaughter Amie Parsons & husband Scott, grandson Adam York & wife Misty, grandson Taylor York, granddaughter Rachel Hodgkins & husband Nick, granddaughter Rebekah York, Great Grand Children Zachary Parsons, Mary Parsons, Sarah Jordan & husband Paul, Abbie Parsons, Joe & Addilynn York, Cassidy Hodgkins, two sister in-laws, brother in-law & numerous nieces & nephews. Funeral services will be at 2:00 P.M., Tuesday June 9, 2015 at The Church of Christ, 505 E. Kenosha St. in Broken Arrow, OK. Share memories at: <http://www.floralhaven.com> In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Paris' honor and name to the Paris York Scholarship Fund, Broken Arrow High School, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Comments



“ I only new Paris for a very short time; however, I felt as though I had known him all my life. I was fortunate to share a stage with him a few times — some of the best gigs I ever enjoyed because of his playing, humor, and mentoring.He knew so many people and touched the life of everyone he met. There will never be another great man like Paris.As they used to say at Disneyland ...Sincerely,Keith E. Cooper
Tampa, FL

Keith E. Cooper - September 18, 2015 at 09:03 PM



“ Paris York came to small down Oklahoma and Friday night football with marching circus bands and flashing fire batons. He taught us what a band good be. He taught us music theory. He accompanied his class trios with real jazz rifts on any instrument. He introduced precision marching and we learned to work as one finely oiled unit. I followed his time at broken arrow as he continued to win awards after awards. He was indeed a teacher who changed me and taught me a real appreciation of music. Rest in peace, Mr York. A job well done!

carol daily agent - September 02, 2015 at 01:38 PM



“ Paris York became the band director at Eufaula High School after a stint in the Marines. He was a mentor/friend who encouraged and supported all of us. I have the fondest memories of him and wish I had been able to say thank you again.

Gary Asher - September 01, 2015 at 05:24 PM



“ I am very sad to learn of the passing of Paris. Back in the old days we called him "Brent" and that is what we named our third son. I first knew him when I was band director at Eufaula, where he had previously taught. He was a great supporter through all my years of teaching band. My wife and I stayed with Paris and Rose one weekend for a church meeting at Broken Arrow. I will always remember his kindness and the fun we had at band director meetings.Roy Young

Roy B. Young - July 22, 2015 at 11:39 AM



“ I was just a little kid, 8 years too young to be in the band. My sister Rosanna was and Mom and I went on so many trips with THE PRIDE. Mr York was always larger than life, yet he always took just a moment to thank Mom and me for going. You don't see the kind of respect he got and gave to his band in today's world. Thanks Mr York for so many wonderful memories of stuffing plums into wee tubes.

Marty Wilson - June 30, 2015 at 07:29 PM



“ Larry, I just wanted to let you know how often I thought of your Dad. He made more of a difference in my life more than he ever knew. He taught all of us whom had the honor of being part of the "Pride of Broken Arrow" family hard work, discipline and respect. He will be missed but NEVER forgotten. My sincere condolences from my heart. Debbie Rampey-Leonard Class of '72

Debbie Leonard - June 24, 2015 at 02:49 PM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Paris Brenton York

Gerald Tucker, Cornetist - June 13, 2015 at 11:22 AM



“ It was a sincere privilege to meet the amazing Paris York soon after we moved to Broken Arrow 15 years ago. Little did I know at the time he and my brother, Tom Hutchinson, enjoyed competing with their jazz bands at competitions. Paris would always say he could never win over Hutch's bands. I knew that wasn't always true, as he was a master musician. I am very proud to have known Paris and the life he lived to the fullest in encouraging young musicians and teachers alike. Heaven has gained an amazing man I am proud to have called friend. God bless you and the family, Rose, for the days ahead. Nora Coy

Nora Coy - June 10, 2015 at 10:01 AM



“ Paris meant the world to me and all who knew him! He was one of the most lovely gentlemen I have ever known. I feel lucky to have known him and to have had the opportunity to be a member of the Sound Solution family with Paris, Vic, Milt, Robbie and Don. I have the most wonderful memories of our adventures and all of the crazy, fun gigs we had over the years. One can't help but think of Paris and smile. And his legacy of laughter and music will touch countless others forever. Frank and I send our deepest sympathy to our dear Rose, Vic and Teresa, Larry and Liz, Cindy and Casey and all of their families for the loss of this great man who was truly one of a kind and deeply beloved. He will be missed every day, but always in our hearts. Love to all, Lori and Frank Adams

