



## Howard S. Jayne

July 9, 1944 - May 24, 2020

Howard Jayne was born in Muskogee, OK on July 9, 1944. He passed away on May 24, 2020. Howard had a happy childhood, and he loved to tell stories about the fun he had playing in his neighborhood with his friends. His father, Fred, was an owner of a neighborhood grocery store on Jefferson Street in Muskogee. His mother worked at the home and cleaned houses on a part time basis.

Howard was 13 when hard times fell on the family. His dad had a serious heart attack and could no longer work. His mother worked cleaning houses, but very little income was possible. By the time Howard was 16, it was time for him to find work he could do after school. The job he got and enjoyed for many years was working at the Ritz Theater in Muskogee.

The Ritz Theater was owned by Procter & Marsh, and he met Lillian Procter on his first day of work. Lillian was just 12, but he immediately knew that she was the one for him. Lillian will tell you that she felt the same about Howard.

When Howard was 18 his father passed away. He was the sole supporter of his mother and his brother, Joe, who was 12 at the time. Therefore, he got two other part time jobs besides the one at the theaters. Keeping down three jobs and going to school was a challenge, but Howard never wavered on his responsibilities.

Finally, after a long courtship, Howard and Lillian were married on Sept. 1, 1969. In 1970, Howard and Lillian graduated from Northeastern University. Howard's intention was to teach in college & he earned an assistantship from Kansas University. Howard and Lillian moved to Lawrence, Kansas where he began his studies. However, after a short time, Howard decided that college teaching was not what he wanted. So, he and Lillian came back to Muskogee where he got a job teaching history and political science at Muskogee High School.

Howard taught at Muskogee High School for 20 years and then finished his last 6 years of

teaching at Alice Robertson Middle School. He earned quite a reputation as an educator. His former high school students will remember fondly his "Jaynie Awards" that he gave them every year. The annual event for 17 years where the seniors stole "Johnny Podium" and held it for ransom and his mock trials are only a few of the experiences that many students remember about being in class with Mr. Jayne. Howard was recognized by many as an outstanding educator. In 1992, he was selected Muskogee "Teacher of the Year." Throughout his career, many civic groups in Muskogee recognized him and several articles featuring Howard were published in the Muskogee Phoenix.

Happily, Howard was able to enjoy a great 50th year wedding anniversary party with Lillian on September 1, 2019. Their children, son Andy and wife Jodi plus son Dan and wife Candace and four grandchildren; Evelyn, Ben, Carter, and Ivy surprised Howard and Lillian with a great party which Howard thoroughly enjoyed.

Howard was preceded in death by father, Fred Jayne, and mother, Nell Jayne.

Howard is survived by wife, Lillian; children and grandchildren mentioned above; brother, Joe Jayne; sister-in-law, Anne Morton and brother-in-law, Rob Morton.

Howard Jayne was a loving husband, a devoted father, a dedicated educator, and a most outstanding "Pappy" for his grandchildren.

Because of Covid 19, a memorial service celebrating Howard's life will be held at a later time.

Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 North York St, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Condolences may be made to the family online at [www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com](http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com).

# Comments

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“ I loved Mr. Jayne. He was such a positive role model. To this day, I cannot pick up a magazine without reading it cover to cover. You see, he provided Newsweek for us to read in class, one period a week. He loved you, Lillian. He spoke of you so often. What an amazing life; a life well lived. With deepest sympathy for your loss. Karla McKenzie McBride Muskogee High School class of 1981

**Karla McBride** - March 19 at 11:08 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to the Jayne family. Mr. Jayne was an amazing lecturer whose passion for history inspired me to learn more about our past. In my travels, I got to see first hand what is left of the many ancient civilizations we discuss in class. Mr. Jayne, Thank You for sharing your wisdom and passion for learning. These values have served me greatly throughout my life.

**Michael Vander** - February 05 at 08:29 AM

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“ Like many others, Mr Jayne was my favorite and most influential teacher I had at any level. He made us think why things happened and generated a genuine curiosity about history and knowledge in general. I am a better person because of him.

**Scott Caldwell** - June 25, 2020 at 10:15 AM

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“ Mrs. Jayne & Family -

My deepest condolences. I am so sad to hear the loss of Mr. Jayne. I was fortunate enough to have him as my 8th grade Civics teacher 93/94. He is absolutely the reason I love History today. He was embracing, challenging, interesting and always had a good story to share. I often think about him when I see something he spoke to us about back then. He truly made an impact on so many lives. I would often stop by his class during his planning period and my office hour just to chat. He was that kind of teacher, he was never too busy to care. My thoughts are with you at this time.

Elizabeth

**ELIZABETH** - June 16, 2020 at 01:30 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was by far the best instructor I had in high school and the reason I went into history and then to archives. He one time said that no one could convince him that a intellectually curious person that liked to read was not more happy than those who did not. I have looked at my spouse and our families living happy lives and have thanked Mr. Jayne many days over thirty years.

**Edwina** - June 01, 2020 at 11:25 AM

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“ I stated on Facebook that Mr. Jayne took time to reach out to a student like me. He figured out I loved history and would give me books or subjects to read about. We would then talk about them. His true kindness and love of the student and how many former students are wanting to show what an impact this man made on all our lives. We are truly blessed to have known this man.

**Jeff Bradley** - May 31, 2020 at 11:37 AM

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“ I have never been a fan of history but Mr. Jayne made it all very interesting and challenging. US Foreign Relations was a a very enlightening class. I was privileged to be in the first one our Senior year. We didn't have a specific text book. He designed the class. We had a lot of open discussion. It wasn't about dates as much as it was about why and what was happening behind the scenes. I still try to look at issues through that lens today. Open discussion lead to some very eye-opening moments in current events as well as history. I've thought about him often. I actually believe I was in his first class in junior high maybe as a student teacher(?) and then again as a Senior. We always joked that he just couldn't stand us leaving so he followed us to high school. He has impacted far more than he will ever know.

I am praying for you in your loss. A huge hole in your hearts and lives. May the God of all comfort fill you and give you peace.

Marilyn Stark, Class of '75.

**Marilyn Stark** - May 30, 2020 at 10:43 PM

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Howard S. Jayne.



May 30, 2020 at 07:25 PM

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“ Tribute To Howard Jayne, my teacher and friend:

I take the globe and throw it away; Where  
On it now is a person like you?

Judith Weaver Ross, Class of 1975

**Judith Ross** - May 30, 2020 at 06:49 PM

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“ My name is Dora,. I was an exchange student in Muskogee High Schoo from Paraguay in 1976. I took Mr. Jayne's class US Foreign Relations class, and it was the best course I ever took. I have never forgotten him, and want to send my condolences to his dear family. I teach at the University these days and always knew that the would like you to know that the course I took with him has influenced my teaching style and has encouraged me to be passionate about teaching. As we say in in our jewish prayer for those dear ones who leave us.. Yehie zichro baruch.. May his memory be blessed.  
Dr. Dora Cohenca-Zall.

**Dora Zall** - May 30, 2020 at 06:44 AM

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“ I'm very sad to hear of Mr. Jayne's passing and want to send my deepest condolences to his wife, children, and grandchildren. I'm privileged to say that Mr. Jayne was my teacher for my junior and senior years at Muskogee High School. I hadn't seen or visited with him since I graduated in 1984, but I've thought of him often and he profoundly influenced my life. Mr. Jayne was one of only a few teachers in Muskogee who had such an impact. Of those few, he was the very best. I elected two of his history courses—Ancient History and World Civilizations. They were amazing. He was a teacher who valued knowledge and his role as a caretaker in disseminating it. He opened up the world to us. He could have done many things; he chose to teach us, and it was a joy to learn from him. I went on to get a degree in English, with minors in History and History of Science, largely because he instilled a love of critical thinking, analysis, and thoughtful reflection. I still think about him often, including the stories others have told about his Jaynie awards and "Johnny Podium." He came to mind a lot just this past month when seeing references to teacher appreciation week. I regret that I didn't reach out to him and let him know how valued he was to me, while I could have. But, he was beloved by many former students, and I'm sure he knew of his influence. I also know that his selfless devotion to teaching didn't require praise or validation. Lastly, I regret that Frank Sewell, a fellow classmate and admirer of Mr. Jayne, isn't here to commiserate and mourn with me. Hopefully, he's on the front row, where we always sat.

Darrin Walters  
MHS Class of 1984

Darrin Walters - May 30, 2020 at 12:08 AM

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“ It is a testament to Mr. Jayne's teaching ability, character, and unique charm that so many students remember him, no matter how long ago, or how far away. We should all be so lucky to touch so many lives in such a positive manner.

Matt Bradley - May 28, 2020 at 09:12 PM

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“ Lillian, Andy & Dan,

I am so sorry to learn of your loss. I have very fond memories of Howard. He was a great man & a wonderful, gifted teacher. Rachel & I send our love to all three of you.

Kathryn Durrett

Kathryn Durrett - May 28, 2020 at 08:27 PM

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“ WIR WERDEN DICH NICHT VERGESSEN, HOWARD (We will never forget you, Mr. Jayne). I was thinking why so many people are saying that Howard Jayne was the best teacher they ever had. What was it?

His passion for the subject of history? His love for people? His interest and curiosity in others? His special way of challenging students and bringing out the best in their talents? Was it his slightly ironic way of giving you feedback – which always incentivized you to do better next time? So many students adored him then and adore him today.

Whenever I came back to Muskogee and met old high school friends, Howard Jayne was part of our discussions, even if we could not get ahold of him (as he was not easily accessible as a private person).

I had the privilege, as an AFS foreign exchange student in Muskogee in 1974/75, to be in his U.S. Foreign Relations class. Ever since I have stayed in touch, and visited with him, to hear his views on U.S. government, on foreign relations, on politics in general. The discussions with him are unforgotten. He was deeply interested in other countries, other cultures, other ways of living. Howard Jayne has truly made a difference. I will be grateful to him forever.

Thinking of you, Lillian, and of your family.

Will Plessner, Vienna, Austria

**Will Plessner** - May 28, 2020 at 05:25 PM

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“ MHS class of '75! I have been in education for 42 years. Much of my motivation came from wanting to be a teacher like Mr. Jayne. Prayers lifted up for the family. May you find comfort knowing he made such a difference in our lives!

**Kim Ellis** - May 31, 2020 at 09:38 PM

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“ Gina McFadden lit a candle in memory of Howard S. Jayne



**Gina McFadden** - May 28, 2020 at 02:09 PM

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“ I did not know it at the time but Mr. Jayne prepared me for college. He was such a wonderful teacher! Even better he put up with me! Taking and completing his class, you wore it on your sleeve as a badge of honor. It was tough but you always walked away a better person. My sister, who is 6 years older than I am, had him in high school and told me that I HAD to take Mr. Jayne's class before I graduated before I entered high school. He truly was a legend. Mr. Jayne, I truly thank you for everything you taught me and the the THOUSANDS of kids throughout your life. Lillian, I am truly sorry for your loss. I know my entire family absolutely loved Mr. Jayne, especially my dad. RIP Sir.  
John Jeffries  
MHS, Class of 91

**JOHN JEFFRIES** - May 28, 2020 at 12:31 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time Mrs. Jayne. I feel so lucky to have had your husband as a teacher during my time at MHS.

**Patty McKinne Kolb MHS class 1989** - May 28, 2020 at 12:09 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne is one of the best teachers I had in my life. I had the honor to assist to his International Relations class as exchange student. He had passion for teaching, an open mind and a critical voice. For sure his teachings and his humor will be always with me. Rest in peace Mr. Jayne  
Your “globetrotter” from Barcelona  
Gemma Domingo  
MHS, Class of 91

**Gemma Domingo Fernàndez** - May 28, 2020 at 08:39 AM

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“ Mr. Jayne was one of my favorite and most memorable teachers of all time. I loved his class, activities we had and things we learned in 8th grade Civics at ARMS in 1996-1997. Thank you for your passion for education and your dedication to your students. Rest In Peace and blessings and prayers to the Jayne family.

