



William Walker

December 3, 1934 - March 19, 2007

William Stanley Walker, loving husband, dad and friend went to be with his heavenly Father on March 19, 2007 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Stanley was born December 3, 1934 in Clarksville Texas to William Wright Walker and Gladys Mae Diffie. Mr. Walker graduated from Clarksville High School and attended Paris Jr. College and East Texas Teachers College where he received a bachelor's degree in music education. Mr. Walker was a high school band director in several east Texas school districts before working 25 years as a school service representative and store manager for Tatum Music Company in Longview and Tyler. After leaving the sales profession he became a band director for Whitehouse Independent School District directing bands at Higgins Intermediate School, Holloway Middle School and assisted at the high school and junior high school for five years before retiring. Stanley was preceded in death by his parents Mr. and Mrs. William Walker and his sister Bobbie Lilliard. Stanley is survived by his loving wife of 50 years Ann, two sons, Steve of Duncanville, Michael and his wife Regina of Grand Prairie, one daughter, Suzanne Mounce and her husband Steve of Carrollton. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Ashleigh, Monique, Brandon, Westyn, Drew and Beth. In February it was announced that Mr. Walker was going to be inducted into the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame which is the highest honor a band director can receive in the state of Texas. The induction ceremony will be held in July. His professional organizations were Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmaster's Association and Phi Beta Mu, Honorary

Music Fraternity. Stanley was a wonderful man who always had time for a friend. One of his greatest joys was teaching music to his students. He will be truly missed by everyone who knew and loved him. Visitation will be at Stewart Family Funeral Home on Wednesday, March 21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Graveside service is 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at Whitehouse Cemetery. A memorial service will follow at 4:00 p.m. at Whitehouse High School Auditorium with the Reverend Chuck Bratz officiating and under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Pallbearers are Jerry Gober, Gary Jordan, Jimmy Jordan, Johnny Jordan, Denny Whitley and Tom Young. Honorary pallbearers are Doice Grant, Neil Grant, David Harper, Paul Henry, Bob Ingram, Roger McClaren, Blanton McDonald, Will Reavis, Jim Sinkle and all band director friends. Memorials in honor of Mr. Walker may be made to Whitehouse United Methodist Church Building fund at 405 W. Main, Whitehouse, Texas 75791 or Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ Stanley, was a very important part of the formative years in my career as a young band director. He was always eager to help when asked. His skills as a teacher were obvious when he served as a clinician for the many school bands in east texas. His friendship and musical abilities will be missed by us all.

Godspeed Stanley!

Steve Wise - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I will always remember Stanley as a loving and caring person. His family was most important to him, not only his immediate family, but all of us -- aunts, uncles, cousins. He made a great contribution to the lives of his many students, friends, and family members. Stanley Walker was a man who made a difference.

Judy Lashley - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dear Uncle Stanley,

I love you and I lift you up to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in heaven. You are most special in hundreds of people's eyes and stand for all positive things. I pray for you and our family and that we will all be together again one day. Please say hello to Mema and now you can be with so many others you have missed who live with Jesus. I will miss you.

Love, Dawn and Grant

Dawn and Grant Moore - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ *To know Stan was to Love and Respect him.
He was not only a Band Instructor he prepared you for Life.
He taught me dicipline and a proper work ethic.
My prayers go out to you Ann, as well as you Steve, Michael and
Suzanne.
Here's to you Stan for some of the greatest years of my life.*

Darryl Young - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ *Stanley was a great friend to me my family. He will be greatly
missed. Our prayers are with his family in their loss.*

Anthony and Edie Anderson - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Ann and family,
I have known Stanley as a professional acquaintance and friend for almost 40 years. When I came to East Texas I quickly learned that Stanley Walker was one of the most highly respected music educators in this part of the state. It was a pleasure to have had him on our SFA band camp staff on many occasions. He was always terrific with the kids and they benefited greatly by his expertise. My university band had a number of his Pittsburg graduates and they were all well trained and among the best players. Several of these are still teaching which reflects the quality of both musical and personal traits that Stanley instilled in his students.
After leaving teaching Stanley continued to serve the schools, directors and students of East Texas through his sought after advice and mentoring. You must be comforted by the fact that Stanley was so well loved by hundreds of students and all the fellow band directors he ever met. I have never heard anything but positive remarks about him as a professional and as a person.
Virginia and I send our condolences on your loss. We are thankful though that Stanley became a part of our professional and personal lives. We will miss him greatly and ask God to send his blessings to you and your family in this time of grief.

Mel Montgomery - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ One of the finest teacher's I've ever had the priveledge to encounter in my entire life, he was not only my teacher in music, but in life. He was always there for me and I'll always remember the importance he taught me about being a part of the band family and the kindness and courage he showed us all.

Kathryn Michelle Garcia - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Though I never had Mr. Walker as a band director, he sure knew who I was! He may not have always remembered my name, but he knew my face! He was such a nice man and I know those that had the opportunity to learn under him are very blessed.

I did have Mrs. Walker as a History teacher and boy was she great. Mrs. Walker and family, please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Mr. Walker is and was truly a GREAT man.

-Alicia Gamble Ramirez

Alicia Gamble Ramirez - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Dear Ann and precious family, There are simply no words to express our sorrow. Stanley was the perfect Uncle. Not only was he the family historian, he was soooo funny, sooo accepting, full of advise and most of all pure love. I feel that my Uncle Stanley was a gift from God to me. He blessed me all my life and I will miss him forever. For as long as I can remember, I always looked up to my Uncle Stanley and Aunt Ann. (We so wanted to be there but could not get to Tyler late Thursday afternoon.) I will be there in prayer and in heart and please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Sandra

Sandra Lane - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dear Ann,

We are so sorry to hear about Stanley. You and your family will continue to be in our hearts and prayers. Stay close to your children and you will always be close to Stan. Stanley will be missed by so many people. I will remember his smiling face and funny jokes.

*Ann, please give me a call if you just need someone to talk to.
sherry*

Richard and Sherry Whorton - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ *our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss of a very precious man, husband, friend, and band director. He had a wonderful influence on our daughter Tammy Evans Gray who loved him and also Mrs. Walker. We will never forget him. Wanda & Sam Evans*

Wanda Evans - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I, too, remember Mr. Walker as a man who was positive, light-hearted and ready to work when work needed to be done. I spent my high school years at Whitehouse in the Wildcat Band and remember him frequently stopping by. He always had time for his people...if but to stop and tell a joke while picking up an instrument that needed repair.

To Mrs. Walker (my world history teacher) and the family, our lives are richer because of Stanley's contributions. Be assured he (and they) will always be remembered.

Our prayers and condolences to you all during this time.

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." --II Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV)

Brian Stinecipher - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Stanley was one of the nicest men we knew. He and my Dad were colleagues and friends. I teach at Kilgore HS, and whenever Stanley came over, he always asked about Dad. It meant a great deal to me.

My parents send their condolences and their sorrow in the loss of a friend.

We are richer for having had Stanley in our lives.

Patty Highfill McKinney - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ I knew Mr. Stanley through Tatum Music when I worked up there during the summers. He would come in and joke around with the guys up front and I always knew of his legacy he left here in East Texas Band programs that I hope someday to carry on. God Bless!

Paul Martin - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I'll really miss you Mr. Walker. I learned a lot from you while working for you at Tatum Music. You are one of my heroes and one of the key people that got me interested in becoming a band director. You always had a pleasant way about you and made everyone feel welcome and important. And your jokes were the funniest too. We will all miss you Stanley. Go with God now good friend.

Randy Kiser - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Sincere condolences to your family. Jim (d. 2003) respected Mr. Walker and spoke of him fondly. I know he will be widely missed by his professional colleagues and friends.

Jo (Mrs. Jim) McCutcheon - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Ann and Children,
Stanley was one of my favorite people. I am so sorry he has gone and wish I could have seen him and all of you more, during his last years. I have many good memories of him. Such a nice and fun man to be around. My love to all of you, Mabel Hudgins

Mabel Hudgins - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ I always remember Mr. Walker being such a positive person. He always had a smile on his face, and a funny story to tell. I was fortunate to be in the Wildcat Band when he would come and clinic the band, and I had Mrs. Walker for my history teacher. We were always excited when he would come, and he always knew who everyone of the students was by name. He had a way of making each one of you feel special. Mr. Walker loved kids and was a wonderful teacher. Through the years, both myself and my husband were privileged to work with him as student teachers and later to meet as colleagues. Mr. Walker has truly been a great influence on so many people's lives. We are all better for having known him! Mr. Walker will be truly missed!