Lori Adams - June 09, 2015 at 06:37 PM



“ Larry, Your dad was a true gentleman who was always courteous and respectful. As a young upstart in the music business, your dad was always professional yet friendly toward me whenever we would meet. I know that everyone who knew him will miss his kindness and characteristic smile. Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. May the God of comfort be with you and your family in this time of loss. Your friend, Ray Firey and the team at Firey Brothers Music

Ray Firey - June 09, 2015 at 10:50 AM



“ Paris was an amazing man. My family had the pleasure to know him and his beautiful wife through church. They left us with lasting memories that we will for ever treasure. My heart felt prayers for the family. The Russ Pander Family!

Kristi Pander - June 09, 2015 at 10:27 AM



“ Thank you for all that you did to help start the Broken Arrow band program on it's way to the incredible program it has become today. Two of my children have gone through it already (resulting in one of them going on to college as a music education major with a desire to one day be a high school music instructor), and my last child started her time with the band program this past year.

Debbie Gowriluk - June 08, 2015 at 11:06 PM



“ Condolences to the whole family. Many of whom were good to me years ago when I first started teaching. Paris in particular helped and encouraged me when I started out. I was conducting a concert at Sequoia Middle School with the main director there and included his son, Victor, in the trombone section. He told there was a huge difference in the way the kids responded me as opposed to my colleague. He said, " When you took the podium, the kids immediately snapped to attention ready to play." I was so moved by the comment, I didn't know how to repond. God bless you my friend.Randy Cochran Director of Bands Pistor Middle School Tucson, Az

Randy Cochran - June 08, 2015 at 08:23 PM



“ Mr. York asked me to direct the 6th grade band at PHS in '61-62. That experience gave me the confidence to attend college. I then spent 31 years teaching public school music. and often thought how he would handle situations in the classroom. Thank you, Mr. York, for opening up the world of music to me. Mae Burton, PHS

Mae Burton - June 08, 2015 at 07:29 PM



“ I only had the fortune of having Mr. York in 6th grade – my first year – I never forgot him, and longed for the day to get to High School and into the Pride and back with Mr. York! Unfortunately for me, he left BAHS the end of the year I was a Freshman... while he did encourage me through my Jr High years, I was devastated when I learned he would not be the director when I got to High School.....but I still remember the teaching methods and the inspiration he gave me – and will never forget him.

Linda Schlegel Ballew - June 08, 2015 at 06:56 PM



“ Paris was a kind man.He will be missed by many.So blessed to have known him.

Don and Kathy Price - June 08, 2015 at 06:36 PM



“ I would not be the man or band director I more without Paris. He taught me so much and I am so honored to have known Paris, call him my friend, and one of mentors. He was such a great caring person. Miss him greatly. Thanks for everything you did for me. Your legacy will be remembered forever.

Matt Lollman - June 08, 2015 at 04:48 PM



“ Since hearing of Paris' passing, I have been overwhelmed with memories. He was my favorite teacher and influenced my life in many ways. He was a kind, gentle, understanding man. He will be greatly missed. Joye Burdette Hawkins

Joye Burdette Hawkins - June 08, 2015 at 04:31 PM



“ I appreciated and respected Paris York very much. As a young band director in my 6th, 7th, and 8th years of teaching at Hominy Public Schools, Paris was very supportive and encouraging. He was more than a retailer, he was an educator, colleague, and a good friend. I will miss him. Sincerely, Jeff Downey Director of Bands Putnam City High School

