



## Thomas "Tom" E. Yadon

April 30, 1931 - July 6, 2015

Thomas Edgar Yadon, born April 30, 1931 in Muskogee, OK passed away peacefully at home with family Monday, July 6, 2015. He retired from State Farm Insurance June 1, 2015. He began his 47 year career as a State Farm agent on June 1, 1968.

Tom was a graduate of Central High School in Muskogee in 1949. He joined the United States Air Force at Tinkerfield Air Force Base being stationed in Midwest City, Oklahoma. He was the director of the Air Force Band. Tom studied at the University of Kentucky and graduated from Oklahoma City University in OKC, Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Music in 1957. He did graduate work in music at the University of Michigan and received his Master's Degree. He also did Doctoral work at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Indiana.

Tom married his high school sweetheart, Frances Jean Vaughan in 1951, they had five children. . Tom and his family are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter - Day Saints.

At CHS, Tom directed the Choral Club, a music organization that still to this day brings many happy memories to the students and Tom. He also directed the CHS band, which was an award winning organization. Tom became the supervisor of music for Muskogee Public Schools in the early 60's. Tom taught many clarinet students over the years, and many of his students continue to play to this day. He played clarinet in a woodwind Quintet with Margaret Bebb, Harvey Randall, Martin Bebb and Debbie Armitter; such beautiful music they

played. Tom organized and directed the Muskogee Community Choir and Orchestra for 42 years. Performing Handel's Messiah every Christmas was a tradition Muskogee enjoyed; it was a delight for many.

Tom will always be grateful beyond words to his faithful secretaries, Delores Faith and Jan McKinne. Their dedication and loyalty for over 30 years were so appreciated and enabled Tom to reach levels of distinction, achievements, and success. He won many State Farm Awards over the years. It could be said that Tom knew no strangers.

Tom was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Frances Jean Vaughan Yadon (July 2008); his parents, Walter Charles Yadon, Sr. and Lindrel Elizabeth McCoy Yadon.

He is survived by his brother, Walter Charles Yadon, Jr. (Charley) and wife Dorothy of Muskogee, OK; sister, Jo Anne White of San Diego, CA; his daughters, Marcie Kohlbacher and husband Ken of Broken Arrow, OK, and Julie Kay and husband Gregg of Parker, CO; sons, Eddie Yadon and the late Betty Yadon of Muskogee, OK, Richard Yadon of the home, and Kenneth Yadon of Muskogee, OK; grandchildren, Erik Kohlbacher and wife Jessica of Broken Arrow, OK, Dr. Jared Kohlbacher and wife Raina of Presque Isle, ME, Gretchen Bowman and husband Dr. Benjamin Bowman of Edmond, OK, Heidi Kohlbacher of Edmond, OK; David Kay and wife Sarah of Castle Rock, CO, Lindsay Larson and husband Jake of Bridge City, TX, Lesley Stockett and husband Brandon of Evanston, WY, Hailey Holloway and husband John of Bridge City, TX, Dr. Jeff Kay and wife Brianne of Roy, WA, Steve Kay and wife Ashleigh of Castle Rock, CO, Holly Kay of Parker, CO, Tommy Yadon and wife Ashlee, and Michael Yadon all of Muskogee, OK; and many other family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the Yadon family would appreciate expressions of sympathy sent as donations to the Tom Yadon Musical Scholarship Award Fund, c/o Dennis Wiebel, Chairman, 204 N 37th, Muskogee, OK 74401.

Tom's family will receive visitors from 4:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., Thursday, July 9, 2015 at Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel.

A private family service will be held

# Tribute Wall



“ Thomas "Tom" E. Yadon

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ I just learned this morning of Mr. Yadon's passing (he will always be "Mr. Yadon"). I am saddened because the opportunity has slipped away to tell him what an influence he had been in my life. Just last week, I was talking with a local band director (in Central FL) and spoke about the impact Mr. Yadon had in my life, hoping to encourage the director in his work. I had made a promise to myself that next trip to Muskogee, I would try to meet with him.

