



## Mr. Kermit Lee Tanzey

January 31, 1940 - March 20, 2022

Kermit Lee Tanzey, 82, was born January 31, 1940, in Bartlesville, OK, and died March 20, 2022, in Bartlesville, OK. Preceded in death by his mother, Wanda Perrier Price, and stepfather, Paul Price. Survived by wife of 59 years, Mary Lou (Mowery) Tanzey of the home; a son, Jon Tanzey, and wife, Nicole Tanzey, of Owasso; a daughter, Jill Carse-Hron, and son-in-law, John Hron V, of Bartlesville; and three grandchildren, Daylon Carse of Norman; Karlyn Tanzey of Fayetteville, AR and Kyle Tanzey of Owasso.

Kermit graduated from Bartlesville (College) High School in 1958 and from Northeastern State University in 1962 with a BA in Music Education. Kermit was band director in Arriba, CO, Barnsdall, Sand Springs, Bartlesville, and Nowata schools. He was a long-time member and research associate of ASBDA, the American School Band Director's Association.

Kermit was also director of Title 1 Indian Education for Nowata Schools before retiring in 2005. He proudly served his Osage People in various capacities, including as a member of the Osage membership committee. For years, both before and after retirement, Kermit provided horse painting demonstrations for educational and civic events, sharing the Native American tradition of horse painting.

Kermit was an early trader and collector of baseball cards, attending conventions and participating in national events since the late 1960s. He owns

the most comprehensive collection of St. Louis Cardinal baseball team issued postcards and an impressive representation of Cardinal team memorabilia. Kermit owned and operated The Dugout baseball card shop for many years, and helped nurture a love of baseball, and baseball card collecting, for many young, and young at heart, fans.

Kermit's love of music, baseball, and his Osage heritage was complimented by a passion for horseback riding, fishing, and attending or watching rodeos. He was equally comfortable with a baton in his hand, a ballcap on his head, a minnow on his line, or spurs on his boots. Late in life he put pen to paper and composed a collection of poems that reflected his simple, if not unique, perspective on life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Washington County SPCA animal rescue. Donations may be sent in his honor to Arvest Bank, Bartlesville. At times, Kermit was as close to the four-leggeds as he was with the two-leggeds of the world. His family is certain that he was met on the other side by countless horses, dogs, cats, and no telling what other creatures whose life on this earth was made better by Kermit.

No public services will be held, per Kermit's request.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Tanzey was my band teacher for grade school and Central Jr. High. He really cared about all of his students and loved what he did!*

*Thanks, Mr. Tanzey.  
Catherine Yokley Ingram*

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**Cat Ingram** - January 29 at 01:26 PM



“ *Mr. Kermit Lee Tanzey*

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October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Mr. Kermit Lee Tanzey*

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October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Mr. Tanzey was the band teacher at Nowata Public Schools while I was in attendance. He was always so kind, although I was never in his class. Always a gentleman.*

*Becky Campbell-Parrett  
Class of 1998*

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**Becky Parrett** - March 24, 2022 at 05:56 PM

KR

“ *Kermit and our Father, Frank Robinson, were great friends. We have fond memories of seeing them ride off together with Kermit riding his paint horse Our sincerest sympathies to the entire Tanzey family.*

*The Keith Robinson Family*

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**Keith and Sharon Robinson** - March 24, 2022 at 01:43 PM

KC

“ *Mr. Tanzey was my junior high band director at Sand Springs. We played a selection called "the Green Domino" at Concert/Sight reading contest where we received a 1st Division rating. He was excellent at everything he did.*

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**Kim Cox** - March 24, 2022 at 12:54 PM

DT

“ *Used to ride my bike 3 miles to go to his card shop on Madison. Miss those days. He was a great guy.*

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**D. Thomas** - March 24, 2022 at 10:18 AM

YF

“ *Your McDonald's family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Kermit Lee Tanzey.*



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**Your McDonald's family** - March 24, 2022 at 08:58 AM

RD

“ As a kid during some difficult times, this man had an incredible impact on my life... so thankful,..

Randy Daniel - March 23, 2022 at 07:25 PM

JC

“ Kermit was always one of my favorite customers you will be missed by many.

Joe Cummins

Joe Cummins - March 23, 2022 at 09:31 AM



“ Mr. T was one of my favorite people. So many great memories. He was so patient and kind and the best band director! Sending my thoughts and prayers of comfort to his family.

Angela Rogers - March 23, 2022 at 12:41 AM

MM

“ Mr Tanzey was one of my favorite band directors. I always had fun taking private drum lessons from him. We always played a duet at the end of each lesson. He was an awesome drummer too. He was a great teacher.

Mike Matthiesen - March 22, 2022 at 11:40 PM

CM

“ I know why the Levy is Dry. It's the pool of collected tears. He would go to the ends of the earth to get us the sheet music for it, which ever song "it" would happen to be and usually have it by the next Monday.

*I'll miss the breakfasts we shared from May of 2011 - October of 2018 always had time to sit and eat a sausage roll with me at Greyson's.*

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**Chris Miller** - March 22, 2022 at 11:25 PM

JS

“ *Jeanne Shepherd lit a candle in memory of Mr. Kermit Lee Tanzey*



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**Jeanne Shepherd** - March 22, 2022 at 07:45 PM

BC

“ *I played in the band for Kermit in 1969-70 and we remained friends over the years. A wonderful man.*



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**Bill Carle** - March 22, 2022 at 07:28 PM

JK

“ Sorry to hear about Mr. Tanzey's passing. I was in the Central band in the early 70's and I saw first hand a truly dedicated teacher. He made band fun and was one of the coolest teachers of my school days and my heart goes out to his family.

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**John King** - March 22, 2022 at 07:12 PM

JM

“ James and Kelly Morrison purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Kermit Lee Tanzey.



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**James and Kelly Morrison** - March 22, 2022 at 05:33 PM

JC

“ My sympathy to Kermit's family. He had great love for each of you. I enjoyed serving on the Nowata faculty with him and admired him as a teacher. May your memories sustain you.

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**Juanita Clark** - March 22, 2022 at 03:35 PM