



Ralph Hightower Bolls

January 10, 2018

Ralph Hightower Bolls was born in Edinburg, Texas on August 10, 1932. He graduated from Edinburg High School in 1950 as a member of the high school band. After attending Sam Houston State University for one year, he transferred to Peabody College Of Education at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee receiving both his Bachelors and Masters degrees. He taught in Tennessee for one year, before returning to teach at McAllen High School for over 30 years.

Ralph taught at several schools in the McAllen I.S.D., and many of his students reached the All State level where he was regarded by many as an outstanding Clarinet and Percussion teacher. In April 2017, Ralph received the distinct honor of being inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Band Directors Hall of Fame. Ralph and his wife, Mary Aida, loved to travel in their spare time and traveled throughout the United States and other countries. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 55 years, Mary Aida; his son, Ronald Erwin and his wife, Silvia; grandchildren, Sylvia Alexandra and Ronald Erwin Bolls II.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 6pm - 8pm at Kreidler Funeral Home at 314 N. 10th St., McAllen, Tx.

Funeral services will be on January 14, 2018 at Kreidler Funeral Home at 2pm and Entombment will be at 3pm at Valley Memorial Gardens.

Cemetery Details

Valley Memorial Gardens

3605 N Taylor Rd
Mission, TX 78501

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **13**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
(956) 686-0234
kreidler@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.kreidlerfuneralhome.com/index.html>

Funeral Service

JAN **14**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Kreidler Funeral Home, Inc.
314 N 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78501
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kreidler@sbcglobal.net
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Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Hightower Bolls*

October 08, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Ralph Hightower Bolls*

November 29, 2022 at 06:40 AM



“ *May his soul Rest In Peace ... Lord knows Mr Bolls was a dedicated loving instructor always helping his students to reach maximum potential. Love and prayers to the family!*

Clarinet Player, Class of "68" ... Ivette Alaniz-Hinojosa

ivette - January 19, 2018 at 11:34 AM



Mr Bolls taught me this saying "hard work doesn't hurt any one" I have carried all my life . He told I would have been the best trumpet player. But I was lazy and didn't work hard for it. True but since that I have been the best I can.

Raul Cardenas - April 01, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of Mr. Bolls as one of my band directors from 77-80. He was always so enthusiastic every day. He loved what he did and loved teaching it to all band members. He was a very special person and he will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Thank you for letting him share his passion with us!*

Paula Chandler (Jordan) - January 17, 2018 at 04:37 PM

VM

“ *Mr. Bolls left his students a legacy of lessons not only about music but also about life. He had faith in us when we didn't have faith in ourselves. Because of him I know how an outstanding clarinet should sound. We have all gone our separate ways but the lessons Mr. Bolls taught us will last a lifetime.
May a quartet of clarinet playing angels welcome you home. Virginia Villarreal Mann*

Virginia Villarreal Mann - January 14, 2018 at 02:48 PM

SC

“ *Ralph was an absolutely fantastic clarinet player. I remember his Mozart Clarinet Concerto, and it was the best ever! His playing career included both band and orchestra, and he excelled in both. So sad that he is gone.
Sylvia Clark*

Sylvia Clark - January 13, 2018 at 12:00 PM

RH

“ *Mr Bolls was one of the kindest people I ever met. His goal was to show you how you could be better and he would not accept anything less if he knew you could do better. He was my friend and we shared jam sessions and we even worked out together. He encouraged me to finish college and become the band director that I now am. He finally got the recognition he deserved last year when he was inducted into the BD Hall of Fame. Rest in peace Mr Bolls, you will be missed. Sincerest condolences to your wonderful family.*

*Robert E. Henry
Great MCHi Class of 63*

Robert E Henry - January 12, 2018 at 01:51 PM

PS

“ I have wonderful memories of Mr. Bolls who taught me clarinet throughout my highschool band days. He was a great teacher. He will be missed.

Phyllis Stansell, Skaug, Class of '65

Phyllis Stansell Skug - January 12, 2018 at 10:33 AM

VB

“ Always such a giving and lovely man. So caring as my band director for many years. He loved what he did. He would always smile and say “and a one... and a two” just to make you smile. He will be missed.