Jeff Downey - June 08, 2015 at 01:41 PM



“ I met Paris when I became band director at Checotah Public Schools in 1980. I met him through doing business with The Music Store. My career had not amounted to much up to then (and I know some of my colleagues are saying, "Hey, Jerry, it still hasn't!"), but Paris treated me like I knew what I was doing-while still giving kind but clear advice on how to teach band. I used to think he gave our band compliments just to get our business until one year when our marching band was not so good. Again, he told me clearly but kindly what he thought our problems were. I told him a couple of years later that I thought his earlier compliments were to be kind and get our business. He looked at me and said, "Jerry, I can't do that. I'm still too much of a band director! And people wouldn't respect my opinions if I only gave out compliments." From then on, I always knew if he complimented our bands, it was sincere and it meant so much to me. The Band World has lost a great teacher and professional, but even more sadly, the entire world has lost a great, kind man. Jerry Cooper

Jerry L. Cooper - June 08, 2015 at 09:53 AM



“ It was my good fortune to have Paris as a mentor during my years at Picher Oklahoma High School. I was a saxophone player in the band, never had a teacher until Paris took an interest in me. He inspired me to want to become a musician, I loved to play and he motivated me to be the best I could be. I carried that inspiration from Picher to Tulsa University where Dwight Dailey picked up where Paris left off. At TU Dwight challenged me to become the best musician I could be. From Tulsa I was lucky enough to be admitted to the Juilliard School of Music, studied saxophone and bassoon, played Radio City Music Hall, Broadway shows and won an audition to become a bassoonist/contra bassoonist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1965. I was Saxophonist with the orchestra for 35 years. I retired for the CSO in 2008. I credit Paris for giving me the confidence to pursue my dream of becoming a professional musician. Burl Lane

Burl Lane - June 08, 2015 at 12:01 AM



“ Mr. York was a wonderful band director , a teacher you remember throughout the years. He instilled pride in each member of the band at Poteau.He will step up the music in heaven. Rest in peace Paris York. Joanna Robertson Ryan

Joanna Robertson Ryan - June 07, 2015 at 09:25 PM



“ For s short time in my life,I was a member of "The Pride". We had this band director that was the epitome of teacher..he made us want to learn..be a team..focus. We learned and worked hard...and heard music and won...and enjoyed every second of it. He was able to relate to teens...sometimes a little unconventionally. He was fun and demanding...he was respect. We marched and competed and learned to be a part of something great..one note became a whole. As I have for the past 45 years, whenever I heard his name, I have smiled. That will never change...the memories will always be there. My condolences to family and friends for the loss of Paris York.

Joni Cline - June 07, 2015 at 09:23 PM



“ Paris York, you entered my life when I was in the 9th grade at Poteau High School. For the next 4 years you were a HUGE part of my life and all the members of the "Pride of Poteau" band. You had a profound influence in my life.....all for the better. You made us WANT to excel, and excel we did! I'm so glad you passed through Poteau on your way to the big leagues. You are one AWESOME man who made everyone better by just being around you. You are greatly loved. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! Janie Keesee Wordp.s. Remember Broken Bow and watching us "like cows grazing in the meadow".

Janie Word - June 07, 2015 at 04:24 PM



“ What a truly amazing leader, mentor, friend to all that knew him. He inspired me personally by always smiling and telling me his stories and jokes! He will be missed by all. However, he is rejoicing in heaven with his great grandson, Jon Parsons. He was a Blessing to me and so many others! RIP Paris!

Valerie Dickerson Russell - June 07, 2015 at 02:54 PM



“ I remember as one of the members of the Pride of Broken Arrow, you never wanted to be called an egghead while practicing in marching band. Well, I did because I wasn't in line one time. I wasn't called one again. Loved Paris.

Karen Shields Duderstadt - June 06, 2015 at 11:13 PM



“ Jerry and I want to give our deepest sympathy, to all the York family. I know he will be missed. Jerry and Norma Fuller

Jerry and Norma Fuller - June 06, 2015 at 09:07 PM



“ A true gentleman, always had time for kind words for other directors. Will be truly missed. My prayers are with all who knew and respected Mr. York. M. Adcock

M. Adcock - June 06, 2015 at 08:29 PM



“ I was very sorry to hear of Mr. York's passing. He inspired me and many of his students. He was a True Leader and in my mind, the true initiator of the "Pride of Broken Arrow". I'll always have fond memories of Marching Band, those early morning treks down to Haskell Elementary Field to practice, marching in parades, the band trips. And Stage Band, what can I say. Those are unforgettable times. Thank you Mr. York for your Leadership and Inspiration. To Mrs. York, Larry and Family, may the Holy Spirit bless you in this time of grief. Sincerely, Darrell Tygart

Darrell Tygart - June 06, 2015 at 07:55 PM



“ He worked us hard. He played us hard. He gave us pride.

