



## Darren Gene Matthews

August 31, 1968 - January 25, 2017

Darren Gene Matthews, 48, of Muskogee, OK was born August 31, 1968 to Roosevelt and Nora (Miller) Matthews in Muskogee, OK, and peacefully passed away on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 in Tulsa, OK with his family by his side.

Darren grew up in Muskogee attending Tony Goetz Elementary, Alice Robertson Junior High and graduated with the Muskogee High School Class of 1987. Darren's passion was in cosmetology and graduated from Virgil's Beauty College in 1997. He opened Studio III and more recently DG Matthews Design Studio. Darren's love for his family and friends was evident by the way he lived his life. Creating memories and laughter was his gift. His crazy life adventures of camping, being at the lake, traveling, renovating houses, spending time with his friends and his pets made for the best storytelling. To know Darren was to love him.

Those left to cherish his memory are his mom, Nora Wright of Muskogee, OK; his aunts, Shirley Miller and Pat Foster of Muskogee, OK; uncle and aunt, Mike and Amy Miller of Fort Gibson, OK; and sister in law Anna Matthews of Fort Gibson, OK; nieces, nephews, cousins; his dogs Sadie, Elle, Lexie, Bentley, and many friends.

Darren is preceded in death by his dad, Roosevelt Matthews; brother, Dave Matthews; grandmother, Norean McBride and grandfather, John H. Miller.

A celebration of Darren's life will be held 6PM Friday, February 3, 2017 in the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

The family of Darren Gene Matthews has entrusted his cremation and services to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
1224 E Poplar Fort Gibson, 918-478-2555.

Online condolences may be left at [clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com](http://clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB 3. 6:00 PM (CT)

Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame  
401 S. 3rd St  
Muskogee, OK 74401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Darren Gene Matthews*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ *Oh my Sweet Kind Hearted & Caring Friend Darren, I am so sorry to have lost you from here on earth. I didn't even know of your passing until now. I just happened upon your obituary online by accident. I am going to miss you so much my friend. I'll never forget our little chats we'd have throughout the day while you were over working at Studio III. You'd take your break and come to the store to grab a drink & a snack, and we'd visit and laugh about the things we talked about !! And you'd share your camping stories with me, always telling me that I was more than welcome to come along sometime!! Unfortunately I never got to tag along for one of those seemingly amazing getaways. I can also remember how you'd come check on me the nights I'd close the store up by myself after the store having gotten robbed that time. You always made sure I was OK and checked to see if I needed to borrow your 'Piece' to protect myself with (Lol). And ofours I will never forget how you slipped me a christmas present that second Christmas I worked there. You were so sneaky about it, so as to not allow me the time to refuse it. You were such an awesome friend Darren. I don't know how this world is gona make it without you in It now !!! Lots of Love To You Always My Dear Fly High*

Crystal Williams - March 23, 2017 at 03:08 AM

WH

“ *So Sorry For Your Family's Loss. I Always Remember Darren With a Big Smile No Matter What Was Going On. Glad I Can Say I Knew Him. Heaven Gained An Angel . God Bless You All.*

Wendy Hoffman - February 02, 2017 at 08:39 PM

MM

“ Mandy Murphy lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews



Mandy Murphy - February 02, 2017 at 04:01 PM



“ I met Darren in Jr.High and loved his infectious laugh and smile right away. High school was no different. Whether it was carrying on about our teenage angst over a chocolate shake or turning our heartbreaks into laughter.... he was always there. Over the years, we didn't seen each other much, but he was always the same wonderful Darren, quick with a smile and a hug. I am so grateful to have known him and to have called him my friend. He taught me more than he ever knew.

Tawnee Murphy Hawley - February 02, 2017 at 08:51 AM

PI

“ Polly Irving lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews



Polly Irving - January 31, 2017 at 08:26 PM

MG

“ I met Darren a few years ago through his partner Jeff at a camp out. He was always so much fun to be around and long weekend camp outs won't be the same without him. Rest In Peace my friend.

