

James Robert "Jim" McPherson

August 20, 1937 - April 3, 2020

James Robert "Jim" McPherson, 82, of Muskogee, Oklahoma went to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, April 3, 2020. He was born on August 20, 1937 to Guy and Edith (Foster) McPherson in Claremore, Oklahoma. Jim taught music for twenty-five years in Oklahoma. He was a graduate of Hooker High School and earned both a Bachelor's and Masters of music education degrees from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. While at Phillips University, he was a member of the Forty-Fifth Infantry Division National Guard Band, earning the rank of staff sergeant and becoming the director of the Stage Band.

He married the love of his life, Rudena Mae Krausse, on June 20, 1960 in Enid, Oklahoma. They shared over 59 years of a happy life and marriage together.

His teaching career began in the Waukomis Public Schools (1959-1963), where he taught both instrumental and vocal music. From 1963-1967 he taught instrumental music in the Cordell Public Schools, in 1967-1968 at Woodward. He then continued his music career as a sales associate and field clinician with the Southwestern Music Company in Weatherford, Oklahoma. In 1969 he returned to teaching in Muskogee, and taught two years at Alice Robertson Junior High, two years at West Junior High, and eleven years at Muskogee High School, where he was the director of the symphonic band,

stage band and Jazz ensemble. He also taught classes in Music Theory. Jim spent his final years in education as the principal of Harris Jobe and Cherokee Elementary Schools, and retired in 1991.

Organizations under Jim's direction won the Oklahoma Sweepstakes Awards in 1980 and 1981. In 1981, the symphonic Band was selected as an Honor Organization for the Oklahoma Music Educators Association State Convention. During his career, the Symphonic Band won many honors in concert performance, including four "superior plus" ratings and ten "superior" ratings. Under his direction, The Muskogee Band was chosen to march in the Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington D.C. in 1982.

The Muskogee band programs under Jim's direction won many awards in the area of jazz education. The Alice Robertson Jr. High Jazz Ensemble was named Most Outstanding at the Tri-State Music Festival. The MHS Jazz Ensemble was five times named Most Outstanding at OSSAA contests. They were also named Most Outstanding at Phillips University Jazz Festival in Enid, Oklahoma; Southwestern Music Festival in Amarillo; the northeastern Jazz Festival in Tahlequah; and the University of Tulsa Festival. The 1978 MHS Jazz Ensemble was selected by the National Association of Jazz Educators to perform as the High School Honor Band during the National MENC Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1976, The Jazz Ensemble was selected by Jazz Tours International to tour in Europe for two weeks. They performed in Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; Amsterdam in the Netherlands; Zurich and Lucerne, Switzerland. Jim served as State Chair of the Oklahoma chapter of ASBDA, President of the Oklahoma Unit of NAJE, and in 1976, as president of OBA. He also served as the OBA Marching Band Chair, and in 1978 was chair of the Oklahoma All State Band. In 1982, Jim was named the OBA Band Director of the Year.

Jim was a member of Boulevard Christian Church for many years. Jim loved his family very much and enjoyed spending as much time as possible with

them. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Guy and Edith McPherson; brother, Norman McPherson; brothers-in-law, Ted Williams and Maurice Mitchell.

He is survived by his loving wife, Rudena McPherson of the home; daughters, Kim Brownell and husband Mark of Muskogee, OK, Terri Bookout and husband Daryl of Depew, OK, and Shari McPherson and John Clark of Muskogee, OK; grandchildren, Kali Anderson and husband Jacob of Norman, OK, Seth Brownell and wife Rhianna of Broken Arrow, OK, Cade Brownell and wife Leah of Bixby, OK, Meredith Bentley and husband Tommy of Choctaw, OK, and Elizabeth Martin and husband Wade of Prague, OK; great-grandchildren, Maxine Joy Anderson, Callie and Skyler Davis, Bentley Wade; Christian, Cannon, and Elianna Bentley; sisters, Patrica Williams Boliver, MO, and Kathryn Mitchell of Hooker, OK; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers Jim's family has requested memorials be made to the Muskogee Alumni Community Band. <https://cityofmuskogeefoundation.org>

Jim's family will celebrate his life with a private family graveside service with Dr. Stephen Wiley and Pastor James McCracken officiating. his grandchildren, Kalie and Jacob Anderson, Seth and Rhianna Brownell, Cade and Leah Brownell, Meredith and Tommy Bentley, Elizabeth and Wade Martin will be serving as honorary pallbearers.

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.

