

# Philip TUCKER

*Class of 1975*

Very few people have the kind of personality that would make it seem perfectly natural for attendees at his funeral to remember him by singing the Three Dog Night version of Joy To The World that begins, "Jeremiah was a bull frog..."

But that was Philip Tucker, a fourth generation Broken Arrowan, unique and beloved character; devoted husband, father and grandfather; veteran educator; involved city councilor and Great Graduate from the Class of 1975.

Broken Arrow lost its vice mayor and Haskell Middle School its principal when Philip Gregory Tucker passed away in 2010 following a battle with cancer. He was born on Dec. 8, 1956 to Bob and Peggy Tucker and attended Northeast Elementary and Central Junior High before graduating from BAHS. He attended Oklahoma State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. He later earned a Bachelor of Education degree from Langston University and a Master's in School Administration from Northeastern State University.

His career at Broken Arrow Public Schools began with his appointment as a science teacher at Haskell Middle School in 1984. Two years after accepting an assistant principal position in Jenks, he



was named assistant principal and later principal at Haskell. An avid outdoorsman, his office was decorated with all sorts of fishing gear.

Tucker began his service to the city as a member of the Civitans Club before being elected to the City Council. He was named Vice Mayor in 2009.

During his time in office, he worked to promote Broken Arrow's historic downtown, was instrumental in attracting St. John Hospital to the community and in building working relationships between the city and school system. He also served on the Downtown Advisory Board, Arts and Humanities Council, BA Historical Society and the INCOG board of directors.

Those who knew him best continue to speak in glowing terms of Tucker's sense of humor, his commitment to public education and his love of Broken Arrow.

At the time of his passing, then Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Gerber summed up the feelings of many when he said, "He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege to know him and benefit from his leadership, wisdom and humor. He impacted countless young people and made Broken Arrow a better place."

To recognize his life and accomplishments, the school district established the Philip Tucker Memorial Scholarship and awards it annually to deserving seniors pursuing degrees in education.