**Lindsey (Murry) Nichols** - May 28, 2020 at 08:03 AM

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“ I too had the honor of being in Mr. Jayne's history class when he worked at Muskogee High School. Due to over crowding, the 10th grade class went to Muskogee High 1/2 day and Sadler 1/2 day. He was at Sadler that year in 1972-73, and he was my teacher for 6th hour. His class was so much fun -lots of debating and laughter. He would always listen and encourage his class to give their opinions also. I'm sorry for your loss and he will be sorely missed. Prayers and peace for you all.  
Phyllis White

Phyllis White - May 28, 2020 at 01:22 AM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of your husband's passing Lillian. Thinking of you and your family. God Bless.  
Sheryl (Reich) Arnold M.C.H.S. Class of 1966

Sheryl Arnold - May 27, 2020 at 11:52 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was the best American History teacher. He made me just love history, all kinds! He taught in such a way that everyone was able to understand. He told it like it really was. He made learning fun and exciting.

Phelecia Anderson McCall  
Class of 1975

Phelecia Anderson McCall - May 27, 2020 at 10:01 PM

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“ “Coach” was simply the best! Four years of High School, four years of undergrad, and four years of graduate education and Mr. Jayne was always my favorite.  
Brian Mattheas, Class of 1992

Brian Mattheas - May 27, 2020 at 10:00 PM

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“ I was fortunate to take all of the history classes offered at Muskogee High under Mr. Jayne. He was fun, thoughtful, and energetic about history and his students. It was a joy to be in his class. Please know that his students thought he was the best and he will be missed.

Hilary Thomas-Herd - May 27, 2020 at 09:18 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was the best high school teacher I had. He had high standards, and made sure all of us knew that we were capable of reaching them. He had a depth of knowledge that few people ever have. I still tell stories of how he would adjust his glasses, look out at all of us and say, "What's in the news?" I remember lemon drops and Johnny Podium, and I was a happy recipient of a Jaynie Award. He helped prepare me for college, and I'll never forget him.

Julie Reagle  
Class of '78

Julie Reagle - May 27, 2020 at 07:58 PM

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“ Mr. Jane is my favorite high school teacher, and I am so lucky to have learned from him in US History and International Relations. He's the reason I studied PoliSci in college and part of why my politics today involve caring for other people and community responsibility. He was a great man and touched many peoples' lives. Truly a gift to the world.

shelby settles harper - May 27, 2020 at 07:44 PM

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“ Mr jayne was without a doubt one of the nicest people I've ever met along with his wife mrs.jayne prayers for u and ur family God bless u he's in a much better place watching over u and ur family. David Woodall Jr mhs class of 1998

David Woodall - May 27, 2020 at 07:26 PM

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“ A few of many favorite memories from Mr. Jayne's classes:

"If Xerxes had won at Salamis, we'd all be speaking Persian."

History "baseball" to prep for those long, legal-sized, mimeographed tests (I totally stole this technique and use it when I review my Theatre History students for an exam).

The pseudo-Cuba-missal- crisis debate exercise between the three branches of government based on our readings of the Constitution.

What an amazing man and teacher! What an amazing role model and mentor. How I hope to have a few students remember me the way we remember Mr. Jayne.

Julie Brinker, MHS '81

Julie Brinker - May 27, 2020 at 07:05 PM

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“ My experiences in his classroom have influenced me in my own classroom, today. He created a space that nurtured intellectual curiosity and required critical thinking. We so wanted to meet and exceed his expectations. He will always be the teacher I reference when I'm asked to reflect on a teacher that impacted my life. It always has been, and always will be, Mr. Jayne.

Ann Eichenberger  
Class of 1980

Ann Eichenberger - May 27, 2020 at 06:56 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was a one-of-a-kind teacher. His ability to capture the interest of high school students was remarkable. He made history fun as well as interesting. His class was hard to get into and I was so happy I was one of the lucky ones. (Class of 1987) He will be missed.