Cemetery Details

Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N. York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

APR 7. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

APR 8. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Tribute Wall

GD

“ Mr. McPherson was my 1st marching band teacher and was a great guy. One of those gifted teachers who could teach as well as lead. Unusual in one so young in his first teaching gig. He instilled a love of jazz in me that continues to this day. I do recall his first new car, an Austin Healey 3000, that he was quite proud of. It, unfortunately, caught fire in front of the school one morning (thanks to bad Lucas electrics), which was exciting to all, but sad for Mr. McPherson. Am sure he is still playing his trumpet 'up there'. May he RIP.

GLENN DAVIS - August 10, 2025 at 07:53 AM

PM

“ Mr. McPherson was my 7th grade band teacher at West Jr. High. I still remember it like it was yesterday. He told us two things on day one. 1. No blasting! 2. When it comes to paddling, I will not be outdone by the coaches. Needless to say I was a bit intimidated.....especially on the day when we were all goofing off before class and he walks in and exclaims “Who did that?” He pointed at me and asked “Was that you?” I said no, thinking that I might have been blasting and was in for it. He asked me to try again. So I put my lips together and let it rip. He let everyone in class know that I had just played a high C on trumpet. I guess that this was unusual for a beginner trumpet player. Needless to say I was thrilled that day.

RIP Mr. McPherson.

Patrick McDaniel - June 24, 2025 at 09:26 PM



“ James Robert "Jim" McPherson

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM

JW

“ Only heaven will reveal the degree of influence you had over the thousands of teenagers who were entrusted to your care. Beloved Mr. Mac, I can read and hear harmony lines because of you. I can make valuable contributions to a team effort because of you. I can accurately measure my own capabilities, and stand in awe of people more talented than myself, because of you. My music education ended in high school, but my appreciation for all these other things lives on and continues to add richness to my life. Blessings of peace.

Jane Aldridge Wineland - April 17, 2020 at 01:00 PM

SM

“ Mr. Mac was always my favorite teacher! He worked us band students hard and encouraged us to always be the best we could be. He had a great sense of humor. He would take time, occasionally, to go out to lunch with us students. He was a good teacher, good mentor, and good man. My condolences to Mrs. Mac, Kim, and the whole family. Susan Baker McAuliff

Susan McAuliff - April 13, 2020 at 11:18 AM

KB

“ Kim Brownell lit a candle in memory of James Robert "Jim" McPherson



Kim Brownell - April 12, 2020 at 02:21 PM

TA

“ Jim was a great man, a wonderful principal, had a great sense of humor and was really good to work for. He was my principal at Harris Jobe and I have fond memories of my time teaching for him there. He will be greatly missed. I send my heartfelt condolences to the family.

Tommy "Coach" Anderson

Tommy Anderson - April 08, 2020 at 10:49 AM

RM

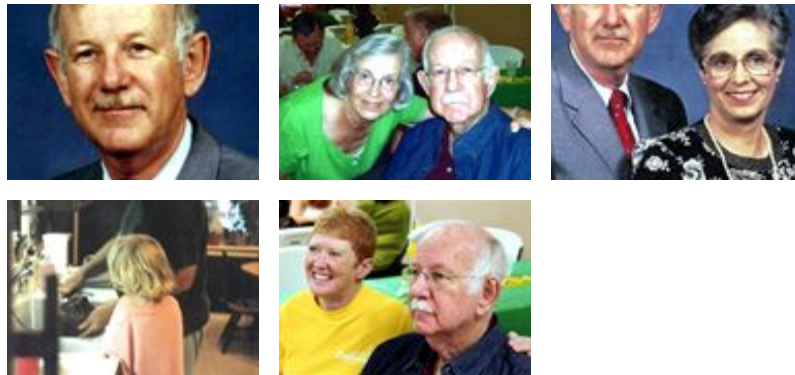
“ Rudena McPherson sent a virtual gift in memory of James Robert "Jim" McPherson



Rudena McPherson - April 07, 2020 at 11:31 PM



“ 106 files added to the album LifeTributes



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - April 07, 2020 at 03:16 PM

JM

Prayers for your family 🙏

Joyce McCoy - April 08, 2020 at 10:38 AM

RM

“ Rudena,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Rick and Mary Kay McQueen



Rick and Mary Kay McQueen - April 06, 2020 at 11:16 PM

RM

“ *Jim was blessed to have many fantastic students who will greatly miss him*

Rudena McPherson - April 06, 2020 at 08:39 PM

SK

“ *A decade or so of working together in the MHS music department, a couple of trips with the Jazz Ensemble to Greater Southwest Festival, and a trip to D.C. for the Cherry Blossom Festival with the Rougher Marching Band, plus a lot of daily conversations, and a few musicals together. Those are my best memories of Mac, and they're all good ones. God bless you and keep you, Mac. My sincere condolences to Rudena and the girls. May your memory be eternal!*

Skip Klingman - April 06, 2020 at 06:12 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of James Robert "Jim" McPherson.*



April 06, 2020 at 06:05 PM