



## Walter Haynes

December 14, 1928 - January 1, 2009

Services for Walter Haynes, 80, of Bullard will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2008 at 3:00 PM at Tyler Metro Church with Rev. Jerry Phelps and Bro. Bill Haynes officiating. Private burial will follow at Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home in Tyler. Mr. Haynes passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2009 at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. He was born on December 14, 1928 in Kingsport, Tennessee to the late Robert and Stella Haynes. Mr. Haynes went to Nashville at age 18 from Kingsport, Tennessee to play his fiddle and steel guitar on the Grand Ole Opry, beginning a long and illustrious career as a musician. As a staff musician on the Opry for 13 years, Haynes was hired by Little Jimmy Dickens and performed and traveled with Dickens for 6 years playing steel guitar. He was also a session musician while playing on the Grand Ole Opry. He played steel guitar, electric and flat-top guitar on sessions. In addition to the Opry and session work, Mr. Haynes played on an early morning radio program with WSM Television. On the Opry and in sessions, he played with the top stars including: Patsy Cline, Hank Williams, Sr. and Jr., Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, The Oak Ridge Boys, Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers, Barbara Mandrell, Emmylou Harris, Ricky Skaggs, Mel Tillis, Bill Anderson, and many others. Mr. Haynes played steel guitar on Patsy Cline's recordings on Decca Records and played on her Opry and Television appearances. He is fondly referred to as Patsy Cline's Steel Guitar Player. Mr. Haynes went to work for Moss Rose Publishing as director. He remarkably

had 100 songs recorded the first year. While at Moss Rose, he started doing independent recordings as a producer. Later, he headed Kapp Records, a Division of MCA, and later transferred to Decca as an assistant to Owen Bradley. Owen soon turned a lot of the roster over to Walter. Some of the artists he worked with included: Marty Robbins, Cal Smith, Jeanne Pruett, Jack Green, and Jeannie Seeley. Mr. Hayes produced the “Father of Bluegrass” Bill Monroe, for MCA Records for 13 years. At a time when Owen Bradley was hospitalized he turned to Walter to produce Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn. Walter spent 12 years with MCA Records. In 1973, Walter produced two of the top 5 songs in the nation which were “Satin Sheets” with Jeanne Pruett and “The Lord Knows I’m Drinking” with Cal Smith. In 1974, he had the Song of the Year with Cal Smith’s “Country Bumpkin” which won him the prized Producer of the Year Award, making him a Vice-President the last 3 years he was at MCA Records. After MCA, Mr. Hayes became an Independent Producer and was hired as a consultant for IBC Records, a new Independent record company. He brought IBC to the number two Independent label in the Nation the first year, aided with Jeanne Pruett’s three consecutive top ten hits. Mr. Hayes was an accomplished songwriter with many hits to his credit as well as his production accomplishments. In 1999, his publishing company had a Darryl Singletary single in Giant Records entitled, “The Note”. He built three 24-track recording studios and previously owned Walter Hayes Productions and Recording in Longview. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame of The North American Country Music Association, International, and the Texas Independent Music Hall of Fame for the year 2000. In 2003, Walter was inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Missouri. At the time of his death, Mr. Hayes had been teaching steel guitar, guitar, fiddle, and Dobro lessons in Bullard. He will be greatly missed by those he influenced and loved through the years. Mr. Hayes is survived by a loving family including his wife of 26 years, Cindy Hayes of Bullard; a daughter, Michele Ray; step-son, David Scott Nelson; grandchildren, Brandi Ray and Scottie Ray; step-grandchildren, Savannah and Bethany Nelson; great-

grandchildren, Madeline Ray and Haley Brook Ray; sister, Carolyn Mills of Nashville; and brother, Bill Haynes of Sevierville, Tennessee. Pallbearers will be Connie Vaughan, Ron Whistler, David Mitchell, Danny Page, Scott Nelson, and Bob Randall.

# Tribute Wall

RE

“ *To Walter's family,  
We are so saddened by the loss of our friend Walter and want to send you our condolences. This is a great loss for our steel guitar family and he will be missed greatly. He was a good friend and a great player. May he rest in peace.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you,  
Ron and Leslie Elliott (Local #257)*

---

**Ron and Leslie Elliott** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *My Daddy was the most positive man I have ever known. His last words to me from his hospital bed were "I'm doing great! I love you." He never once complained about anything. I have wonderful memories of being his little girl and I know that he is playing his beloved music with the greatest band ever right now in Heaven. He will be missed by me, my husband, Timmy; his grandchildren, Scotty and Brandi; his great-grandchildren, Hailey and Maddie, Scotty's wife (my daughter-in-law), Deanne; and my Mama, Inez. I cherish the time I had with him.*

---

**Michele Ray** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ *i met walter in pigeon forge while he worked at a local theatre and i played the drums as a fill in, he was always extremely nice and always offered a kind word.it was a pleasure to know him.*

---

**RANDY NASH** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ I never had the privilege of meeting Walter and I, sadly, missed his (long-overdue) induction into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame in 2003. Some years before that, I emailed him a question about a specific session I thought he had played on and he kindly took the time to reply to me - someone he never knew!

*I am saddened by his passing and I send my condolences to his family.*

---

**Gerry Hogan** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Uncle Walter was my dad's older brother. I am glad to say that Dad was very proud of his brother and his beautiful gift of music. Whenever Dad got the chance to brag about Walt's accomplishments, he jumped at it.

*I have very sweet memories of a mild mannered man who served his country in the military and served his fellow Americans with his phenomenal musical gifts.*

*I offer all my love and support to Aunt Cindy. Uncle Walter will be deeply missed. I am sure that he is playing his music in Heaven where my Dad is surely bragging to everyone saying "he's my brother".*

---

**Sheila Roy** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I'm deeply saddened by Walter's passing. I'll always remember the kindness and consideration he expressed just before I played at the 2003 Tri Cities Steel Guitar Show in Bristol, Va. Walter's kind and reassuring words made me feel so welcome and at ease. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during this most difficult time.

-----  
**Jerry Van Hoose** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ We have loved the Haynes family ever since Gerald married my sister Charlotte. We know how hard it is to be without someone you love. Please know that we are praying for all of you and we send our love to you Cindy, Bill, Caroline, and all of your families. I know that God is faithful and will comfort you during this time. Know that I speak from experience. It is not just words! "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 And you shall be!!

-----  
**Betty Lou (Pritchett) Conrad** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Walter was A great guy and a great musician. We worked in the LITTLE JIMMY DICKENS Country Boys Band together in 1953 at the GRAND OLE OPRY.MAY GOD Bless YOU ALL

-----  
**Spider Wilson** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I knew Walter as the "daddy" of my friend and business partner for over 23 years Michele Ray. I was fortunate to have had times with Walter as he would visit or our paths would cross as we traveled. He was a man who loved his family and was a devoted father to his daughter. The world needs more like him..he will be missed.

-----  
**Clark Flatt** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ To Walter's Family: Walter was a good friend and a wonderful record producer. His work with Decca (MCA) Records stands as some of the best of his era and beyond. He was and is respected by all who knew him in the Country Music Community...and he will be sorely missed. My/our (The Four Guys) blessings to Cindy and the entire family.

---

**Sam Wellington-The Four Guys** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I just heard this sad news and it being so late i regret that i was not there to comfort the family in person. Walt was a good ole boy with a Wonderful smile and a kind heart.Each and everytime that i recive an accolade for the work i do in the studio,it truly belongs to Walter Haynes. He taught me how to make a country recording from picking the right song to laying it down proper. he will be missed and rest assured he is with the lord. Heaven is lucky to have such a fine man.

---

**Jeff Bowen** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Mrs. Haynes, I just wanted to let you know what a honor it was to have served your family. I hope that your health is good and that you are happy. I have moved to Burnet, Texas and I am helping families here now. Mrs. Haynes out of all the families that I was honored to have served during my employment with Stewart Family you and your dear husband stand out in my mind. I will never forget your kindness. God Bless and keep you.

John

---

**John H. Carter** - January 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM