



## Mr. Wallace C. Read

October 29, 1923 - January 16, 2017

Former Band Director at Kilgore College and former Mayor of Henderson, the Honorable Wallace C. Read, 93, passed away peacefully Monday, January 16, 2017, at his home in Henderson. Mr. Read served as a three-term mayor for Henderson.

Read earned his BA and MA in music at Stephen F. Austin College. He enjoyed a long career as an instructor and well loved musician in East Texas, serving as an award-winning band director at Beckville, Gaston, and White Oak, a Sweepstakes awards band.

At Kilgore College, he directed the outstanding KC Ranger Band for many years. With the Band and Rangerettes, Read traveled the world, always a ready and enthusiastic ambassador for East Texas. He established the concert band and concert series, inviting professionals such as Doc Severinsen, to draw large crowds

Read is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara Harris Read, of Henderson, daughter Cheri Long and her husband Michael of Pflugerville, Randy Read and wife Ashley, Dr. Jeffrey Jones and wife Beth, of Longview; Carol Woerndle and husband George, of Red River, NM; eight grandchildren; three brothers, one sister, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Read will be held at 2 pm on Friday, January 20, 2017, at First Baptist Church with Pastor Raul Benitez officiating. Interment will follow at Craig Cemetery under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 pm on Thursday, January 19, at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Mr. Read's nephews.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Cemetery

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## Craig Cemetery

PR 3803

Henderson, TX, 75652

# Events

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**JAN** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**19**

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Crawford A. Crim Funeral Home

1414 South Main Street, Henderson, TX, US, 75654

**JAN** **Service** 02:00PM

**20**

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First Baptist Church

207 West Main, Henderson, TX, US, 75652

# Comments

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“ I had the blessing and privilege of being a member of the Kilgore College Ranger Band during 1972-1973, under the direction of the Late Great Wally Read. He was an awesome and humble man, whom I learned sooo much. I played baritone and had the distinct privilege of traveling to Venezuela and playing with the band, as we accompanied the infamous Rangerettes under the Late great Gussie Nell Davis. All the way through high school, it was my greatest desire to become a member of the Ranger Band because of Mr. Read.

I know it's been many years since his Homegoing, but in my fond memories today I thought about Mr. Read and the impact he had upon me and many others.

I hope pray continued blessings and miracles upon the Read family. I just wanted to pause and thank God for Mr. Wallace C. Read. He was a true blessing in my lifetime. May God continue to bless and keep you all!!!

Apostle Rosarlyne  
Wofford House

Rosalryne Wofford House - April 17, 2019 at 04:09 PM

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“ Malinda McDonald-Norman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Malinda McDonald-Norman - January 22, 2017 at 09:16 PM

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“ In Kilgore, Wally Read and his family were great neighbors. In School at KJC, I played in both the Ranger Band and the Stage Band, both directed by Wally Read. He inspired and demanded the best from every member of the band. Best of all, he was my friend. I was very lucky to have Wally Read in my life.

Dr. Dave Dyer

Dr Dave Dyer - January 21, 2017 at 07:49 AM



“ Wallace Read was True Band Director..i played in the concert Band & also the stage Band. We ALL enjoyed having DOC Severinson come & play in our Spring concert. THOSE days will never be forgotten. I thought THE WORLD OF Wally Read. AS ALWAYS, TED MUNCY 3rd Chair Trumpet At Kilgore College Ranger Band Under the direction of Wally Read.

Ted - August 05, 2017 at 10:39 PM

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“ I definitely consider it to have been a great honor to have been in the Ranger band 67-69. Mr. Read was tough at times but he always fought for the band. I was also honored to have been in the band with Randy. My deepest condolence to you Randy and the whole family.

Keith Burkett - January 20, 2017 at 06:23 PM

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“ Rangerette chant: We love you, Mr. Read!!!  
Darlene Place McEnturff  
Kilgore College Rangerette 1964-66

Darlene McEnturff - January 20, 2017 at 06:01 PM

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“ Uncle Wally was my great uncle. He was loved by many and always knew how to make you laugh and smile. You may not be here with us anymore but I know I will see you again some day. I love you so much!

savannah read - January 19, 2017 at 06:53 PM

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“ Penny Burke



**Penny Burke** - January 19, 2017 at 06:17 PM

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“ Wally Read was a great influence in my life before, during and after I studied and performed under his direction at Kilgore College. I will always appreciate his love and knowledge of music and life, and his talent for sharing and communicating this love and knowledge with others.

**Bruce Tate** - January 19, 2017 at 05:23 PM

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“ We were saddened to hear the news of WallyRead and our prayers are with the family. I was in the Ranger Band during 65-66, and it was a pleasure working with Wally. He was a good person and a great horn player. There is a now a new trumpet sound in heaven

**Joe Holt and Frieda** - January 19, 2017 at 03:35 PM

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“ So sorry to hear this. I have fond memories of carrying the Halloween queen's train with Cheri when we were in kindergarten at Gaston. I still have the picture of us.

**Nancy Miley** - January 19, 2017 at 02:28 PM

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“ Shirley Hankins Arredondo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Shirley Hankins Arredondo** - January 19, 2017 at 01:16 PM

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“ I loved Mr Wally Read! His wife as well. Mr.Read would come to New Sound Hearing and pick up batteries or get them adjusted or cleaned.I am honored having to know him. RIP Mr Wally you have won the race.

**Kathy Chapman** - January 19, 2017 at 11:32 AM

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“ My sincere condolences go to Wally's family. It goes without saying that this is one man who contributed a love of music and discipline to many students, to citizens of various age groups, and to all who love the sound of big band music. My late husband and I as well as friends, Janie and M.C. Akin, attended many of the latter dances that he played with the Sounds of Swing and loved every minute of it. Bravo to a life well lived!

Marcia Thomas, Jefferson



**marcia thomas** - January 19, 2017 at 10:09 AM

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“ As a student in the early 60s at Kilgore College, Mr. Wallace Read was my Music Appreciation instructor. He was a delight in the classroom, always well prepared and extremely knowledgeable of his subject matter. I always enjoyed the Ranger pep rallies and the Ranger football games just so I could hear Mr. Read play his arrangement of "I Can't Stop Loving You" on his trumpet. What A Musician He Was! The time has now come for him to go home to Heaven after such a long and eventful life. We'll miss his presence, but we know our Lord has a word for every heartache, a touch for every wounded spirit, and a comfort for every tear. Good night, Mr. Read, we'll see you again in God's blessed morning time. Thanks and Thanks and Ever Thanks for the memories!.

Larry W. Osborne - January 19, 2017 at 09:06 AM

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“ Great memories as a student 65-67 . I remember when he brought Doc Severson to Kilgore College. He was a great band leader and even better person who liked to listen to students.

Richard Pearson 65-67

Richard Pearson - January 19, 2017 at 02:53 AM

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“ Charlotte Barnhart Dunaway lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Charlotte Barnhart Dunaway - January 18, 2017 at 10:48 PM

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“ Condolences to Wally's family-----so many fond memories of him and one song that I recall---"And the Angels Sing" must have been playing when he entered heaven



**Anne Lawrence** - January 18, 2017 at 09:26 PM

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“ I was a 1968-69 trumpet player in KC band & was able to go to Macy's Thanksgiving parade other nifty trips & thanks to Mr. Read, I have many great memories that will be with me forever!

**Margo Loveless Martin** - January 18, 2017 at 08:30 PM

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“ Jeff and Beth we are so sorry for your loss. I sure remember when I was at Kilgore College in the Rangerettes. Mr Read was such a joy to be around. Keeping you all in our prayers.

**Steve and Connie Dorman** - January 18, 2017 at 05:13 PM

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“ Judy Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Judy Lewis** - January 18, 2017 at 02:51 PM

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“ Prayers for peace and comfort for the Read family, especially to Barbara. Wally was a special friend and colleague. He will be greatly missed. Cathy Fothergill

Cathy Fothergill - January 18, 2017 at 02:33 PM

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“ Brent Hale lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Brent Hale - January 18, 2017 at 02:13 PM

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“ Ron Berry lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Ron Berry - January 18, 2017 at 12:45 PM

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“ Pam Tyner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Pam Tyner - January 18, 2017 at 12:14 PM

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“ I was a proud Ranger Band member '79-81 and still cherish friends and memories from that time--football games, Christmas parades, Cotton Bowls, Shrine Bowl in San Francisco...Mr. Read was a great musician, a motivational teacher, and a person full of life and love! I grieve his passing and send my condolences to Barbara and the entire family. I was so happy to get to see the two of you several years ago in the birding blind in the Valley! Will be remembering you all in my prayers.

**Lisa Jones Hooten** - January 18, 2017 at 11:13 AM

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“ Awesome human being 1 of a kind u will be missed



**Ric** - January 18, 2017 at 10:57 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about Mr Read's passing. I was so honored to have been in the Ranger Band from 1967-1969. He was a great person & awesome band director.  
Carol L Simmons

**Carol Simmons** - January 18, 2017 at 10:18 AM

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“ Jamie Skelton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Jamie Skelton** - January 18, 2017 at 09:26 AM

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“ Was in the band with Mr Wallace for two years. Was lots of fun ! We went to Romania with the band. One of my fondest memories ! He was a really nice man and will be missed  
Linda Myers Harms. 1976-78

Linda Harms - January 18, 2017 at 08:58 AM

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“ Bobbie Ruffridge lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Bobbie Ruffridge - January 18, 2017 at 06:29 AM

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“ Charlie Price lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Charlie Price - January 18, 2017 at 05:31 AM

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“ I played clarinet in the Ranger Band from 1969-1971. So many memories of Mr. Read and the members of the Band. His expectations of being the best made me proud to be a representative of the band. My prayers are with his family.

Kassy Paris - January 18, 2017 at 01:51 AM

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“ Jennifer Wilkerson Schell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Jennifer Wilkerson Schell** - January 18, 2017 at 12:09 AM

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“ I was in the band at KC in 80-81 and 81-82 and I enjoyed every minute. I appreciate the fact that Mr. Read and Mr. Hale gave me a chance to be on the twirling line. I have often wondered how my life would have turned out differently if I had not been given this opportunity. I will always be thankful to Mr. Read for believing in me. Thank you Mr. Read.

**Paige Christian Keitt** - January 17, 2017 at 10:50 PM

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“ I was blessed to have Wally as my band director at White Oak and Kilgore College--- marching band, concert band and Jazz band. He was the best! His legacy will live in through the band directors he produced and the music he instilled in all his students.

**Betty Blue Gillis** - January 17, 2017 at 09:55 PM



“ Amen to that. He instilled a love of music and broadened your horizons of what music can you.

**james snowden** - January 20, 2017 at 11:27 PM



“ Wally was a great band director and played trumpet beautifully. He was my band director when I was in Junior High School in Beckville, and I loved having him as my teacher. My husband and I always enjoyed seeing him when our son, Kent, was in the Kilgore College Band. We will miss him.

Barbara and Joe Johnson,

**Barbara Johnson** - January 21, 2017 at 03:40 PM

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“ Thank you for playing taps at my brother's funeral. You were an amazing man that touched many lives.

**Karen Holland** - January 17, 2017 at 09:09 PM



“ Gloria Dillard Oeland lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Gloria Dillard Oeland** - January 17, 2017 at 09:01 PM

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“ Wally was a very special person with great talent. I remember him from my college days as well as through all my adult years here in Henderson. I will miss his smile and his friendly greetings. Johnny and I send our deepest sympathy to Barbara and the family.



**Cyndi Walker** - January 17, 2017 at 08:59 PM

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“ I remember having Wally when I was a student at Kilgore College in the early 80s. It was a music appreciation class and to this day I remember things I learned in that class. He was such a talented man and an inspiring teacher. Amy Edmonds Rice

**Amy Lucus-Rice** - January 17, 2017 at 08:54 PM

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“ I'm very sorry to hear this news. My condolences to all of the family, including Jeff and Beth.

As this is typed, I'm listening to some old Maynard Ferguson tunes and remembering really great times and friends in the KC Band. It's very easy to remember some of the numbers (not songs - they aren't songs as he used to say) we played in Stage Band and the performances where he never missed a chance to brag about his students. What a huge number of people he influenced through the years.

Rest in Peace, Mr. Read.

Jim Knight  
Ranger Band 1980-1981

Jim Knight - January 17, 2017 at 08:47 PM

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“ Roberta Vallantyne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Roberta Vallantyne - January 17, 2017 at 08:37 PM

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“ Patty Hooks lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Patty Hooks - January 17, 2017 at 08:14 PM



“ He will be missed.

Teresa Myers - January 17, 2017 at 10:08 PM

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“ Louis And.Mary Jo Colombo lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Louis and.Mary Jo Colombo** - January 17, 2017 at 08:08 PM

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“ Karen Edelman Cundiff lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Karen Edelman Cundiff** - January 17, 2017 at 07:49 PM

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“ James G Haney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**James G Haney** - January 17, 2017 at 07:45 PM

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“ THE BEST Band Director ever. I was his student 1965-1967

**Janie Loveless Kelley** - January 17, 2017 at 07:18 PM

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“ Janie Loveless Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Janie Loveless Kelley - January 17, 2017 at 07:16 PM

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“ Pud Patterson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



pud patterson - January 17, 2017 at 07:10 PM

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“ My time at KJC (76-78) was made all the better by my time in the band with Mr Read. Over the years I thought of him often. The world is a lesser place today without him in it.

Mike Brower - January 17, 2017 at 07:05 PM

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“ Sharon Thurmond lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



Sharon Thurmond - January 17, 2017 at 06:55 PM

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“ A certain grin which was produced by music. Happy snapping finger and toe tap. A joy to know, a gift to listen to. God Bless all his loves. In the love of Christ, Kay and Gary Ketchum.

**Kay Ketchum** - January 17, 2017 at 06:53 PM

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“ Lighting this candle in honor of one of my favorite teachers of all time. So glad I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Read and playing in his Kilgore College Band. Lots of wonderful memories from that time of my life, marching in one of the coldest Cotten Bowl Parades where our instruments froze up while we were playing. Mr. Read made it all fun. Rest In Peace Mr Read, I know you will be playing in the heavenly band along side Doc



**Donna Smith McNevin** - January 17, 2017 at 06:12 PM

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“ Donna Abercrombie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Donna Abercrombie** - January 17, 2017 at 05:37 PM



“ Praying for all the family. Love you so much.

**Laney and Emily Johnson** - January 17, 2017 at 05:48 PM

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“ Cindy Belcher lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Cindy Belcher** - January 17, 2017 at 04:32 PM

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“ Lisa Wallace lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Lisa Wallace** - January 17, 2017 at 03:51 PM

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“ Steve And Sandy McMurray lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**steve and sandy mcmurray** - January 17, 2017 at 03:26 PM

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“ Brenda Williams Haigwood lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Brenda Williams Haigwood** - January 17, 2017 at 03:07 PM

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“ I was so sad to hear this news! I had some of the best times in band with Mr. Read from '79-'81. I made wonderful, lifelong friends, and enjoyed the music and fun, traveling to the Cotton Bowl and to San Francisco, and all those Christmas parades, not to mention all the football games. He lived a full and rich life. My deepest condolences to all his family.

**Lisa Sprouse Cauble** - January 17, 2017 at 02:43 PM

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“ Shari Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Shari Johnson** - January 17, 2017 at 02:35 PM

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“ Debra Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Debra Dorsey** - January 17, 2017 at 02:23 PM



“ Marilyn Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Marilyn Johnson** - January 17, 2017 at 01:32 PM

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“ PDG Lion Lynn Nacol lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**PDG Lion Lynn Nacol** - January 17, 2017 at 12:16 PM



“ Lion Wallace was such a great Lion club member and the Henderson Lions Club will miss him greatly.