Juahwana Forbes Burgess - June 06, 2015 at 06:35 PM



“ I was not in the band but Mr. York, you really influenced my interest in listening to music so much that I passed that influence down to my three children who went through the band program here in Plano. My parents enjoyed listening to you and the Pride whether it was marching or concert season. Mr. York, you affected many lives. May you rest in peace and God Bless your family. Michael Moreno

Michael Moreno - June 06, 2015 at 06:23 PM



“ Mr. York was more than my band director, teacher and great mentor. He and his family, wife Rose, sons Larry, Victor and daughter, Cindy, were so kind and helpful to all. Mr. York was as close to being my father as any adult could have been. Larry became my dear friend in Jr High school and took me into his family thus introducing me to Mr. York. Mr. York guided me and nurtured me, like he did so many of his students. I will never forget him, his family and the band family he created. God keep the music and fellowship alive in Heaven. R.I.P. Sir.

Kevin I. Foster - June 06, 2015 at 04:02 PM



“ I was not in the band, but I loved Mr. York nevertheless. He even had a big impact on my life. Such a great man and role model. I thought he was the BEST Band Teacher in all the land and it showed in our HUGE Band and Stage Band. His students were soooo dedicated to him and tried their very best for him. He will live on forever in my mind and my heart. I love you York Family!!!

Shelley Becker - June 06, 2015 at 03:09 PM



“ Dear family, What a wonderful, talented, God fearing, mentor and loving leader and family member he was! God Bless and Comfort you all, at this time. Sincerely, Craig & Jeris Ford

Jeris Ford - June 06, 2015 at 01:29 PM



“ There are so many great memories for all of us. "The Pride" was not just a name it was what we felt when we performed on the field or on stage. We had pride in ourselves and what we stood for and Mr. York gave us the opportunity to know what that felt like. He worked tirelessly to mentor all of his students. He made a difference in our lives and helped us be the best we could be. There is no one else like him. His love for music will live on in all of us and I hope he knew how much he was loved and appreciated. I say "we" because it's not just about me it's about everyone that had the opportunity to have Mr. York in their life. This is a time to celebrate the music man. Mr. York you will always be in my heart. June Gabbard Hulse

June Hulse-Reynosa - June 06, 2015 at 11:39 AM



“ I truly loved Paris....I'm not sure that I wouldn't have walked away from the band room if not for Paris keeping me focused on the things that matter most...to teach kids to love music

Alane King - June 05, 2015 at 08:18 PM



“ Paris was always encouraging and helpful to band directors young and old. He was also proud of the fact that he taught in Broken Arrow and named them "The Pride of Broken Arrow". His latest pride and joy has been the directors band sponsored by the music store. He was so proud of those recordings. Right to the very end of his life, Paris was involved in making music. We will surely miss the music man, Paris York. Thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family. Most Sincerely, Loren Pettys
Broken Arrow Bands

Loren Pettys - June 05, 2015 at 08:16 PM



“ So sorry to hear Paris has left us but he left an incredible number of friends with memories and enriched so many lives. He was a band director colleague that would share his knowledge and a joy to be around every time we met. He was a difference maker and his legacy will last forever. So proud to have known him! Jim Swiggart, retired music educator, Holiday Island, AR

Jim Swiggart - June 05, 2015 at 08:04 AM



“ I've always thought about these song lyrics and how they say so much of how my family and I feel about Mr York. I never called him anything else until I was older. That's when I'd call him "Floyd" or "Lead Seed" and he would always greet me with "Hey Cleetus!" He made me a better man for having had him in my life "Leader of the Band" A quiet man of music denied a simpler fate He tried to be a soldier once, but his music wouldn't wait He earned his love through discipline, a thundering velvet hand His gentle means of sculpting souls took me years to understand The leader of the band is tired and his eyes are growing old But his blood runs through my instrument and his song is in my soul My life has been a poor attempt to imitate the man I'm just a living legacy to the leader of the band

Brent Lynn - June 04, 2015 at 05:00 PM