



## Larry J Hawkins

July 5, 1949 - February 23, 2019

Sulphur educator, community leader, friend and family man Larry Hawkins passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at the age of 69, after a brief illness.

Larry Hawkins was born in Peterburg, Oklahoma, on July 5, 1949, to Alvie Vernie Hawkins and Doris Mae Camplain Hawkins. Hawkins was the third of five children.

Hawkins was a true dedicated educator. He served for 14 years as OSD superintendent, nearly three years as OSB superintendent, one year as an OSD administrator and six years as a classroom teacher. Hawkins is the only person ever appointed to a second term as superintendent of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf, which dates back to its origin in 1898.

“Larry Hawkins was a true friend as well as a highly regarded co-worker, who will be deeply missed by the deaf community,” DRS Executive Director Melinda Freundt wrote in an email announcement to DRS staff.

During his time at OSD, Hawkins spearheaded interior design improvements to make student dormitories more welcoming. He constructed apartments for parents and visitors and honor’s dorms to allow youth to experience greater autonomy and prepare for transition to life after high school. He established a

statewide Interpreter Training Program at Oklahoma School for the Deaf. He worked with Oklahoma State Department of Education to reinstate the Enriching Children's Communications Opportunities (ECCO) program, which helps families with deaf and hard of hearing children, ages 3 through 6, develop essential skills and navigate the world of hearing loss.

Hawkins was honored March 14, 2018, by family, friends, students, and co-workers with a surprise building dedication of the Larry Hawkins Activity Center.

"I am so honored to be included with other OSD superintendents and one outstanding student who have had buildings dedicated to them," Hawkins said at the celebration. "It is my goal to live up to the educational standards set by these past outstanding leaders by ensuring that OSD students are well-prepared to reach their goals in the future."

Prior to his time at OSD, Hawkins was director of deaf education at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He served as coordinator of support services for the deaf and as an associate professor of deaf education at USAO for 22 years.

Hawkins also held national certification from the council on Education of the Deaf, state certification in Deaf and Hard of Hearing education and a standard teaching certificate.

Hawkins served at the state and national level on multiple boards and commissions, including the American College of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, American Society for Deaf Children, Convention of American Instructor of the Deaf, Council on Education of the Deaf and National Association of the Deaf.

He presented many times on deaf education and culture at the state, national and international levels and published dozens of academic articles focused on deaf education, deaf rights and other special education issues.

Family was always the focus of Larry Hawkins' personal life, but he also loved vegetable and flower gardening, cooking, collecting antiques and studying genealogy.

Hawkins is survived by his wife Patricia Lindsey Hawkins, and children Andrea Hawkins, Chickasha, Oklahoma; Jill Hawkins and fiancé Jon Christian, Duncan, Oklahoma; Paul Henderson and Belinda, Lawton, Oklahoma; and Kristin Pendarvis and husband Dale, Tifton, Georgia. The Hawkins have 9 grandchildren, Kaicee Hobbs and husband Brandon Ewy, Lane Brady, Adam Hawkins, Ty Brady, Georgia Vester, Gillian Vester, Samantha Morgan and husband Justin, Michael Carr, Jr., and Kylee Henderson. The great-grandchildren are Chevy Ewy, Kaicyk Ewy, and Adrian Carr. He is also, survived by his brother Gary Hawkins and wife Sue, sister Lana King and husband Gerald, and sister-in-law Donna Hawkins.

Preceding him in death were his parents Alvie Vernie Hawkins and Doris Mae Camplain Hawkins and two siblings, Verna Roberts and husband Dub, and Jeff Hawkins.

A Funeral Service to honor the life of Larry is set to begin at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at the Oklahoma School For The Deaf in Sulphur, Oklahoma. He will be laid to rest following the service at the Ringling Cemetery in Ringling, Oklahoma.

Service are under the direction of Scott and Angel Wilbourn with Boydston-Wilbourn Funeral Home in Lindsay, Oklahoma.

To send a flower arrangement to the family of

Larry J Hawkins, please click [here](#) to visit our Sympathy Store.



# Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Great man, great educator for the deaf in Oklahoma, great loss. I knew Larry as a educator. I am a deaf interpreter have been almost 30 years. thank you God fir his life his dedication to deaf children, his compassion fir them and others. I will miss him. sincerely, Darlene Jezek, certified deaf interpreter soda from Mississippi.