**PDG Lion Lynn Nacol** - January 17, 2017 at 12:18 PM

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“ L. D. & Jenny Hardy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**L. D. & Jenny Hardy** - January 17, 2017 at 11:46 AM

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“ I was in the band (marching, concert and jazz band) from 1981-1993 while Wally was director. His influence to me, as a fellow trumpet player, still resonates with me today and my love for jazz. I will miss him.

**Rob Galvan** - January 17, 2017 at 11:28 AM

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“ Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Bob & Sue Henderson** - January 17, 2017 at 10:46 AM

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“ So gonna miss this man! What a musical legend and a personal mentor for me. I remember fondly riding with him and Terry Dorsey every Tuesday night for years to go to Sounds of Swing band practice in Carthage. Good conversations and great memories!

**J.T. Pundt** - January 17, 2017 at 08:42 AM

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“ Cheri Read Long lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**cheri Read Long** - January 17, 2017 at 12:54 AM

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“ Cathy Green Kovschak lit a candle in memory of Mr. Wallace C. Read



**Cathy Green Kovschak** - January 16, 2017 at 11:55 PM

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“ Thank you for the MUSIC and making KJC and East Texas a great place for great sounds!! Susan and Kenny Hensley

**Susan Hensley** - January 16, 2017 at 09:47 PM

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“ I am very thankful for the opportunity to play in Wally's Kilgore College band and to sit beside him in the Sounds of Swing trumpet section for many years. Such a great time! So thankful! Every time I pick up my trumpet I think of Wally and the influence he was to me. I offer my sincere condolences to the Read family.

Terry Dorsey

**Terry Dorsey** - January 16, 2017 at 03:59 PM



“ How very saddened I am to learn of this great man's death. Mr. Read was truly a "larger than life" personality. He mentored me from the time I was a sophomore in high school, all through Kilgore College, and then as a band director. His generational influence on the lives of so many of my music colleagues here in East Texas is honored and appreciated through our own passion for music which he instilled in us all. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Wayne Smith  
Former Director  
Kilgore College Band

**Wayne Smith** - January 17, 2017 at 11:44 AM



“ My condolences and prayers go out to the Read family. Mr. Read was a huge influence on me as a small boy going to his church and I will always remember his kindness and generosity.

**H. Dave Warlick** - January 17, 2017 at 11:43 PM



“ Reflecting on our lives, we can all point to a few persons who truly made a significant difference in the person we became. Mr. Wallace Read has been one of those persons in my life since 1957 as a Jr. High band student. I have admired, appreciated and loved him (and his family) for almost 60 years, and am proud to have been part of the KJC Ranger band from 1963-'65. He taught me a great deal, not only about music, but of the type person one should aspire to be in this earthly journey.

**Carole Bullock Martin Mercier** - January 18, 2017 at 12:40 PM



“ Thanks for the memories Mr. Read! Learned to love music from the Big Band era and it's still my favorite listening. Remember playing "String of Pearls" along with the TJC band in the stands at a football game - what a sound. I know that I am not the only former student that if given the chance would do it "Just one more time!" Prayers to the family.

Debbie Lahaie Simmons

**Debbie Lahaie Simmons** - January 19, 2017 at 09:15 AM



“ I send my to condolences to The Read Family. Mr. Read taught many students the love of music. I was a member of the Gaston High School Band in 1955 when he brought Elvis Presley in to do a concert. It was a band fundraiser and tickets were a whopping 50 cents each. We had an overflowing crowd. There were many trips and on one occasion we had returned from Bandera, Tx. He got a letter from the motel regarding a missing lawn chair. He walks in and raps his baton on a music stand as was his custom, and says, "Oooo-kay, who took a suitcase big enough to put a lawn chair in.....there was roaring laughter. A few days later there was a letter of apology stating that the chair had been located. He will be missed by all who loved and cared for him. RIP Mr. Read.

Doris Scott  
Colorado Springs, Co.

**Doris Scott** - January 23, 2017 at 01:47 AM