



## Michael (Mike) Conner

April 2, 1955 - October 5, 2011

Michael Lyn, son of Betty Louise (Gash) and Gerald Dwain Conner was born on April 2, 1955 at Perry, Oklahoma. He passed away at Alva, Oklahoma on the 5th of October at the age of 56 years, 4 months and 2 days.

He attended school in Spearman and Odessa, Texas and graduated from the Garber, Oklahoma High School with the Class of 1973. Mike received his B.A. Degree in music education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1977.

On June 11, 1977 he was married to Jewel Eileen Pickett at Rose Hill, Kansas. To their marriage three sons, Byron Dwain, Curtis Edward and Steven Charles were born.

Following their marriage they lived in Hope, Kansas where he began his career as a band instructor. They lived in Wakita, Cherokee, Kingfisher and Newkirk before coming to Alva in 1999.

Mr. Conner was preceded in death by his parents and stepfather.

Mike is survived by his wife, Jewel three sons, Byron and Curtis both of Buffalo and Steven of Woodward; a sister and her husband, Pamela Kay and Steve Funk of Tulsa; two brothers, Lewis Robert and his wife Cindy of Garber

and Ronald Dwain of San Angelo, Texas. Several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **10**. 3:30 PM (CT)

Alva High School Auditorium  
501 14th Street  
Alva, OK

# Tribute Wall

WS

“ *i always remember wakin up early to go to band and it was hard but we knew that mr.conner would make it worth while i never regretted going to band.... i miss you mr conner*

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**Whitney Steffen** - October 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *I never had the honor of meeting Mr. Conner, but, from what I have read he was a wonderful man and teacher. I just wanted to express my sympathy to the family, students and friends. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Lori Brown** - October 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *Nicole and I were saddened to hear that 'Papa Conner' had passed away. We will always remember the good times we had together on our trip to Europe.*

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**Clara Conner** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ *May warm, happy memories ease the pain in your heart as God gently wipes your tears away. With Sympathy For Your Loss. God Bless.*

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**Teresa & Trevor Rogge** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I'm so sorry to hear about your loss, I went to school with Mike and know his musical talents are great !

*I pray that God will grant you peace through this difficult time.*

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**Linda Woodruff** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Jewel and Sons and Family,,My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this trying times of sorrow..May God Bless you and Keep you...Mike was a Good Teacher that many will never forget..

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**LouAnn Scram** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ Your decation and loyalty to the children and community was greatly appricated. Rest in peace.

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**Gina Keitel** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Dearest Conner Family . Mike has been a friend and an outstanding music educator for a long time . His contributions to young people in Oklahoma have been many and have been outstanding. Dear Family . .

*May the warmth of God's love embrace you, may the compassion of those who care surround you, and may the joy you once sharred brighten your days with the assurance that LOVE LIVES FOREVER.*

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**Jerry Tucker** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ *Mr. Connor was one of the greatest teachers in Alva High School and Alva Middle School. He taught us to work hard at what we do and made us proud to be band geeks. Life will never be the same without him.*

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**Chelsey Osborn** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Michael (Mike) Conner c/o Wharton Funeral Chapel funeral home.*

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October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Dear Jewel,*

*So sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I was in total shock! Would love to catch up with you. If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.*

*Julie Prowers Cook*

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**Julie Prowers Cook** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *We would like to extend our deepest sympathies on the passing of Mike~ Our hearts go out to you all....*

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**Mike/Sherry Anderson** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ I love you Conner, and nothing will EVER change that. NOTHING!!! I will always miss you!!!! I will never forget what you taught me. I can play every instrument in the band and I have noone to think but you!! I love you and you will always be in my heart!

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**Alyssa Kenyon** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Jewel & Boys

*Just want to let you know you are in my thoughts and prayers!! He made such a difference in so many young peoples lives as do you Jewel! I will continue to pray for you all during this difficult time!!*

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**Tonya Weinoffer** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ My heart goes out to Jewel and the boys and breaks for Mike - he was a mentor and friend - he helped me get my jazz band started and I will forever be grateful for his encouragement.

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**Mark and Marita Reichenberger** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Jewel, Byron, Curtis and Steven,

*We will be praying for you. There is so much of this life that we cannot understand while we are here. Just praying for God's peace for you all. Sending much love your way.....Kathleen, Grant & Dillon*

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**Kathleen Gash** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VD

“ *Jewell, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family....  
May God grant you Peace...*

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**Velda Dotterer** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *Conner Family, Saddened by your loss, your family is in our  
thoughts. If there is anything we can do let us know.*

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**TASHA KISTLER, CHRIS HAND & KIDS** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *So very sorry for this tragic loss in the community. We didn't know  
Mr Conner personally. Good teachers are hard to come by.....his  
past & present students indicate he was special! May God hold his  
family in his arms during this time of suffering.*

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**Dudley & Jeanne Winn** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *Jewel, Byron, Curtis, Steven and family: please know that friends  
are lifting you up in prayer as you face the difficult days ahead. Mike  
was a kind and talented man.*

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**T. J. Harris** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Jewel and family, so sorry for the loss you are suffering. Mike was  
such a good person and teacher. He will be missed.*

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**Cathy Swafford** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ To Jewell and sons, I am very saddened to hear of Mike's death. He has been a good friend since I first met him as a trombone player in the Garber band. I am sure the positive influence he had on so many students and acquaintances over the years and in several communities will live on. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

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**David Holland** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VL

“ You were a great teacher and a good friend. You will be missed. My heart and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Valerie Low** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Mr.Conner was a Great Band Teacher it was a joy having him as my Band Teacher at Newkirk High School you will be Truly Missed.

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**Marta Shoats** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ Conner family,

*Please know that your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Although I was never in band classes, I always thought Mr. Conner was a great teacher. My cousin Cheyenne was in his band class this year and last year and his class was the only reason she would go to school.*

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**Nicole Watkins** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Mrs. Conner, Byron, Curtis, and Steven: I am so saddened to hear of this horrible news. Mr. Conner was a fabulous man and an amazing musician and teacher. I credit him to single-handedly teaching me what I know about music. He will be greatly missed. I am so sorry.

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**Nyree (Wynn) Coffman** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Connor Family: Mike was such an important part of many young lives. We appreciate everything that he help our "Oklahoma" family with. For Noah - being there to help him with boy scouts and now teaching him the importance of music in ones life. For Emma - being the grandpa figure that she needed in her young life. For Erin and Aaron being there to help them in so many ways ... being family to them when they needed family. We always felt blessed and felt they were will cared for by you and your family. God's blessing on you all - Dale and Malinda Stensberg

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**Malinda and Dale Stensberg** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ Thanks for all the memories.

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**Thom and Genie Koen** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ Mike gave me many many great memorys in music, hunting deer, and just a great friend to be around. I will never forget the great person that he was, and I am praying for all of Mike's loved ones. I am very sorry for the loss of this much loved member of our comunity.

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**Timothy Nelson** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Dear Jewel, Byron, Curtis, & Steven, & Family,

*Please know that we are praying for you and that the Peace of God that Surpasses all understanding will cover you. May The LORD continue to fill you w/ His Love now and forever,*

*In Jesus' Name---Amen.*

*I grieve over the loss of a close cousin, friend. Mike was a mentor to me as I was growing up... always smiling, and full of joy. He is deeply missed and I will always Love him as a brother.*

*Jewel,--We Love You and are praying for you and your family---*

*With all our LOVE,*

*Greg*

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**Gregory & Chrysi Semrad & sons** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Dear Jewel, Byron, Curtis and Steven and Family,

*It is with a heavy heart I write to you.... although I am not physically with you, I am there with you in my heart. I pray the Holy Spirit reveal Himself to you in the most beautiful way. That He wrap His arms of love a comfort around you, so that you will KNOW He is there with you....He is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.(Ps. 34:18)*

*You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.... You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever! (Ps. 30: 11-12)*

*I love you all and I wish I could be with you,*

*Trisha*

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**Patricia Semrad-Joseph** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Jewel, I am praying for you and the boys. Your wonderful and talented family is such a blessing and always will be. Mike will be missed by all of us. If you need anything...just let me know.

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**Cynthia Ann Spradling** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ We are sorry for your loss. Mike was very good to Cary and we appreciate that so much.

