



Paul (Pete) Douglas Resler

January 22, 1941 - February 9, 2012

Dr. Resler passed away on Thursday, February 9, 2012 from complications of pneumonia and diabetes. He was 71 years old. He was surrounded by his wife, Suzanne and two daughters, Viki and Trina as well as his granddaughter, Cadee at his time of passing. He was fortunate that many of his family and friends gathered to be with him in his last days. His daughter Rhonda and his grandchildren, Tanner and Jordan McGehee, Tyson, Cadee, and Trevor Fromm and Piper Poindexter were near. Pete was born on January 22, 1941 in Los Angeles, California where his father Paul Resler was stationed in the Navy. At 9 months old, with his father out to sea and a very young mother, he was lovingly adopted by his aunt and uncle, Lillie and Clint Bahm of Cherokee Oklahoma. There he grew up with an older sister Doris and older brother Herb. He played football and flourished in the small town. In a graduating class of 15 boys, he was one of 5 to go on to complete a doctorate degree from college. He was an athlete and a scholar.

Pete earned a scholarship to OU and played football under Bud Wilkenson in 1959-1961. He then went to Northwestern and played football under Art Parkhurst. He graduated from Ft. Hayes State University in Hays, Kansas in 1964 and went on as a graduate assistant at that university. He earned his master's degree in physical education in 1966 and began his career in education as the very first physical education coordinator in Dodge City, Kansas. This gave him great insight into how important a well rounded physical education program was to a child – he learned that not all children

excel at the same things but that they should all have an opportunity to enjoy exercise and movement in some way. Then, Paul and his wife moved to Overland Park, Kansas where he taught physical education for eleven years at Rose Hill Elementary.

Pete began his military career in 1963 when he began basic training with the Oklahoma National Guard. His career continued with the military with the Kansas National Guard where he served in Infantry, Military Police, Civil Affairs, and as Commander of the National Guard Unit in Coffeyville. He took great pride in the opportunity to serve his country and retired from the military as a Major.

Pete earned his doctorate in education administration from Kansas University in May of 1984. During this phase of his education he transitioned from elementary physical education to elementary administration and obtained his first "Principal" job in Coffeyville, Kansas. He went on to Skiatook, Oklahoma as an elementary school principal and then moved "home" to Alva, Oklahoma where he was principal at Lincoln, Longfellow and Washington Elementary Schools.

Dr. Resler had a lifelong love of reading. His classmates remember him as having read every book in the library by 7th grade and that he encouraged them to read for the love of it. He passed this love on to his children and grandchildren and encouraged all the children he touched to read... read to learn, read to relax, read to expand your world.

Paul was preceded in death by biological parents Paul Resler and Billie Miller, his mother, Lillie Bahm and father, Clint Bahm as well as his sister Doris Strong. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Harzman Resler of Alva; children Rhonda Sherman of Tulsa, Viki Resler of Enid, and Trina Resler of Alva; brother Herb Bahm of Wichita; grandchildren Jay Carpenter, Leanne Pinion and Chris Carpenter, Tanner and Jordan McGehee, Tyson, Cadence and Trevor Fromm, and Piper Poindexter; great granddaughter, Kyliegh Pinion; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
626 College Ave.
Alva, Ok

Tribute Wall

JL

“ *His smiling face will certainly be missed around town.*

Jewel LeDou - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Dr. Resler was wonderful with the kids. He always went the extra mile for the kids to have fun at school. He inflated tires so they could sled down the hill after a snow. He always carried around a box on Ground Hog day asking the kids if they ever had seen a ground hog, and he was actually hiding ground sausage. I attended a gift meeting with him once in OKC and it was a luncheon meeting. We were served a salad and we were waiting for the main course, when we finally decided the salad was the main course. Dr. Resler ate a couple more salads that were on the unoccupied seats at our table. He reminded me of my dad who would have done the same thing. I am thankful that he believed in me enough to hire me to teach the gifted/program. RIP Dr. Resler!*

Ann Shirley - February 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ *Suzy an family....Im so sorry to hear about Pete. Just know that you are in my thoughts an prayers as you go thru this difficult time...*

Charlotte Holt Edwards - February 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Susie and family,*

I want to express my deepest sympathy and condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Rhonda Fields

Rhonda Fields - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Suzie.....I was so sorry to hear of Pete's death. I knew him from the time that Tom Forney (Cherokee) and I started dating in 1958. My love and condolences to your entire family. Mary Lou Huff Bianchi

Mary Lou Bianchi - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ My sincere condolences to Suzanne and the rest of Pete's family. As a former Ranger at NWOSU I remember Pete as a positive, happy young man and a great athlete with focused work ethics. I know he will be greatly missed.

Gary (Wogie)

Gary D. Wolgamott - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Susie, Trina and family - So sad to hear of the loss of Pete, your husband and father. Your family will miss him deeply. Thinking of you, Nellie Brown

NELLIE BROWN - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Dear Suzy and family, Pete was quite a man! He was very kind, hospitable, and had a great sense of humor. He was truly interested in learning about others and he had wonderful stories to share. He will be greatly missed by all that had the honor of knowing him. Love and prayers to his family.

Treva and George Schrade - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Susy and family,
May God bless you and keep you strong!
with love, Terry and Sun.*

Terry and Sun Cox - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *Suzy and family, our deepest sympathy is with your family. I have nice memories teaching at Lincoln with Pete as my principal. Our birthdays were one day apart in January so we always wished each other a happy birthday. I always enjoyed visiting with him and I will miss this nice man. God bless all of you.*

Lavon Wiersig - February 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *Suzi, praying that God will give you a place of peace in this difficult time. Pete always brought a smile and humor to everyone around him.
God Bless!*

Judy Wolgamott - February 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

“ To the members of the Cherokee High School Class of 1959, Pete was a lifelong friend. During the past few days since his passing, some of us have been telling "Pete Stories". These tales always bring a smile and laughter.

"He was onery in a wonderful way," said Floyd Schanbacher. "He never hesitated to defend our hometown honor in a fight with guys from other towns (usually guys bigger than Pete), but he never had even a squabble with his friends."

Edward Moore recalls that "Pete was tough as nails, and yet the kindest, nicest guy who ever lived."

Kenny Davis says "Pete made us all better people. He was a great athlete, but I remember how he made us all read, and it is not surprising that he had a career as an outstanding educator."

I remember spending many nights at Clint and Lily's little farm west of town, playing long after dark, and getting up early to catch the school bus. To stay warm on cold mornings, we sat in an old abandoned car in the field near the bus stop, telling stories and lies as young boys do.

In elementary school, Pete was the inventor of one of our favorite games--"Kill Ball"--a combination of soccer, basketball, football, and wrestling with no rules regarding fouls. Many of the girls in our class played the game as vigorously as the boys.

In his senior year, Pete was elected captain of the football team, crowning Marilyn Wessels Homecoming Queen. Pete was chosen not just because he was the best defensive player in Cherokee history, playing at OU and NWOSU, but because he was just such a wonderful person.

Pete was certainly no saint. He was mischievous, folksy, and funny. He liked to play cards and dominoes. He loved to hunt and fish and he made knives as a hobby.

Most of all, Pete lived his life as a gentleman and a scholar. He was kind and gentle to everyone who knew him and he was passionate about education and was dedicated to making a difference in children's lives.

The last time I saw him a few weeks ago, we parted with a big hug. He whispered to me, "Tom, somebody told me once that if you have

*two good friends, then you've lived a good life."
If that is the standard, Pete Resler lived an amazingly wonderful life.
He was loved and admired by many friends.*

Tom Heydman - February 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *sorry to hear about pete..him was a great guy...miss seeing him at
ampride and everwhere else him happen to be...he will be greatly
missed*

carl and karol parsons - February 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ *To the family of a wonderful man. I was sadden to hear of Paul
passing. He was such a joy to talk to. I'll never forget that smile he
always had. May God take you in his arm and ease you sorrow and
pain. He will be missed.*

Lisa (Evans) Lopshire - February 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Suzy and family, so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and
prayers. May God guide you through this difficult time.*

Genevieve & Ernie Farris - February 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ *Suzy, Viki, Trina, Rhonda and family; We are so very sorry to hear
of the loss of such a great man. He will be truly missed by all. Our
thoughts and prayers will be with all of you during your time of need.
We Love You,
Jimmie and Gene Miiller, Jim Scott Bourlon, Jamie Miller*

Jimmie (Bourlon)Miiller - February 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ So sorry for your loss.

Wenninger Family - February 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I really enjoyed working with Dr. Resler at Lincoln Elementary. He had a great sense of humor and made teaching so much easier for me. He told me a story once that a child had brought him cookies. Later in the day he had eaten 2 or 3 of the cookies. The child that gave him the cookies came after school to ask him how he liked the cookies. Of course he told them the cookies were really good. The child stated that his mom didn't really want him to bring the cookies because their farret had eated parts of the cookies that he had brought to Dr. Resler!!! I've remembered that my whole teaching career...to watch what you eat when a child brings it to you!!! Always makes me smile like he did. You are all in my prayers. Leota Betts

Leota Betts - February 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Pete was an awesome person and will be missing. May God be with you all.

Doug & Sharon Doctor - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Always enjoyed our visit's when he came into my store. I know he will be missed by his family and friends.

Doug Whittet - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Suzy, Viki, Trina, Rhonda and family. I want to say I am so sorry for your loss. Pete will be sorely missed. He was my best fishing buddy. We made some great memories fishing and boating and him, Suzy and us just hanging out. I hope your memories of this fine man comfort you at this time.

Tressie Harzman - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Paul (Pete) Douglas Resler c/o Wharton Funeral Chapel funeral home.

February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CY

“ Suzy, Trina, and Viki, just wanted to let you know how sorry Gene and I were to hear about Pete. The last time I saw Pete was at an AHS fastpitch game in Fairview. Pete was sitting in the stands so I sat with him and shot the breeze. He was really good at shooting the breeze! Love you all, Gene and Chris Yost

Chris Yost - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I'm praying for you so sorry for your loss . He will be missed by many

judy martin - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM