



Lori Lee Peel

*May 11, 1972 - December 20, 2005*

Lori Lee Peel, age 33, of Plano, Texas, passed away December 20, 2005, in Plano, after a courageous battle with cancer. She graduated from Plano Senior High School, received her Bachelors Degree from Stephen F. Austin State University and Masters Degree from the University of North Texas. Miss Peel was a Renner Middle School Band Director for ten years. She is survived by her parents, George and Nancy Peel of Plano, Texas; sister, Julie Gibson and husband, Rex, and nephew, Joshua of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; grandmothers, Anne Sinnett of Plano, Texas, and Jean Peel of Pennsauken, New Jersey; and uncle, Richard Peel and wife, Jane of Pennsauken, New Jersey. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M., Friday, December 23, 2005, in the Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Renner Middle School Band Program, 5701 W. Parker Road, Plano, TX 75093.

## Memorials

*I was thinking about Ms Peel today since I am now a music teacher and was thinking about the teachers who influenced me early on and inspired me to stick with music and music education. Ms Peel always brought such great energy to the band program at Renner. She had an amazing sense of humor about things especially when you were feeling down she could lift you up in an instant with a clever witty statement or just a simple smile. An incredible teacher, she always made me feel seen and she genuinely cared about all of*

*her students and former students even when they were not in her class.*

**CHICAGO GUPTA, JANUARY 17, 2021**

*Lori Lee Peel has had the biggest impact on my life. She always had such a huge smile on her face everyday, even when she was sick. I can not explain how much I miss her, and not a day goes by when I don't think about her. Miss Peel convinced me in sixth grade to play the tuba. I remember her saying "Come on, be my tuba lady!" and I was. Lori had such an impact on my life that I am now at The University of Texas getting my bachelors degree in Music Education and I am still playing that tuba. I want to continue Lori's legacy and make children love music. If I can touch half as many peoples lives as Lori than I know that I did my job well. I miss you so much Miss Peel. Know that you are in my thoughts everyday.*

**LAUREN ELIZABETH WOLFE, OCTOBER 4, 2010**

*where to start.... i remember many times in band when i just wanted to give up and ms.peel would talk me into giveing it shot after shot, i have since given up my tuba and i have picked up bass guitar, point being ms.peel sparked my intrest in music and for that i am grateful, for not a single song that plays do i not think of her. i heard a rumer that she had passed or rather someone had passed at renner, i asked about it trying to find out who it was and i was told it was a band teacher. i instantly thought ms.peel, hopeing it wasnt her i turned away for i could not accept that she is gone. i finaly looked her up on google and found the heart sinking truth, it is 2010 and she left us in 2005, i would like to pay my respects to her as she deserves them. i only had the pleasure of knowing her one school year back in 2004-2005, a year before the cancer took her. i transfered schools and droped out of band at the beggining of the next year. it just wasnt the same without her as my teacher. she has made the biggest impact in my life that anyone ever has, ive made mistakes in my juvinal years example, drugs, crime, and over all just being defiant. i have since cleaned up and come to learn that music makes all of my problems better. i dont know where i would be if i didnt have music. ms.peel was the greatest teacher and friend that i have ever had or known. i miss her terrably, i*

*was hoping that what i had heard was nothing but a rumer, i wanted to surprise her at school but i never got the chance. i remember how ill she was feeling but yet would still come to school every day, and better yet she would even force a smile, find out how we were doing and listen us play no matter how awful we sounded that morning. she would listin to me when i felt i could trust no one, i had a bad family situation that year and i was always down or upset, she would always find some way to brighten my day and get me to smile. i remember when i first signed up for band, she paid for my insrument rental insurence becouse my dad couldent afford it at the time due to a devorce. i still cant belive that she is gone, i am proud to say i was one of her many students. i will always think about ms.peel for if it wasnt for the music that she tought me to make i probably wouldnt be here to say that i miss her...so,so much. i love you ms.peel, thank you for everything. you were and still are a wonderful teacher and most importantly, a friend.*

**DILLON EDWARD FOWLER, AUGUST 15, 2010**

*Lori was my best friend and "sister" for over 15 years. There is not a day that goes by that my husband, my parents, siblings and daughters do not miss her. She is the one I want to call when I need an ear or to have a laugh. I can no longer do that in person. However, I feel blessed that she was in my life and I know I am a better person because of her. She gave me so many memories. She and I believed in each other completely. She was my inspiration to be the best parent I can be. She loved my oldest, Sarah, as her own. Although, she never met my two other daughters - Julia and my newest – Sophia, her influence is present in my parenting. I hear her words of encouragement when I talk to my kids. In fact, one of my last talks with her before she was unable to talk any more was my wishes and fears for my child. We discussed many names and in her special and funny way - she discouraged many bad choices I was considering for a new little one. Her words were - "Oh no Candie, you cannot do that to my niece or nephew. He or she must have a good start with a good name." We laughed and then decided on Julia. She later slipped away and I never heard her voice again. However, I felt good she know my Julia,*

*would have the name she wanted when she was born 9 days after Lori passed away. That was a bitter sweet moment. While I was excited to bring my baby here, my best friend was not here. I miss her. Over five years have passed and I still want to call her and hear her voice. We recently had another child, Sophia, who I know she too would have loved. I just wished she could have been here. I know without one doubt that she is still present in our lives because she had one of the greatest impacts on my life and by extension on my children. In addition, she inspired me to become a teacher. I went back to school to receive my masters and now I teach. I hope I influence my students as I know she did hers. She touched so many people. I will always miss the very best friend I have ever had. I love you, Lori..*

**CANDICE MICHELLE DAVIS-DUNN, JUNE 30, 2010**

*Lori and I met shortly after she moved to Plano. We played flute together at Haggard Middle School and became fast friends. I have fond memories of riding our bikes together, soaking up the sunshine next to the pool, going on summer diets, going off summer diets, and doing all the silly things girls do during middle school and high school. Though our paths took us to opposite sides of the globe, I never felt disconnected. She was such a good person and obviously touched many lives. I miss her terribly. There is so much I wish I could have said. I love you, Lori.*

**KIMBERLY RENE IVERSON, APRIL 9, 2007**

*Thank you, Lori, for always being encouraging and an inspiration to us all.*

**AMBER D PETTICREW, JULY 14, 2006**

*I didn't know her for long but i really enjoyed her as a band teacher. she taught me how to play and i miss her*

**CLAIRE CHARBONNEAU, FEBRUARY 12, 2006**

*My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. I am so sorry for the loss of your sweet Lori. Lori was a student of mine years ago at PSHS. She was the ideal student that every teacher hopes for. Always sweet, happy, positive, respectful, and kind to everyone. I later taught at Renner Middle School for 6 years. I was so surprised to see Lori introduced at our*

*faculty meeting when she too began teaching at Renner! It was fun to see a former student as a teacher herself! Everyone loved her. She was just as I remembered at PSHS....always a smile on her face. I am truly sorrow that her life was so short. She was such a blessing to all that knew her. My prayers are with you all.*

**KIM PYATT, JANUARY 30, 2006**

*My dear friend, Lori... I read this little quote just the other day and it made me think of you... "If I could reach up and hold a star for every time you've made me smile, the entire evening sky would be in the palm of my hand." Just as she did for so many others, Lori had an incredible impact on my life. We met and became friends in our very first week of college. From then on, it was rare that anyone saw one of us without the other. We had so much fun and made a million memories. When I think of Lori I will always smile and remember her contagious laugh, tremendous strength, immeasurable talent and rare sense of true friendship and compassion. She was my friend and sister and I will miss her more than I will ever be able to express in words. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and all of the friends who loved her and will miss her always.*

**KATIE HARTLEY WHITE, JANUARY 13, 2006**

*To Lori's family: I would like to say I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. I was friends with Lori in college and am glad that I had the opportunity to know her and call her a friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

**ANGIE BUSBEE PEREZ, JANUARY 3, 2006**

*I've known Lori since SFA college days. We were in the colorguard together and were sorority sisters. As many have mentioned, Lori always smiled...not only on the outside, but on the inside as well. She had a warmth of spirit, and would listen to you with absolute compassion and sincerity. I met Lori for lunch this summer and she was obviously pretty sick, but you'd never know it by her words or smile. So often cancer defines someone, and though it finally took Lori's body it never conquered her spirit! She is an inspiration to everyone on how to deal with adversity with dignity and grace. Her family should be very*

*proud of what she accomplished in her 33 years. God Bless you all.*

**CARIE L. KAPELLUSCH, JANUARY 2, 2006**

*Ms. Peel was my band teacher in both 6th and 7th grade. I have never in my entire life met someone with a more positive attitude towards life and am so deeply upset over her death. Ms. Peel was an inspiration to me not only as an amazing music teacher, but also as a kind and caring friend. I will always remember her and keep her in my thoughts and prayers.*

**GREG HOFFMAN, DECEMBER 30, 2005**

*I had Ms. Peel in 6th and 7th grade band and remained in touch and close until she passed. During middle school, she was my strongest sense of security, greatest teacher, and friend. Every memorial i've read about her has been 100% true, she always had a smile on her face, always was in high spirits, etc. One of my favorite memories of her was probably one of my first. In the 6th grade tuba class, I asked her if playing tuba would make me strong and tough because it was the largest instrument in band. She grinned and told me, "of course, Eric, but you still need a phone book to reach the mouth piece for now." And it did make me strong, and without the love and support of Ms. Peel, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I'm thankful for every minute I had with her. Even if she was never married, she had hundreds of children, and I feel i'm one of them. My thoughts and prayers are with her family right now as well as her close friends, especially Mr. Kitchens. It is very clear where Ms. Peel gained alot her amazing qualities, and they lie within the ones who raised her and the ones who worked with her.*

**ERIC HANLIN HAYES, DECEMBER 29, 2005**

*To Lori's family and friends: Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I was fortunate to observe Lori's student teaching in 1995, and she was such a joyful presence in front of the children! Though I only taught her one semester at SFA before she graduated, she was someone I was always close to. Her memory will be present in all the lives she touched as a teacher, and also in the lives of those of us who knew her as a friend.*

**FRED J. ALLEN, DECEMBER 29, 2005**

*Miss Peel was my band teacher in 7th and 8th grade. She was a true inspiration to me. I am in the 10th grade now and will be staying in band and miss peel had alot to do with that. She will be missed at the football games she was always our cheerleader. My condolences too her family. sincerely,  
Stephen Sydes*

**STEPHEN TAYLOR SYDES, DECEMBER 26, 2005**

*I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of Lori Peel. All three of my children - Matt, Kris, and Jenny, had Ms. Peel for their band teacher. She was always trying to coax a smile from my shyest child - Matt, and it was always a pleasure to talk to her whenever there was an open house or after a band performance. I could tell how dedicated she was to her students, and that she sincerely enjoyed teaching children. I remember most her beautiful smile and her infectious laughter. What a wonderful person she was! My family is blessed by having known her. Her time on earth was very short, but she touched so many lives during the time that she was with us. I pray that God will comfort all of her family and friends in this time of loss and grief.*

**TERRI ELKINS, M.D., DECEMBER 24, 2005**

*I will always remember having Ms. Peel as my flute teacher for three years during middle school, and how passionate she was for what she did. She was always encouraging me, and acted as a mentor both in and outside of the classroom. I know that her upbeat, bubbly personality will be greatly missed. I'm sure that I speak for all of her students when I say that we are lucky to have had her as a teacher and friend.*

**ERIN BEVERLY GETELMAN, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Last year I always hated sectionals, because Ms. Peel would always get on to me about how I played, but this year, I realized that it made me a better player. I'll miss her in sectionals, and now I'll never get another chance to show off how much her teaching has helped me. She would always smile and wave and ask people how they were doing. She always had a smile on her face. I'll miss her- she was an amazing teacher.*

BRITTANY B., DECEMBER 23, 2005

*I am very sorry I could not attend Lori's service. It absolutely broke my heart when I heard the news. When my very young family and I moved to McKinney ten years ago we had to start all over to find new freinds. Being a band director and having played with a community band before, my wife and I found a new home with the Plano Community Band. It was there, through Charles Forque, where I was blessed to have met Lori. It didn't take long to establish a warm and caring friendship with her. We used to talk for seemingly hours after rehearsals or on the phone trying to figure out this teaching concept or just talking about family. I could tell right from the beginning that she was an amazing musician, a generous and thoughtful person, and a real inspiration to all the people around her. Lori was adamant about what she believed, whether it was teaching, politics or philosophy. I developed a high level of respect for her. But it really hit me, when I had the pleasure of coming over to be a judge for her and Don's solo/ensemble contest, of what an amazing difference she was making in the lives of all those kids. Not only were they musically gifted...but there was a REAL chemistry between them. She was not their friend--she was their loving, caring, helpful teacher. She FIRST respected those kids and believed in them, and they loved her back for it. I will never foget the time I tried to help her shop for a computer. How fun that was-- We were very much like brother and sister-and she knew exactly how to give me a hard time! But they were wonderful times -- getting to talk with her sweet parents. I cherish those memories, especially the ones where we stood forever in the parking lot after Plano Community Band and talked about music, teaching, and yes--even life--with her and Charles. We stayed in touch a few times over the years even after I moved away. Even in the last email I received from her some time ago, she spent more time talking about how happy she was for me, and how she was concerned about Charles and his family. It was only a short sentence at the end where she told me about her diagnosis. This was very much how she lived her life. She was one of the most giving, caring, thoughtful and beautiful people I have ever known. She placed the needs of*

*others far ahead of her own. I want her family, friends, colleagues, and students to all know how much she gave to all of us. And--how much she meant to me. I miss her dearly and will strive to live with the kind of thoughtfulness that she gave to us all. We love you Lori. And we will miss you.*

**SCOTT DODSON, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Our heartfelt condolences on your loss. Lori was my son's favorite teacher and she always had a smile and a hug for him and always had time to talk to us parents. She taught him the love of music! God Bless her and her loved ones.  
Frank, Lisa Nicholas and Nadia Naboulsi Renner Middle School*

**LISA B NABOULSI, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Ms. Peel, was one of the best flute players. She taught me how to play the flute, and I remember her having such a positive attitude towards everything. I remember the first time I walked into her class, and she always had great things to say to people. Every time you'd turn and see her, she always had a smile on her face. She will be missed so much by her family, friends, students, and especially Mr. Kitchens.*

**KELSEY RAHER, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*I remember in 6th grade when our class went in towards the end of summer to find out what instrument would be right to play for us. Miss Peel was so full of energy and excitement, it was impossible to see her stand still for more than a few seconds. I remember trying out for the flute and Miss. Peel telling me how to blow into the flute. She told me that i looked like a talker, and told me to pretend that i was talking on the phone and take a deep breath and blow into the flute. It worked perfectly, and even though i ended up playing another instrument, Miss Peel was still my teacher and I had her during my 6th grade year. She will be missed terribly. My friend called me at 9pm telling me that she had died, and i didnt believe her at all. Miss Peel was an amazing teacher, and I will miss her alot.*

**LAUREN ELIZABETH MOSS, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*she was a great teacher who could always make me feel better when I was sad and the most amazing part was that I am really good at hiding my feelings and*

*she always could tell. She was more than a teacher to me she was a friend*

**MATT WAYNE KRAMER, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*she was a great teacher who could always make me feel better when I was sad and the most amazing part was that I am really good at hiding my feelings and she always could tell. She was more than a teacher to me she was a friend  
matt kramer*

**LORI LEE PEEL, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Like many students who went through Renner Middle School, I was touched by Ms. Peel. I was there the first year she was a teacher. Honestly, I didnt know what to expect when I entered middle school but she truly is someone who made an impact on my first few years. I had her for class everyday and everyday she got up and taught us with a smile on her face. Middle schoolers are hard to deal with and she dealt with us in such a firm but loving way. I still remember her voice and I still remember where I sat as she taught everyday. I am so sad to hear she passed away but I know she is in a better place. She will be missed.*

**HILARY JARMAN MCCORKINDALE, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*I had Ms. Peel for two years during middle school when I played the saxophone. The reason I actually stayed the second year was because of Ms. Peel and her influence and encouragement for me to continue playing. She cared so much about her students and was not only a good teacher but a good friend. She always brought laughter to the class everyday and brought a smile to everyones face. I will miss her dearly.*

**DREW DOUGLAS MCCORKINDALE, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*It seems like yesterday we were pledging Tau Beta Sigma. You were one of those sweet girls a person can never forget. You were dearly loved and you'll be greatly missed. Sisters in the Bond forever!*

**SUSAN CONWAY MCCRACKEN, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*As a Renner school teacher myself for the last six years, Lori was a big part of my Renner family. I hadn't known Lori very long when I found out she was a Philadelphia Eagles football fan. From then on we began teasing each other*

*about our teams and our friendship started. Lori will be missed by all who knew her, which will be many, as she touched so many lives. I will miss her infectious smile, her caring spirit, and most of all her friendship. The courage that Lori displayed will be an inspiration in my life forever.*

**GREG D. COUTERMARSH, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Lori Peel will be missed by our family. Our sons, Matt and Michael both had her for 7th and 8th grade band and she was a wonderful band teacher for them. She always had a smile on her face and kept a positive attitude. We feel very fortunate to have known her.*

**LESLIE GIAN, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*My son was in band at Renner Middle school for three years. He never had the privilege of having Ms. Peel for a teacher, but when she saw him, you would have thought that he was her star pupil. She took the time to learn personal details about all the kids and genuinely cared about them. Ms. Peel made all of the kids feel like an important part of the band and was always happy to see them. The Arts are such an important part of a child's learning. They teach us to think creatively, to find unique solutions, and new perspectives when looking at the ordinary. Being a teacher is possibly the most difficult and important profession there is because they shape the future, and open the minds and hearts of our children. Ms. Peel accomplished that and more. We were very blessed to have the opportunity to know and respect Ms. Peel as a teacher and a friend. She will be greatly missed. One of the most important things a teacher can do is to send the pupil home in the afternoon liking himself just a little better than when he came in that morning. --Ernest Melby  
Johna Davis*

**JOHNA W. DAVIS, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*She was my flute teacher at Renner Middle School when I was in the 6th grade about 8 years ago. She was the best and taught me so much. I send my condolences in this hard time to your family.*

**KRYSTA MCFARLAND, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Ms. Peel was one of my favorite teachers of all time. I was in her beginner*

*flute class in the 6th grade, and I know that I continued band because of her. Ms. Peel always had a smile on her face, and she made playing the flute such a great experience for me. In 7th and 8th grade, I had the wonderful opportunity to be in the Renner Flute Choir with Ms. Peel. I remember when we played at the Christmas tree lighting in Downtown Plano. We wore little Santa hats and played Christmas music, and Ms. Peel had the biggest smile on her face the whole time she was conducting us. I know that she loved teaching and seeing her students perform, and we all loved her for being so involved in our musical lives. Even after I moved on to Shepton and Plano West, I remember frequently seeing Ms. Peel at the football games and concerts. She was so supportive of all her students, and I know that she brought music to the lives of so many kids. She was an amazing woman and I am so glad that I was able to have her as a teacher, because she has really touched my life. Whenever I play my flute now, I will always think of Ms. Peel and how fortunate I am to have had her as a teacher.*

**MEGAN ELIZABETH GIER, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*I read your daughters obituary this morning in the paper. I realized that I went to high school with her and immediately looked her up. I wish to send my sincere condolences to her entire family. I remember your daughter from years ago as being a kind girl. I wish your family many wonderful memories of your daughter.*

**KATIE DUFFY, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Both our boys went through the band program at Renner, under Lori and Don. Being a middle school band director is probably the hardest position in the entire band organization. All those squeeks, blats, and wrong notes! Plus dealing with the parents - whew! But Lori did it with a constant smile and words of encouragement, and in doing so, helped instill a love of music in all she touched. We will truly miss her at all our band functions - she was always there at a concert at West too, to see her former students shine. She shone for us and for that we thank her. Our sincere condolences to all her family.*

**JOHN, SUE, ART, & TIM BECK, DECEMBER 23, 2005**

*Wow, it seems like yesterday that I walked into the band hall for the first time in sixth grade. Ms. Peel never had a frown on her face even if she felt down in the dumps. She would always say to the kids in band, "Hey, how are you doing"? Then you'd instantly feel better, or your day would go so much better. Whenever I saw her in the hallway she had a smile from ear to ear. She had a gift in music and teaching others how to make music. I learned so much from her, even though I was never in one of her band classes. When I found out that I was going to be in concert 1 band, I knew I was going to have an amazing year in band, simply because I was going to be in Ms. Peel's band class. She will be missed dearly, and will always have a place in my heart as well as anyone who had ever known her. She was a role model for us and there will never be another Ms. Peel in any other band class.*

**MITCHELL FREDERICK STOW, DECEMBER 22, 2005**

*I remember Lori very well from playing in the Plano Community Band several years ago. She was a great asset to the band, a wonderful person, and we are all glad to have known her, and very sad to learn of her passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.*

**ALAN KOENIGSBERG, DECEMBER 22, 2005**

**Family Owned Since 1945**

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