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**Gary and Sharon Gilchrist** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Michael (Mike) Conner*

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**Clayton Hill** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Mike. May you find peace at this time of loss.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tom and Mary Rigdon*

*Newkirk*

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**Tom and Mary R igdon** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *We will miss you greatly. Donna's father sends his sympathy also. Our trips to Europe will always be a memory I'll never forget. You were such a great man, friend, teacher, colleague, and most of all a kind hearted person. You touched many lives in a positive way.*

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**Jason & Donna Smith** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Jewel, Byron, Curtis and Steven our thoughts and prayers are with you!!! He was a great guy! KD :)*

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**Kristel Dimmick-Ducotey** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Jewel & Sons,*

*We send our deepest symphathy to you in your loss. Mike was a good friend. Please call if their is ever anything that we can do for you.*

*Sincerely*

*John & Nancy Arnbrecht*

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**John Arnbrecht** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *You be truely missed. You were a great band teacher. I enjoyed my years with at Newkirk High*

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**Tracee Forbeck** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *i am so very sorry for your family's loss, mike, was such an awesome guy. he will be truely missed.. our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.*

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**brandy (bostick) kelly** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Dear Jewell and Family,

*I am so sorry to read about the death of Mike. I have fond memories of you both from your years of teaching in Newkirk. Byron use to come in the office and talk to me. Great kids they are. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time.*

*Janice Logsdon*

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**Janice Logsdon** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *i will never drive on the backside of the middle school again without thinking of mike.so many mornings as i drove by he would be out back taking a break.he would always give me a wave and smile.*

*i first met mike when i was a sr.in high school,and mike was a student teacher.teaching under another great band director,danny rock.being just a few years older than most of us,he always had fun,as did we.alva has been blessed to have great band directors.i doubt mike ever knew the impact he made on his students lives.*

*may god bless his family and his students,and help them understand why he left them.*

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**raymond knabe** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IE

“ Dear Jewel, Byron, Curtis, & Steve, Mike's departure was such a shock. I've lost a good friend, as I know you have. May God be with us as we cope with it. If you need something, just let me know.

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**Ida Evans** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Jewel, Byron, Curtis & Steven: So many fond memories I have of the good times spent performing in the Cimmaron River Band with Mike. He was a wonderful musician and friend. Often he was the object of frequent teasing from the band members because he was so good-natured, quiet and easy going. Sometimes he popped off a snappy come back that cracked us up! Mike will be missed by many. My prayer for you is strength and healing from our Lord and Savior.

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**Darlene Sanderson** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Mike was a good friend and fellow musician. I have lots of good memories of our time together in the Cimarron River Band. I pray for blessings and peace for Jewel, their boys and all who loved him.

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**Rod Hester** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Jewell and boys--No words can ease your pain and grief at this time. Please know that you are all in our prayers. Mike will be missed.

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**Cleo & Kenna Jackson** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Jewell and family,

*You are in my thoughts and prayers. Bless and keep you through this time.*

*Love Jane Gaskill*

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**Jane Gaskill** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Jewel, we are sorry for your loss and pray God gives you strength to endure the difficult time you are going through. Let us know if there is anything we can do.*

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**James And greg** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Jewel, Byron, Curtis and Steven...please know that you are constantly in our thoughts and we are lifting you up in prayer each day. We can't possibly know what you are going through, but God knows, and we are comforted in knowing that He is there to bring you peace and understanding. Take care of each other.*

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**Emily and David Bohlen** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ *Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this tragic time. This whole situation is unbelievable to me. I loved Mr. Conner. He was an amazing band teacher, and just a teacher in general. He was such a father figure for all of us. He will be missed!!*

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**Kristi Kelly** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Mr Conner, you were a wonderful teacher and an inspiration to many kids. You've left a void in many peoples lives and will never be forgotten. You have been there for my kids and was the one who inspired my son to go into the world and do what he is doing...study music. I'm sure you're playing with (or conducting) a BAND of angels now and that my mother is listening with enjoyment as so many of us have done. Rest in peace now.

*Jewel & family; may god watch over you and give you comfort. Just know that you all are in our thoughts & prayers during this difficult time!!!*

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**Shereena Montano Johnny, Dax, Sky, Crystal** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Jewel, Natasha and I are thinking about you always and our thoughts and prayers are with you and the boys. Mike will be missed.

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**Kim Foster** - October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM