

## Derril R. Etchison

January 9, 1939 - January 17, 2016

Derril Robert Etchison was born January 9, 1939 in Pierce, Oklahoma to the late Irdon and Elsie (Prater) Etchison. He passed away Sunday, January 17, 2016 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at 77 years of age.

Derril graduated from Pierce High School and Northeastern State University. He later earned his Administration Degree from the University of Tulsa. Derril began teaching in Lincoln, Arkansas, but soon returned to Oklahoma. He taught for four years in Morris before becoming the Morris Middle School Principal, a position he held and loved for the remainder of his professional career. He assisted Bill Self in coaching the girls' basketball team to a state championship in 1966. Derril was instrumental to the design and construction of the Middle School Building and the Don Shoemake Building during his administration. He was a great advocate for students and teachers. Derril retired in 1999, returning to the family home place, near Pierce, to become a cattle rancher.

Derril married Joanna Odom on March 7, 1969 in Wagoner.

He was a calf roper prior to and during his college years and continued to rodeo until his dedication to education took precedence. He was a member of OEA, NEA, CASA and the Okmulgee Cattleman's Association.

Derril was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Virgie Brady.

He is survived by his wife, Joanna Odom Etchison of Wagoner, daughters, Hannah Etchison Birch and husband Larry of Sapulpa and Tressa Lynn Etchison Freeman and husband Danny of Ft. Smith, Arkansas,

granddaughter, Ava Faye Birch, brother, Gerald "Jack" Etchison of Pierce, sister, LaVonne Jacobs of Pierce and an adopted son, Roy Easley of Morris. The family will greet friends at a Gathering, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 23, 2016 at the Trinity Baptist Church Recreation Center in Morris. A Celebration of Derril's Life will follow at 12:00 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church with Reverend Will Smith, Mr. James Odom and Mr. Jim Odom officiating. Memorial contributions may be in Derril's memory to Clarehouse, 7617 S. Mingo Road, Tulsa, OK 74133. Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Derril's Tribute Page of our website at [www.mcclendon-winters.com](http://www.mcclendon-winters.com)

# Previous Events

## Reception

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Baptist Church  
Morris, OK

## Celebration of Life

JAN 23. 12:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Baptist Church  
Morris, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ *Derril R. Etchison*

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM



“ *i light this pink candle because he always wore pink, you know the saying real men wear pink well he was the perfect example of that saying, even though i only knew him for 10 years its felt like i knew him forever, this man always knew how to make me smile or laugh one or the other he always knew the right thing to say to me i remember he would always let me paint his nails and do his makeup when i was younger, and i would always g ride horses with him and ride the for-wheeler and i miss that alot. I didnt get to say goodbye to him the day he died my mom said she didnt want me to remember him looking sad and just altogether not well he looked like it was time and i said no and i yelled mostly cried but now i get it it may have taken me three years to figure it out but i understand what she did now. everytime we would leave the nursing home i would always say i love you and dont you worry about me i will be alright you go when you need to i will never forget you and i said that every night until i couldnt. i remember when i found out he had passed i didnt cry i had no emotion i was blank i was in shock of what happened i remember my mom was bawling and couldnt stop crying.and i guess all there is to say is that three years ago today and as long as im alive this man is a man i will never forget*



*love  
Ava Birch  
AKA the granddaughter.*

**ava birch** - January 30, 2019 at 01:29 AM

AB

“ *Ava Birch lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison*



**Ava Birch** - November 22, 2016 at 11:25 PM

AB

“ *Once we went on a family trip and stayed at Big Cedar Lodge and had a blast. And I miss him so much and I loved him very much he was my best friend. Ava Faye Birch.*



**Ava Birch** - April 10, 2016 at 11:44 AM

BP

“ *Darryl and I were very close for 18 months in 2002-4! Was very sadden to hear of his passing, saw him 2 months ago and he looked good as ever! I will always hold him close to my heart💧*

**Brenda Payne** - January 24, 2016 at 02:26 PM

MP

“ *Amazing man that cared about us students. I was on the painful end of his paddle many many times, but I knew how much he really cared. I will always be grateful that when I was in the 8th grade Mr. Etchison and Coach Fludd organized an intervention of sorts for me with high school coaches. That was life-saving for me. I owe so much to this man. His memory will live on forever.*

**Matt Pivarnik** - January 23, 2016 at 08:49 AM

SL

“ Had the great privilege of knowing this great man as a neighbor and a friend to us for the last 3 years. He loved us like family and we tried our best to match that. We will never forget you my friend. We love you.



Shawn and Laura - January 22, 2016 at 10:02 PM

CT

“ Carol Bond Tiger lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Carol Bond Tiger - January 22, 2016 at 11:58 AM

SB

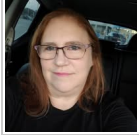
“ Such a wonderful man, positive influence and great memory for those of us who were fortunate enough to experience his leadership, instruction and nurturing at Morris School! My heart goes out to the family. Thinking about you, Ms. Joanna and Hannah! Prayers for comfort and peace, Stacy (Willis) Been - Class of 1996

Stacy Been - January 22, 2016 at 09:30 AM

L(

“ My childhood would not be complete without the Etchison's. Joanna was my 1st grade teacher and Darryl was my middle school principal. I had the privilege of spending time in their home and in their hearts. I'll forever remember jiggling on the tractor seat in the classroom. Please give Bigmama, Poppy, Martha Harris, and Uncle David a hug for me in Heaven Darryl

Lisa Byrnes (Clifford/Boaz) - January 21, 2016 at 09:59 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family.* ”



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**Melanie Lam** - January 21, 2016 at 06:43 PM



“ *Linda Thomason Holman lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison* ”



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**Linda Thomason Holman** - January 21, 2016 at 06:30 PM



“ *Tim Collins lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison* ”



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**Tim Collins** - January 21, 2016 at 05:15 PM



“ *Prayers for the family. He was such a great influence on everyone.* ”



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**Michelle Knight** - January 21, 2016 at 11:52 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Etchison's passing. He was such a nice, gentle, kind man and I'm so glad that my children were in school when he was principal. Mrs. Etchison, Hannah and the rest of the family, you are in my prayers for peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

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**Carla Slape** - January 21, 2016 at 09:25 AM

SH

“ Praying for the family at this time. Mr. Etchison was the best teacher and principal ever. We all respected him so much. I vividly remember all those spankings I got in the 9th grade but love him anyway. :)

Love,  
Sheila Hackney-King

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**Sheila Hackney-King** - January 21, 2016 at 09:20 AM

LH

*I worked with Mrs Etchison at Morris Elementary in early 70's.Mr Etchison was working at the Middle Schools and everyone admired him so much.So sorry for the family for their loss.Love and blessings,Linda Holman*

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**Linda Thomason Holman** - January 21, 2016 at 06:25 PM

TH

“ One of the kindness man that ever lived. He was the best teacher and principal that Morris ever had. He will be missed. I love this family very much. To the Etchison family my prayers and thoughts are with you.

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**Teresa Hurt Hampton** - January 21, 2016 at 08:48 AM

SJ

“ *Sherry James lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison*



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**Sherry James** - January 20, 2016 at 08:49 PM

 Tina Mitcham

“ *Great memories of Mr. E! He made middle school at Morris Public Schools a fun place to be. Thoughts and prayers for the family from the Heston and Mitcham families.*

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**Tina Mitcham** - January 20, 2016 at 08:45 PM

SL

“ *My prayers and condolences to his family during these sad times.*

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**Sherry Wilson Langevin** - January 20, 2016 at 07:20 PM

DL

“ *Mr. Etchison was an excellent Principal, Friend and Mentor... I learned so much from him. Not just academically, but things about life and how to succeed. He was truly a gift to Morris Public School and the Education System.. Praying for his family,, knowing he will be truly missed.*

*Donna McKeen LaBeaume*

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**Donna McKeen LaBeaume** - January 20, 2016 at 06:31 PM



“ *Derek Isaac lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison*



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**Derek Isaac** - January 20, 2016 at 05:32 PM

TP

“ *Great Principal, loved hearing him singing down the halls during class, prayers for his family*

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**Tani d'Angelo Pickle** - January 20, 2016 at 05:26 PM



“ *Mr. Etchison - great principal, great teacher, great friend - great person. Oh the infamous paddle we all dreaded that we knew he had, what can you say he was a legend and will always be a legend. You walked tall and carried a big stick and we all loved you. Thank you for everything you did for my family! We will miss you!*  
*Jana Martin*

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**Jana Martin** - January 20, 2016 at 04:07 PM

JM

“ *I knew Derril when he was a kid at Pierce school.. I am saddened to hear of his passing. It pleases me to read of how he was loved and admired.*

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**Julus Harold Moore** - January 20, 2016 at 01:46 PM

CW

“ Sorry of Mr. Etchison's death. He was a good neighbor and caring educator. Our prayers are with the family. St. Peter has opened the gates of heaven to welcome Mr. Etchison to be with our Lord. Catherine & Larnell Williams



Catherine Williams - January 20, 2016 at 11:29 AM

PA

“ Mr. Etchison was truly a gift to the field of education. I remember fondly my years at Morris Middle School. He will be missed. Fly high Mr. E!!!

PATTY - January 20, 2016 at 10:59 AM

MT

“ WoW Mr. E  
as he was so affectionately called was an awesome principal and I'm sure if you mentioned the names Patsy and Gail he would rise to the occasion and say those two girls were something to recon with. I send my condolences to the family with the assurance of knowing he is resting in the masters hands.