Stefani Fleak Pierce MHS 1987 - May 27, 2020 at 06:48 PM

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“ I really loved having Mr. Jayne for a high school teacher. He truly was a gift to his students. He was one of the very best teachers I ever had throughout HS, college, and grad school. Love Mrs Jayne too. She was a student teacher in my second grade Mrs. Petilla's class  
Prayers for the family



**Dr. J'Dene Rogers** - May 27, 2020 at 06:29 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was my favorite teacher in High School here in Muskogee in the 70s. He made all of us eager to learn. His passion for teaching and love for his students will always be remembered. Prays to you all. Kathy Seals Price.



**Kathy Seals Price** - May 27, 2020 at 06:18 PM

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“ Mr Jayne was one of the most memorable teachers from my childhood. He made learning so much fun and was both a great person in and out of class. I'm sure we all remember how huge his sense of humor was whether it was dealing with "Johnny Podium" or getting one of his hard questions correct and earning a lemon drop candy. He never failed to make time for you when you had questions about homework or just needed someone to talk to. He'll be missed.

-Arthur "Butch Crego  
Class of 1986

**Arthur Crego** - May 27, 2020 at 05:39 PM

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“ The best!! There are a few key people that just truly impact you in your life. He was one. Wonderful man!!



Teresa Hamm Medlin - May 27, 2020 at 05:29 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was one of my favorite teachers, not only from high school but also throughout college. His passion for his subject was infectious. I still love history and international relations to this day. He loved his students enough to make his courses challenging. If you did well in his class, it was a true accomplishment. For that, I will always be grateful. Mr. Jayne never belittled any of his students. Instead he inspired them to stretch beyond what they thought they were capable of accomplishing. He stands as an extraordinary model for both educators and life long learners. He will be greatly missed.



Jana Lampe - May 27, 2020 at 04:52 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was my absolute favorite high school teacher. I took several of his classes and think about what he taught me often. He was wonderful and I loved him as much as I did my 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Jayne. Rest in peace dear sir. You touched many lives.

Gina McFadden - May 27, 2020 at 04:37 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was indeed a wonderful teacher. I consider him a role model for my own teaching style. Taking his international relations course was a highlight of my high school years. I hope his family finds comfort in the praise his students give and celebrate the life which her shared with us all.

**Kelly Couch** - May 27, 2020 at 04:37 PM

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“ We Loved having Mr. Jayne and Mrs. Jayne as teachers back at A.R. My sister was the good pupil, I was the ornery one..lol Keeping you and your family in my prayers

William Austin MHS class of 2002  
Angela Austin-Sanders MHS class of 1996

**William Austin** - May 27, 2020 at 03:33 PM

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“ Mr. Jayne was one of the best teachers I have ever had; both in high school and beyond. His intelligence, humor, passion for learning inspired me to become a teacher. His style (anecdotes, commanding the class, humor, and passion) made for lively learning. What made him a great man, and teacher, was that he connected with us in so many ways. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go to the Jayne Family.

Dr. Mike McKinne, MHS Class of 1988

**Dr. Mike McKinne** - May 27, 2020 at 03:32 PM

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“ What a wonderful teacher he was! My older brother advised me to take EVERY SINGLE CLASS that Mr. Jayne taught, and I did. I'm thankful for the education, the example, and the memories.

**Shelley Entz Kentner** - May 27, 2020 at 03:09 PM

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“ How fortunate for Muskogee and all of the students he taught when he decided to come back to Muskogee and teach. His International Relations class that he taught at Muskogee High helped prepared me and countless others for college and for life! He gave us so many "life lessons" that I am forever grateful. The last time I saw him we were both at the election board exercising our right to vote. How Fitting! I am so sorry for the loss for your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Peace be with you.

Dan Newell

Dan Newell - May 27, 2020 at 02:54 PM

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“ He was by far one of the best teachers at the high school. He always wanted us to look at things going on in the world and form our own opinions. He was a teacher who wanted us to think on our own. Yes, him and JP set the bar for Muskogee High. God Bless.

Evan Toney MHS class of 1982.

Evan Toney - May 27, 2020 at 02:17 PM