Vivian Velna Bernard - January 11, 2018 at 11:21 PM

JR

“ mr Bolls was my percussion coach in the bulldog band. he reinforced so many of my thoughts about music and what it meant to be a musician. I had the pleasure of playing a gig or two with him as well. an amazing clarinetist. I can attest he certainly could swing when the moment called for it, or approach a passage with utmost delicacy. my sincere condolences to the Bolls family. he will be missed.

john robinson - January 11, 2018 at 09:45 PM

DB

“ *My most sincere condolences to the Bolls family. My whole family, all 6 of us, had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Bolls from our days in the band at McHi. He will truly be missed. May he Rest In Peace. I am sure he will be directing a band made up of angels up in heaven.*

Blessings, from the 4 Henrys and 2 Hernandez family members who were his students between the years of 1959 to 1979.

Debbi Benson - January 11, 2018 at 09:38 PM



“ *What a wonderful teacher and musician. Always so patient and encouraging. I think of him every time I hear a clarinet solo.*

Anita Stevenson

Anita Stevenson - January 11, 2018 at 08:17 PM

 Brenda Field

“ *Brenda Field lit a candle in memory of Ralph Hightower Bolls*



Brenda Field - January 11, 2018 at 06:56 PM

LR

“ My condolences to Mr. Bolls family. I had him as a clarinet instruction throughout my high school years. He was very animated! I can still picture him with the down beats. He will be missed. Lisa Suzich Reidland, class of 1977.



Lisa Reidland - January 11, 2018 at 06:49 PM

PM

My condolences to the family. Of all my band instructors Mr. Bolls was always my favorite. I played the clarinet from 4th grade to age 48!

Pam Mcknight - January 11, 2018 at 07:58 PM

AV

“ I have fond memories of Mr. Bills. I attended McAllen High School from 1960 to 1963. During those years I played saxophone in the band and was drum majorette of the band my senior year. With the caring and giving help of this wonderful man , I made 1st chair of the All State Band of Texas. Like me, he helped any and all of us who asked for help.
Later in life when I became a teacher and later a principal, I incorporated his teaching skills as they were excellent and worthy of emulation.

Alma Garcia Vining

Alma Garcia Vining - January 11, 2018 at 05:33 PM

TC

“ Terry D. Cates lit a candle in memory of Ralph Hightower Bolls



Terry D. Cates - January 11, 2018 at 04:55 PM

Vicky Guerra

“ Mr. Bolls was one teacher in my education who had a vital, life-time impact on me. He taught me how to play the clarinet. When I was certain that I was doing a good job, he would tell me, "try harder." He demonstrated in minute detail, how to tear a piece apart, note by note, phrase by phrase, and then put it all together again. Mr. Bolls himself, was an excellent clarinetist. He was a featured soloist at several band concerts, perfectly performing extremely difficult clarinet licks and playing with such exquisite style and interpretation. Mr. Bolls was a good person through and through. I'm so grateful to have had him as a teacher. May he rest in eternal peace.

Vicky Guerra - January 11, 2018 at 04:09 PM

CC

“ What a huge contribution Mr. Bolls gave to this world. I am in awe of his unselfish dedication to the love of music and to the effort and patience he showed his students. It is sad to realize that other future musicians will miss getting to know him. My heart and prayers go out to this family and friends. May God bless him and keep him in peace.

Claudia Tracy Coleman - January 11, 2018 at 04:03 PM

KJ

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Bolls' passing. I knew him at McAllen High School from 1973-76. He was not only an outstanding musician but a patient and encouraging instructor. I never told him how he inspired me when teaching my own music students. What a kind soul he was, and I know you'll always miss him terribly.

*Katy Huth Jones
Fort Worth, Texas*

Katy Huth Jones - January 11, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RM

So sad to hear of his passing. Mr. Bolls was my first band teacher in the sixth grade at Navarro Elementary school. Always a smile on his face I never ever saw him lose his temper although we gave him plenty of reasons to do so. He touched many lives and inspired many to love music. He never forgot his students name. More than forty years after I graduated from McHi he still remembered my name. R I P Mr. Bolls, our condolences, thoughts and prayers for his family.

*Rogelio "Roy" Martinez
McHi class of '71*

Roy Martinez - January 12, 2018 at 10:01 PM