Sincerely Submitted,  
Mrs. Michelle Tompkins(aka) Patsy  
Rest in Peace my Friend

Michelle Tompkins - January 20, 2016 at 08:55 AM

JJ

“ *Jacinta Johnson lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison*



Jacinta Johnson - January 20, 2016 at 08:53 AM



“ *Aaron Blake lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison*



Aaron Blake - January 19, 2016 at 11:43 PM

RO

“ *Robin lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison*



Robin - January 19, 2016 at 11:29 PM



“ *Mr. E was the epitome of a great principle. My son had problems in school and because of Mr. E he graduated proudly from Morris High School. Joann, Hannah and family, I can't begin to tell you just how much I appreciate this special man and what he did for Chris and all the students at Morris. I will never forget him telling me that Chris was his assistant principle.*

Joan Dove Fels - January 19, 2016 at 10:47 PM

RE

“ Roy Easley lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Roy Easley - January 19, 2016 at 09:53 PM

LI

“ He was a great man, teacher and caring to everyone. He was my 5th grade teacher and several other grades. He made such a difference in every ones life.  
Linda Raney Wolff

linda - January 19, 2016 at 09:31 PM

KS

“ he was a good friend an a great princple so sorry for yals loss i always look up to him



kathy barnett seamon - January 19, 2016 at 09:27 PM

SC

“ Sarah Myers Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Sarah Myers Carpenter - January 19, 2016 at 09:03 PM

NN

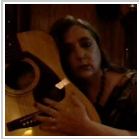
“ My deepest condolences to Derril's family. Derril was a great teacher and friend. His support for us and his love for our son, Jason, while we went through the trial of informing the school board back in the 80's that Jason had contracted AIDS played a pivotal role in how the school and the town of Morris accepted this news. His help when we lost Jason in 1989 will never be forgotten. He was truly one of the best people I've ever known. Rest in peace Derril.

Nancy Nelson - January 19, 2016 at 06:27 PM

SB

The way he handled the issue was truly wonderful. As one of Jason's teachers Mr Etchison guided us and we all will forever have Jason in our hearts.

Susan B - January 20, 2016 at 04:34 PM



“ Mr. Etchison . . . a man to look up to . . . both literally and symbolically . . . from the eyes of a small child . . . in the fifties at Morris Grade School. Many years later, you were still a pillar of leadership when I began my own journey as a young teacher . . . in the eighties. Mr. Etchison . . . I will always remember your face full of laughter . . . an iconic role model . . . a good man. Thank you for your positive influence in my life.



Annita Rackley - January 19, 2016 at 05:51 PM

KB

“ *Mr. Etchison was one of the best! He was the principal when I attended Morris Junior High. My Mother, Ethel Wyatt Thompson, and he both attended Pierce schools, and she told me his nickname . And of course I had to use it a couple of times when talking to him at school, in front of everyone. He never got onto me, although my Mom had to come to school. They just asked me not to call him that in front of the others. From the other comments, it looks like he was still the same. RIP Mr. Etchison. My condolences to the family.*  
*Kathy "Wyatt" Bear, Class of 75*

Kathy Bear - January 19, 2016 at 05:31 PM

RF

“ *Many years of memories. Derril was a teacher when I was a student at Morris then later he was my Principal when I started teaching. We both remained a part of the school family there for many years until we retired. So sad to hear of the passing of another of our school family. Prayers go out to his family!*



Rita Flanary - January 19, 2016 at 11:02 AM

BA

“ *Mr Etchison was very kind and caring person. He was such an awesome man. He loved his students and was there for everyone of them. Praying for strength, comfort and peace for the family.*



Becky Arnold - January 19, 2016 at 09:32 AM



“ Pam Knight-Grafton lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Pam Knight-Grafton - January 18, 2016 at 07:41 PM



“ Jay & Kim Dearmore lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Jay & Kim Dearmore - January 18, 2016 at 07:02 PM



Jay and Kim Dearmore. Thanks for always being there and being a friend.

Jay - January 18, 2016 at 07:05 PM



Such a good man. Nothing but good memories as a teacher, principal and friend. He will be missed!  
Vicki (Stricker) Willis, Class of 75

Vicki Willis - January 19, 2016 at 04:01 PM



.....always a smile, the voice of reason, a solid foundation; who isn't going to miss this man! I pray you experience the comfort that only comes from knowing you share the Heavenly Father and you without a doubt, you will laugh and love again as family.

Karen Morton - January 20, 2016 at 09:49 AM

LI

“ I will always remember "Mr. Etchison" as a kind, gentle, but fair educator. He loved his "kids" and we all knew it. Lisa Morton Johnson, Morris Class of 1981.

Lisa - January 18, 2016 at 03:51 PM

BT

“ Barry Thompson lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Barry Thompson - January 18, 2016 at 01:05 PM

CT

“ Chuck Tiessen lit a candle in memory of Derril R. Etchison



Chuck Tiessen - January 18, 2016 at 12:01 PM

JH

A VERY GREAT MAN HE HAD ME AND MY KID IN SCHOOL NEVER FORGET HIM

JENNELL EDMONDS HARRIS - January 20, 2016 at 08:20 AM