Rachelle Harp - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I first met Stanley when we both taught band in E. Texas in the early '60's I was teaching in Texarkana and I believe he taught in New Boston at the time. I will never forget the time when we had a barbeque on Lake Texarkana one Spring. Stan had a goat in a freezer that he donated to the cause. Bob Jordan and I were in charge of cooking the goat. After several hours over a charcoal fire, we decided the goat was tender and ready to eat. The rest of the guys had come in from fishing and were very hungry at that point. Unfortunately, the goat was extremely tough and unfit to eat. An Army combat boot would have been a lot more tender. We all put out the fire and drove to Texarkana for a hamburger. Stan was always a friend to everybody and will be missed. My sincere condolences to his family.

Joel Duskin - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Mr. Walker was a wonderful man who gave so much of himself to the students he taught in band. Both of my girls had the opportunity to learn under Mr. Walker. I thank God for such a great man who touched so many lives in such a positive way.*
Ann, we love you and know that God will see you through this time of loss. Your loss is also our loss.

Suzanne Loudamy - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *Stanley was a great model for many young directors throughout his career. I always enjoyed hearing and seeing his carefully prepared bands, and I wanted my students to hear them, too.*

When working at Tatum Music Company he was always a trustworthy and helpful colleague.

He was a trusted friend, always warm and cordial, always inquiring about family members.

We will miss him a lot.

Bob Parsons - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *What a wonderful man!*

Melinda Hamm Mayben - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Mr. Walker was a wonderful band director and a great person. I want you to know that he made a huge impact on my life and I will always have a special place in my heart for him. He was always kind, patient and fun to be around. I saw him at several competitions after I was grown and had my own children in band and would visit with him and he always acted like he was excited to see you. Anyone who was not in band missed out on a great experience. He will be missed by MANY and that's a great tribute to him. My prayers are with all of you during this time.
Sincerely, Kathy "Fuller" Carpenter

Kathy Fuller Carpenter - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I knew Mr. Walker when he was at Pittsburg High School. I graduated in 1971. I was not in the band, but that didn't matter to Mr. Walker. He knew all of us. He was fun and serious, but always the same. I haven't seen him in years but will remember him fondly as a great teacher and mentor.

Lisa Elwell Crain

Lisa Elwell Crain - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ Stanley was a great friend. I think he was one of the most optimistic, upbeat people I have ever known. When being around him, I found his always positive attitude toward life to be an inspiration. His pep and vitality were contagious to all who were knew him.

Although I did not see Stanley after high school and the following year at P.J.C, I was delighted to see and visit with him at our class reunion in 2005. I will treasure that memory of how happy he seemed that evening.

My uncle, Walker Hays, was close to Stanley as his band director and mentor. Stanley was one of his main "right hand men" in managing the band. He helped Uncle Walker immensely. He could see Stanley's potential as a musician, and his ambition to do good things in this life. It was his priviledge to have known Stanley and to have provided guidance to such a very fine person.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to Ann, and children, and to his extended family. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

*Gloria Pope Griggs
Class of 1955, Clarksville High School
P.J.C. 1955-1956*

Gloria Griggs - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ All of my prayers from my daughter and I.

John Boggs - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I will never forget when I met Mr. Walker at Whitehouse High School. I was doing my student observation and he was rehearsing La Inglesina with the high school band. Immediately I was drawn to how he molded that sound into perfection. I made sure to pull his ear, and what was so refreshing was that this experienced gentleman was willing to discuss philosophies to no end. He was always willing to listen and offer advice that was remarkably poignant. You are sorely missed Mr. Walker?Godspeed!

Jeff Settle - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ At some point during my junior year in high school, the majorette line lovingly nicknamed our Mr. Walker, "Papa Bear." I can still see his face when we told him about his new title. It was the only time I remember him appearing to be embarrassed. We could also tell, though, he loved it! I will always remember him as a kind and gentle man who expected the best and gave even more... our "Papa Bear."

Kay (Pruett) Garcia - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ Mr. Walker was someone that always made me feel like he was genuinely glad to see me. He epitomized what a caring, dedicated teacher should be and he carried that with him into the music retail business. I will always appreciate him for that.

David Ingram - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Stanley was a great friend that always had a kind word to say to you. He always treated me well and I will miss his friendship and wisdom about educating our young people. I will keep the Walker family in my prayers.

Carole Carrell - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ Stan was more than just a friend, he was an individual who truly cared about you and was always ready to sit down and impart his bits of wisdom; not just to help you become a better teacher, but to become a better person. He was a true class act in every sense. We will miss you my friend.

Ron Ashcraft - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Stan was such a great friend. When I moved to East Texas as a young band director from the Dallas area I remember Stanley being one of the first to welcome me here. He was such a great help to me as a young director and a friend. I will always remember my students calling him the "too too" man. He had a unique way of getting his message across to the kids. Thanks for being such a friend. - Jeff

Jeff Russell - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VR

“ Ann,
We have been thinking about you and talking about the TBA's, lake parties, New Year's Eve and ranch get togethers over the years. We are so glad that we had those happy times with you and Stanley. Of course Val has even more memories of work and travel that he and Stanley had together. All friendships are good, but the old ones are extra special.

Suzi & Val

Val & Suzi Rose - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Mr. Walker,
I saw you just a few weeks ago at Brookshiers here in Whitehouse. I would run into you every now and then up there and it always made my day. You taught me so much while you were my band director. It seemed like you always knew just when I needed a hug. You were there for me when times got rough for me and my family and always pushed me to do better. It's so hard to believe that your gone but I know your in a MUCH better place then I am right now. I will never forget all the times on the practice field you made us stand at attention while you went over something with us. Today at your graveside I caught myself standing up straighter and taller then I have in a long time, I guess that was the "band student" coming back out in me. Watch over us now and I will look forward to the day that I get to see you again.*

*Love,
Brianna*

Brianna Ballard - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ *Our heart's sorrow for your loss goes out to you, Ann, and family. We will always remember Stan puttering around the yard and visiting across the creek, with his trademark...that big joyful smile! Please call if you need us to watch after the house, or for any other need.*

*God bless,
Steve & Marlene*

St eve & Marlene Juharos - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *Mrs. Walker and family. I just wanted you to know that Mr. Walker was a great inspiration to me and really made a difference in my life to always to strive to do our very best. Thank you for being a good friend and teacher.*

Bud Worley - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Aunt Ann,*

Don't forget how much I love you. I mailed you a card and hope you received it. You are welcome to visit us anytime and let me know if you want Grant and I to visit you. You are close to my heart and in my thoughts...always. :)

*With love and great sympathy your family,
Dawn and Grant Moore*

Dawn Moore - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TY

“ Dear Ann, Steve, Suzanne, Michael and all of the family members we have not had the privilege of meeting:

Mr. Walker was like a second father to me. I have tried for weeks to think of a fitting tribute; and having read the other entries, feel quite inadequate to do so. Nothing can be said about his character and influence that has not been said by others. There are so many things that I wish I had told him while he was with us, but I know where he is, and that I will have the opportunity to visit with him again and share my feelings. Almost forty years ago, Stanley lit a spark in me that I wanted to be in band forever. Therefore, I never grew up! Those who know me will appreciate that comment. Stan had a childlike quality that bonded him with his students, and yet commanded the authority that demanded perfection (always in a loving manner) I learned so much from this, and I use it as I teach my students today. The 'benefit' of the last month has been a re-commitment on my part to be the kind of influence on my students that Mr. Walker was on me. Thank You God for that privilege, and thank you Stanley for all that you gave me.

Our prayers are with you always.

Tom and Jan Young

Tom (Thomas) & Jan Young - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ Dear Ann and Kids, I will never forget all the Christmas Eves that y'all would come over for all kinds of snacks and fun!!! When I think of Mr. Walker I always think of all the wonderful times we had together in band and as friends...I remember once being late for an out of town game...The bus was just driving off when we caught up and flagged them down...Mr. Walker was already disturbed with me as I just sat there making all kinds of excuses...Then I remembered that I left my baton in the band hall...When I told him, I could see fire in his eyes...He made the bus driver go back, and as we walked in the band hall together to find my baton, he looked at me and laughed and shook his head...Then he said that I had better not tell anybody!!!! He always knew how to take things in stride and make the most out of any situation...I loved that Man!!!! At contests we always came back with Sweepstake Honors and all kinds of U.I.L. awards...I still have my medals today...I am sooo grateful that I had such a terrific band director!!! May God be with you, Ann and Kids!!!! Don't you know that Mr. Walker is up in Heaven just directing the Best Band In The World with the Most Wonderful Director of All. Much Love, Elwanda...If you're ever in Pittsburg, go by and see Mother...She would love to see you, and I might just be there, too, since I go in a lot.

Elwanda Biggs White - March 19, 2007 at 12:00 AM