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**Darlene Jezek** - April 24, 2019 at 12:43 AM

JC

“ I just learned of Larry's passing and want to send my deepest condolences to his friends and family. I worked with Larry most closely in his former role as a special education appeals officer for the state while I was at the State Department of Education. I have greatly valued and appreciated Larry's public service not only in this role, but his advocacy and leadership over the years while at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. I am deeply saddened by his passing and will forever remember Larry's professionalism and commitment to service in our state.

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**John Corpolongo** - March 13, 2019 at 12:14 PM

TH

“ I want to express my condolences to the family of Larry during this sad time. Larry was a respected educator and committed to the improvement of Deaf Education Programs and Services. I worked with Larry at OSD in the 70's and his professionalism was admirable. He will surely be missed! RIP

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**Trisha Hays** - February 28, 2019 at 12:39 PM

FK

“ Larry, thank you for the good times that we were able to share. I will never forget the time you, Tony Martin, and I were having lunch at a small cantina in Santa Fe, NM, when a drunken Native American wandered in and gave you such a rough time for being from Chickasha, OK. We teased you for many years after that incident...smile. Thank you for being the man that you were...the man who made such a positive impact on the lives of so many Deaf children...the man whose spirit and dedication touched lives and nurtured so many friendships...Thank you for touching my life!

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**Freeman King** - February 28, 2019 at 10:35 AM

NS

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Larry's passing. He was my advisor in college and teacher in Deaf Education at USAO. He was very professional and a wonderful teacher. He was very knowledgeable and was always respectful of his colleagues and students. He was such a great advocate for the Deaf and will be greatly missed by the Deaf Community. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

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**Nancy Shaw** - February 27, 2019 at 07:23 PM

KH

“ My deepest sympathies to Larry's family and friends. Larry was so good to my late sister, Sue Galloway and always showed her his deepest respect. OSD will truly miss him.

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**Katherine Clerc Galloway Harms** - February 26, 2019 at 02:22 PM

JC

“ Mr. Larry Hawkins was a great man. I knew him many years. He was my instructor, boss, and friend. He able resolved the difficult situations. I thanked him for encouraging and supporting me and Deaf or Hard of Hearing Oklahomans. We sorely missed Larry. May God comfort his family and friends with sorrow and now, he rests in peace.

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**Jeff Cooper** - February 26, 2019 at 12:42 PM

RJ

“ Larry was an awesome person and superintendent. His leadership skills were untouchable. I enjoyed working with him at OSB. To the family - - I send prayers for peace and comfort. This is such a huge hole in your lives. It will never heal but time will make it more bearable. Hopefully knowing that he was so well thought of by so many will give you some comfort.

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**Ronna Johnston** - February 26, 2019 at 12:36 PM

TR

“ Larry Hawkins was my Deaf Ed Professor at USAO during 1985 - 1990. I have been teaching deaf students for 20 years, many things I learned to teach deaf was from Larry. RIP Larry Hawkins, Professor of Deaf Education

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**Tammie Fox Raynor** - February 25, 2019 at 09:05 PM

LS

“ I will always remember Mr. Hawkins, he had such compassion in everything he did. I was honored to have worked for him. My condolences and prayers to all the family.

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**Linda Shelby** - February 25, 2019 at 05:43 PM

KS

“ *Condolences to the family*

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**Kathy Stubbs** - February 25, 2019 at 01:16 PM

FW

“ *Uncle Larry will greatly be missed.*

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**Faith wright** - February 25, 2019 at 12:49 PM

DM

“ *May God grant you peace and fond remembrances.*

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**David McCune** - February 25, 2019 at 12:32 PM

DB

“ *One of our best from the Class of 1967*

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**Donna dillard Butler** - February 25, 2019 at 09:47 AM

SJ

“ *It saddens me to hear of the passing of Mr. Larry Hawkins. I did not know him personally, but the few times I met him and spoke with him were a pleasure. He did wonderful things for the Oklahoma School for the Deaf and all of the staff and students alike. His passing is a loss to our state, and his leadership at our school will be greatly missed! My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to all who knew and loved him.*

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**Stephanie Junger** - February 23, 2019 at 10:10 PM