*I first met Mr. Yadon during the summer of 1961. He held summer classes in the band room at Alice Robertson in the morning while it was still cool. Mr. Yadon instilled and nurtured a love of music to all who were interested. As many have commented, he had his own brand of wit and humor, even when disciplining his students, he had a way of making it fun. For those in the band at that time, we will always remember the beginning bars of "Bravura".*

*Thank you enriching my life.*

*Gary McKenzie*

Gary McKenzie - February 24, 2016 at 12:33 PM



*GARY, this is Marcie Yadon Kohlbacher, Tom's oldest child, I'm sure my Dad knows how much he meant to you. He so loved his students!! What a great choir, and band will be waiting in heaven and everyone will be able to sing and play as they did when they were young!*

Marcia Yadon Kohlbacher - November 01, 2019 at 01:18 AM

MT

“ Mr. Yadon was a wonderful teacher and mentor to his students. I came from a pretty non-musical family but he taught me that I had a vocal gift and should use it. I got to be a soloist for Choral Club and developed confidence that I used later in life as a business owner. I loved Mr. Yadon and have always kept him in my heart. I just learned today of his passing from a Facebook page.  
Madeline Hisaw Teague

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**Madeline Teague** - December 10, 2015 at 09:30 AM

SM

“ This is belated, but I still want to share how much I loved Tom and his influence on my life. When I was in Muskogee in May he wasn't receiving visitors, but I checked for a couple of months and didn't see that he had passed, so I thought he had dodged another bullet. I have had several of my own family losses recently so just hadn't checked. I will never forget doing Verdi's Requiem at First Presbyterian. Even though I was really a Violist, he had so few Altos in the choir he asked me to sing. With his help and his influence on me I got scholarships to summer music camps at Inspiration Point, Arkansas and the University of Kansas for two years. I also got to play in the All State Symphony for three years, even though I had move to Midwest City right before my Senior year in high school. I didn't make my career in music (I became a geophysicist), but music definitely helped get me there.

Sharon Imes Macha

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**Sharon Imes Macha** - September 30, 2015 at 10:17 PM

DS

“ I really loved your dad. He did so many things for others. I still tap my foot to the beat of the music just like he taught us so many years ago.

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**debbie sides** - July 14, 2015 at 11:17 AM

IB

“ I was truly blessed to know Tom Yadon...from the moment I moved to Muskogee. He was such a positive influence on so many young musicians in this area. He was a wonderful friend as well. I am sorry for the loss we all feel. God bless you all.

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**Ineta Bebb** - July 14, 2015 at 11:07 AM

GK

“ I knew Mr. Yadon through CHS Choral Club and he was my State Farm Insurance agent for several years as well. He was warm, personable as a teacher and equally so in business. He shaped many lives as a teacher and brought humor and dedication to everything he did. I was enriched by knowing him.

*George King*

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**George King** - July 14, 2015 at 09:02 AM

JJ

“ Tom Yadon was my mentor and friend. I shall always cherish my memories during high school at Central because of my love for music and Tom's encouragement, direction, skill and belief in me. Because he was a tenor, I think he favored my low bass voice. At any rate, his provided opportunities for me to use my voice and gave me the confidence to enjoy music all my life. Returning to Muskogee each Christmas to sing in his choir at First Presbyterian was a true joy. Every time I returned "home" and saw Tom, he would have a huge smile for me. Our trips to Rockaway Beach Resort were a pure delight. I am saddened to learn of his death and pray God's peace to each member of his special family. Blessings, J. Tommy Jobe (Central Grad - 58)

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**J. Tommy Jobe** - July 14, 2015 at 08:50 AM

KC

“ Tom Yadon was a light to the world! He will be missed. I will always cherish my memories of him. Especially him conducting the men's choir at Christmas! He always brought a smile to my face and just had a way about him to make those around him feel uplifted and happy. I hope he is having a nice conversation with J.S. Bach right now. My condolences to the Yadon family.



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**Kimberly Cleveland** - July 10, 2015 at 05:10 PM

 Mike Poitevent

“ Mr Yadon Thanks for the memories !!!!!

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**Mike Poitevent** - July 10, 2015 at 12:34 PM

LJ

“ My family has known Tom for many years. He gave my little brother, Arthur S. McKenzie III private clarinet lessons at our home. He was a very nice man and will be missed by many.

*With our deepest sympathy - Linda (McKenzie) Johnson and Ginger McKenzie*

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**Linda Johnson** - July 10, 2015 at 08:55 AM

JM

“ John Mayer lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" E. Yadon



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**John Mayer** - July 10, 2015 at 07:38 AM

EW

“ I attended church with Tom for many years and am grateful to have known him and his family. My condolences to your family at this time. He was truly an example of goodness.

*Erin Richardson West*

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**erin west** - July 10, 2015 at 07:02 AM

FB

“ Tom Yadon and music are one! He touched every heart just as music does. I will never forget how he always made me feel. Life was always better anytime Tom was around. I miss you Tom.

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**FRANK BARCELLOS** - July 10, 2015 at 01:43 AM

KM

“ My prayers are with the Yadon family. Brother Yadon was and is an inspiration to everyone he touched through his music and his generous smile and spirit. He will be missed greatly, and remembered fondly.

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**Kathy Munson** - July 09, 2015 at 10:43 PM

RM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Yadon family. Rick and Mary Kay McQueen



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**Rick and Mary Kay McQueen** - July 09, 2015 at 10:11 PM

CM

“ *What can I say about Mr. Yadon? He was my grandparent's paper boy. He gave me a ride to Junior High Summer Band because he drove right by our house anyway with a "classic" car. We had some good talks then. He also was the Central High School band director going from Alice Robertson Jr. High to Central in 1966-67 for one school year. He was a great influence on me and anyone whose life he touched, and also master teacher. May God bring great comfort to his family.*

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**Chuck Mayes** - July 09, 2015 at 08:26 PM



“ *Debbie Avance lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Tom" E. Yadon*



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**Debbie Avance** - July 09, 2015 at 05:50 PM

DS

“ *Praying for the family peace and comfort I only knew Tom in a class he was in last year. He will never be forgotten.*



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**debbie sanders** - July 09, 2015 at 04:58 PM

MB

“ *Loving and praying for the Yadon family....how could you not love Tom!!!! Will always remember him fondly and with love! Melissa (Lissy) Boyd Barrett and John Barrett*

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**Melissa Boyd Barrett** - July 09, 2015 at 01:34 PM

CR

“ I remember Tom as a personable person to me whenever we would meet. Most of the time at a convention or honor group concert. He touched many lives over the 50 years. Thanks for the memories and my prayers are with the family.

*Charles Regier from Corn Bible Academy*

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**Charles Regier** - July 09, 2015 at 01:28 PM

RR

“ TY was our mentor, our teacher and so much more than our friend. Probably the greatest man we have ever known. He touched our lives for the past 50 years. We would not be who we are without his guidance and direction. He will forever be in our hearts as he touched our very soul at the time in our lives when it was needed most. We love you Tom! God bless you Sir!

*Patty and raymond Rhoden*

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**raymond rhoden** - July 09, 2015 at 11:13 AM

HM

“ Tom and I met about 7 or 8 years ago when we started playing regularly in a woodwind quintet together. We had so much fun goofing around and playing and it was always great to see someone his age still enjoying and playing music. I am so sad that he has passed and I will never forget how kind he was to me. I can't wait to play with him again on the other side.

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**Holly Rosser Miller`** - July 09, 2015 at 11:07 AM

JC

“ I knew Tom from Central High, though I never sang in Choral Club. He did welcome me to join the Muskogee Community Chorus to sing the selected portions of the "Messiah." My friendship with Tom was as members of the notorious "Red Table Club" from the Speedway Grill. Every morning several met for breakfast and coffee. Normally I sat across from him. His sense of warmth, his mangled jokes, his wealth of knowledge concerning music of any genre and golf made him a joy. He took care of his State Farm customers as if they were his children. If Tom was your friend, you had a FRIEND. Tom's life crossed many cultures and people. He was a great man, truly one of a kind and he will be missed. I pray for God to bless and comfort Tom's family.

*jim cole*

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**Jim Cole** - July 09, 2015 at 10:27 AM

DK

“ Tom was an outstanding State Farm agent, and served as a role model and mentor to many agents that chose to follow in his footsteps. It was Tom's overwhelming success in business, and that of others of his era, that grew this company into the industry leader it is today, preserving this great opportunity for the rest of us. Please accept our condolences during this difficult time, and know that he will always be remembered at State Farm for his kindness, generosity, and consummate professionalism. All of us at State Farm that were privileged to have known Tom have lost a very dear friend.

*David Kolb*

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**David Kolb** - July 09, 2015 at 10:26 AM

MH

“ I loved Choral Club, and Tom was a great teacher, my prayers to his family and friends.

Marsha



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**Marsha Herrick** - July 09, 2015 at 10:04 AM

DM

“ In the years of '59-'61 I was in the Choral Club and my husband was in the band & orchestra. I have great memories of our travels and performances some with the band.

Once we went as far as Arkansas w/the band and performed at several places and also went to Rock-a-way Beach and rode paddle boats.

We also made a record w/the band and Mr. Yadon on Clarinet, Charley Yadon on Bass, Mr. Pletcher on Sax (I think), Mr. York on Flute and I don't remember the others.

GREAT memories!!!

THANK YOU MR. YADON!!!!!!!

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**Dick & Sharon Owen Myers** - July 09, 2015 at 09:48 AM

SU

“ Tom introduced me to classical music, with which I immediately fell in love. That gift has enriched my life to this day. He was a wonderful person.

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**Suzanne** - July 09, 2015 at 08:58 AM

GD

“ My condolences to the entire Yadon family. You cannot imagine the loss that all who ever knew Tommy feel. He was one of the finest gentlemen I was ever privileged to know. No one will ever know how many kids he paid for out of his own pocket, so that they could participate in musical activities they couldn't themselves afford. We have lost a true hero!

Tommy was loved by so many people. He touched so many lives. May god bless his soul and give comfort to his family in this time of grief.

Gil Davidson

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**Gil Davidson** - July 09, 2015 at 07:50 AM

BK

“ Thank you for ALL the music you shared, you taught and inspired.



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**Betsy Kennedy** - July 09, 2015 at 07:32 AM

JM

“ I have many fond memories of Tom and Jean Yadon. i babysat all of their kids when they were small and they were all like family to me and my family the Aldridges. I remember Marcie, Julie, Eddie, Kenneth and Richard very well. God bless you all.

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**Janelle Aldridge Murray** - July 09, 2015 at 07:23 AM

JW

“ Tom was an icon in Muskogee. As a godly and talented man he will be sorely missed. Prayers to all the family.

*Jackie baker webb*

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**jackie webb** - July 09, 2015 at 06:39 AM

RH

“ Mr. Yadon had such a profound impact on me as a Central High School student that I pursued a music degree in college. His life wisdom was inspiring; his musicianship was astounding and his teaching skills extraordinary. I have enjoyed much success in life in the business world and as a singer. Much of that success was influenced by Tom Yadon. I had hoped to see him next year (2016) at my 50th high school reunion but, alas, that is not to be. He will be forever in my heart. Rest in peace, Mr. Yadon.

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**Ron Hatley** - July 09, 2015 at 04:03 AM

LG

“ Loved Mr. Yadon. Had him at Central for Choral Club and Orchestra, then my insurance man. I missed him and the ladies at the office, but hoped to see him out and about. Thoughts with his family. A really nice man.

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**Lyle Denise Green** - July 08, 2015 at 10:25 PM

LS

“ Choral Club in high school was a learning experience every day with Mr. Yadon. He set a high standard and with his gift of perfect pitch took us to record competitions. Wonderful teacher, wonderful human being! Blessed to have known him through the years.

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**Linda Sizemore** - July 08, 2015 at 10:00 PM

LS

“ *Linda Sizemore lit a candle in memory of  
Thomas "Tom" E. Yadon*



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**Linda Sizemore** - July 08, 2015 at 09:56 PM

SJ

“ *Susan Julian lit a candle in memory of  
Thomas "Tom" E. Yadon*



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**Susan Julian** - July 08, 2015 at 04:48 PM