



Darrel Horton 1939 – 2024

In Loving Memory of Darrel Horton.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Darrel Horton, a beloved father, and husband, who passed away peacefully on July 31, 2024 at the age of 84. Darrel was born on October 1, 1939 in West Jefferson, Ohio.

Darrel was a devoted father and husband. He cherished his family above all else, finding joy in spending time with his children, grandchildren, and his loving wife. He was a man of great character, known for his kindness, generosity, and warm sense of humor.

Darrel pursued his passion for music, earning a Master's Degree in Music Education from Butler University. While at Jordan College of Music he formed a jazz band which became part of the curriculum after his graduation. Darrel began his teaching career at Wilkinson H.S. from 1961-63. From there he went to Northwest High School (1963-74) as Band Director and Department Chairman where he developed outstanding marching, and jazz bands. While at Northwest, he hosted the first Indiana All-State Marching Contest in 1973. From there he moved to Ben Davis High School, again serving as Band Director and Department Chairman from 1974-1984. Under his chairmanship the method of assigning students to bands at Ben Davis was changed resulting in all five concert bands receiving consistent high marks at concert competitions. He also converted the nationally known marching band from a parade style band to a field show competition band, earning three ISSMA Class A championships during his tenure: 1976, 1977, 1982. In 1983 the Marching Giants were BOA Division champion and 2nd place overall at Bands of America Grand Nationals finals. His 1978 Ben Davis Jazz Band earned the Indiana State Championship, a proud moment in Darrel's career. Darrel would want Stan Kenton, his idol, to be noted as the greatest influence for his love of jazz. Darrel served for many years as marching instructor for the Hook's Indiana All-State Marching Band. He served music education as an ISSMA zone representative and twice served as program chairman for the IMEA State Convention. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Beta Mu, MENC, IMEA, and FBA. In 1984 Darrel moved to Florida where he taught at South

Plantation High School in Plantation, Florida until his retirement in 1997. Darrel Horton was inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame in 1997.

Darrel was more than just a band director; he was a mentor, friend, and source of inspiration to his students. His legacy at the schools is marked by the lasting impact he had on the lives of his students, many of whom went on to pursue music careers inspired by his guidance.

Darrel was a dedicated member of the Plantation Presbyterian Church. He participated actively in church activities, and directed the music program for many years. His faith and commitment to the church community were evident in his contributions.

Darrel is survived by his children Jennifer Adams and Jeff Horton; 4 grandchildren, Jacob Adams, Jason Adams, Adarah Vossoughi-Horton and Tirajeh Vossoughi-Horton. Darrel was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Horton. Darrel, you will be deeply missed, but your music and the joy you brought into the world will resonate in our hearts forever. Rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, in honor of Darrel Horton. The foundation has impacted the lives of thousands of kids by giving them access to learn and play music in school – keeping music education alive and strong across the country. Please visit the following link for donations. <https://mhopus.org/donate/>

Private family services will be held at a later date.

[Make a donation to Mr Hollands Opus Foundation in memory of Darrel Horton](#)