Mike G - January 29, 2017 at 02:21 PM

HS

“ *Heather Stuart lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*

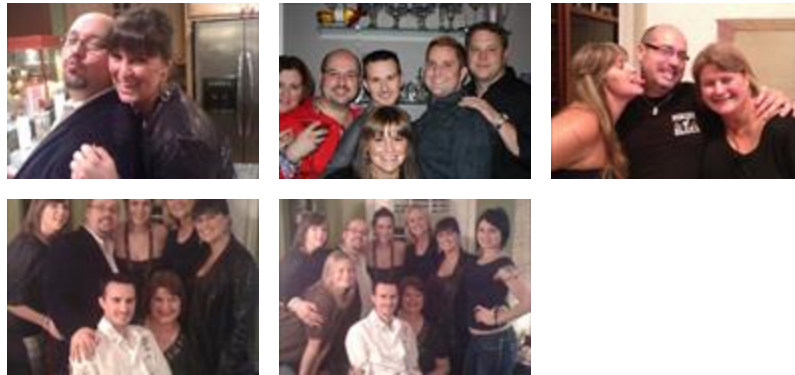


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**Heather Stuart** - January 29, 2017 at 08:30 AM

SR

“ *5 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Sarah Roark** - January 28, 2017 at 07:49 PM

SR

“ *Sarah Roark lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*

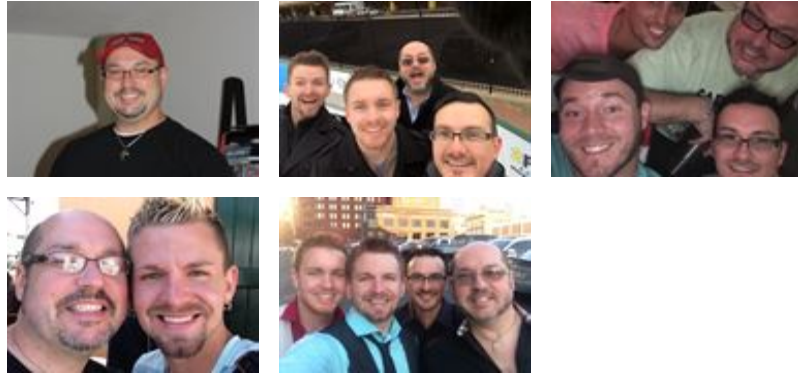


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**Sarah Roark** - January 28, 2017 at 07:48 PM



“ 80 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home** - January 28, 2017 at 02:59 PM

NB

“ *Noodle Barnes lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



**Noodle Barnes** - January 28, 2017 at 11:12 AM

LA

“ *Linda Arnold lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



**Linda Arnold** - January 28, 2017 at 09:33 AM



“ *Shelly Davies lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Shelly Davies** - January 28, 2017 at 07:18 AM



“ *Michael Braun lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Michael Braun** - January 28, 2017 at 12:07 AM

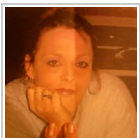


“ *Joann Mocha lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Joann Mocha** - January 27, 2017 at 10:47 PM

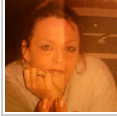


“ *Dawn Rose lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



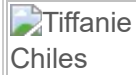
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**Dawn Rose** - January 27, 2017 at 10:45 PM



*Sorry you had to go at such a young age I knew you when we were in jr high. GOD said it was your time he has a plan for you. Many prayers my friend*

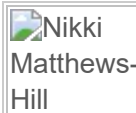
**Dawn Rose** - January 27, 2017 at 10:48 PM



“ *Tiffanie Chiles lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



**Tiffanie Chiles** - January 27, 2017 at 10:32 PM



“ ❤️



**Nikki Matthews-Hill** - January 27, 2017 at 09:04 PM



“ *Paula Taff-Stewart lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



**Paula Taff-Stewart** - January 27, 2017 at 08:54 PM



*My sincere thoughts and prayers for the family. You will be missed my old friend.*

**Paula Taff-Stewart** - January 27, 2017 at 09:49 PM

DH

“ I don't know how long I've known Darren but it's well over 15 years. I met him at Studio III off York. He shared a room with Lindy who does my hair. I always loved going for a haircut color whatever as I was assured of a great time between the two of them. Even if you didn't know him well he made you feel he was your good trusted friend immediately. About 3 years ago I was greatly Blessed when he and Jeff bought the house next door. It had been vacant for many years and needed lots of work inside and out. They worked day and night on that house and I had to admit when they were finished the yard outshined mine which had been the best on the block. He and Jeff did many things to help me during this time. We both shared the love of dogs and he loved on mine just like his. They also looked out for me. There's one special story. The night of my sons wedding I got home before anyone else who was staying with me and I was trying to get my dress off. I worked at the zipper that ran up the back for 30 min before I finally decided I wasn't going to get anywhere alone. So I did what any woman would do who had Darren as a neighbor. I called and asked if he'd come over and help to which he replied "so you call the gay guy cuz you know I'm safe and you don't have to worry about me attacking you". He got a great laugh out of both of us and my mom walked in the back door as he was walking out wondering what on earth was going on. Darren didn't let the worlds views bother him about who he was. He was and will always be Darren. A guy that all who knew him loved him with all their heart because he had truly touched them in a magical personal powerful loving way. Thank you Darren for allowing me to call you my friend. I will miss you and our talks over the fence more then I can say. Plus I never got the chance to tell you Kyle and Katie are making a grandma out of me. Watch over Our Baby please as God grows him or her. And please put in a good word for me. You know I could really use it right now. Love ya.

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denise hampton - January 27, 2017 at 07:46 PM

KJ

“ *Kendell Janes lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Kendell Janes** - January 27, 2017 at 07:35 PM

DB

“ *You are going to be missed. Classmates class of 87.*



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**Debbie Bond** - January 27, 2017 at 05:55 PM

DG

“ *Dusty Gross lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Dusty Gross** - January 27, 2017 at 05:25 PM

RM

“ *Rick And Mary Kay McQueen lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Rick and Mary Kay McQueen** - January 27, 2017 at 04:49 PM

MP

“ *Mary Carole Pratt lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Mary Carole Pratt** - January 27, 2017 at 03:38 PM

DA

“ *Dana Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Dana Armstrong** - January 27, 2017 at 02:29 PM



“ *I have been friends with Darren since we were little kids terrorizing lampton street. When we were little we were unseparable. I will truly miss his laugh, sense of humor, his sassiness, his kind and gentle heart and so many more things about this man i was blessed to call my friend. Spread your wings and fly my dear friend. You will so truly missed.*

*Love,  
Diana Gray*

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**Diana Gray-Ross** - January 27, 2017 at 01:02 PM

DS

“ *Dana Jo Stewart lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**dana jo stewart** - January 27, 2017 at 11:15 AM

CC

“ *Darren you will be making heaven laugh for sure! I sure will miss you for sure!*




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**Carol Clutter** - January 27, 2017 at 10:30 AM

AH

“ *Aaron Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Aaron Hobbs** - January 27, 2017 at 10:08 AM

 Carole Anne Cleland

“ *Carole Anne Cleland lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Carole Anne Cleland** - January 27, 2017 at 09:23 AM



Carole Anne

*Darren-you will be missed greatly. Thank you for your wit, honesty and free spirit.*

**Carole Anne Cleland** - January 27, 2017 at 09:24 AM

TD

*“ I met Darren in kindergarden at Tony Goetz Elementary School in 1974...A true friend and classmate of mine for 43 years...We grew up and graduated high school together with the Muskogee High School Class of 1987..I will miss him dearly but I know that he is in the arms of the Lord now....#RIPFriend*

**Tony Loney (Classmate of Darren's)** - January 27, 2017 at 08:12 AM

CS

*“ Cheryl Stark lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



**Cheryl Stark** - January 27, 2017 at 07:48 AM

DD

“ Darren was very dear to me and will miss him so much but he will always be close to my heart in spirit , would like to share a story to you bout how amazing of a person he is . Met Darren though Jeff and my son Dusty , One summer weekend a bunch of friends went floating down the river , as a young girl almost drown i in my pool and ever since been fear of deep water but this day when I shared this fear with Darren he said Mom Denise u are going to over come your today of water , I said dont think so , Darren said we are going to jump of a side of a cliff , yes u will have life jacket but u will over come your fear of water today , so we climb cliff I was so scared and Darren said to me do u trust me to keep u safe I said yes so we are jumping together , he hold my hand and we jumped he never left go of my hand , when we came up from water he smilef at me and see told u would be ok , will always remember that day what Darren over came by fear of water. Ha will be so mmisef on earth but I know in my heart he will be find in heaven with our Lord .love u Darren keep that beautiful. smile on your face.

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**Denise Polonchak. Mom Denise** - January 27, 2017 at 07:37 AM

TL

“ So many memories flood my head when I think about Darren... My favorite has to be the time I went to him to get my hair done just a couple weeks after my husband had gotten me a brand new Yorkie puppy. I was exhausted and sooo not puppy mom material. With that being said Darren and I came up with a plan. He was gonna "steal" the puppy for me so I knew it wld have a good home and he'd have a brand new puppy.( this was our secret) Absolutely couldn't let my husband know I didn't want the high dollar puppy after 2 weeks because I begged and pleaded for it. Darren and I arranged his puppy snatching and he was as smooth as ever. Got it done in no time. My sweet husband made signs, hung them up all over the neighborhood with pictures of the missing puppy(meanwhile Darren and I are dying over text and phone calls).. puppy was never found. Fast forward 5 years... husband is sitting in Darren's chair, Darren's talking about his dog & proceeds to say "you know, the one I got from you"..Oops. Then of course we both had to come clean.

*Darren was the best, I'm forever thankful for his friendship.*

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**Tyler ladd** - January 26, 2017 at 10:42 PM

RB

“ i want to share that Darren has blessed my family more than once, he gave of his time and skills freely. My daughter was going to prom and being a single mom it was tight for me to get the dress and everything, when Darren found out he bought her in treated her like a queen did her hair! Not just ok but amazing hair style!! When she left she cried from being treated so nice. That night she must have got 50 compliments on her hair!! I can never repay Darren for this but I can share it so others know he is a beautiful soul!!!  
He did my hair often also he knew I was a single Mom working hard and always quoted me a price I could afford though I knew he could get much more! He was a kind soul with a smile and a laugh always on his lips! And that boy could tell a story!! I will cherish the good happy times I had with this happy soul! Thank you Darren for your kindness and for your amazing gift of not only making someone look pretty but also feel pretty. I will think of you often and smile you will live on in my heart for years to come. Blessings to you and love also.

*If you have a story share so his family can hear and enjoy!!! Please share!!*

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**Rachel Benadum** - January 26, 2017 at 10:13 PM

TB

“ Darren has been my hair guy for around 16-17 years. When my oldest daughter, Sarah, got married, he did hair for all of us. He has taken care of my youngest daughter, Robyn, as well. I will miss him more than I can express. I loved him so much. He was a true friend and he will be missed by so many.

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**Trish Brewster** - January 26, 2017 at 10:13 PM

EE

*I've been thinking of you three, Trish* ❤️❤️❤️

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**Erin Edge** - January 26, 2017 at 11:12 PM

DD

“ *Denise Polonchak. Mom Denise lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Denise Polonchak. Mom Denise** - January 26, 2017 at 09:09 PM

RE

“ *I met Darren when he was only a kid...I thought he was so cute...he sure knew how to stand up for himself against his older brother...lol I remember the first time I met him...neither of them was backing down...sibling rivalry..lol After he left I remember telling Dave that he better be nice to him...lol I guess that's just how sibling love goes. Every time I saw Darren he was always so happy and friendly he definitely had a way with people. I doubt there is a person that ever met him that didn't love him. I will always smile when I think about him in the days to come because I feel fortunate to have know such a wonderful person.*

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**Robin Estes** - January 26, 2017 at 08:28 PM

GP

“ *Gene And Christy Polston lit a candle in memory of Darren Gene Matthews*



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**Gene and Christy Polston** - January 26, 2017 at 07:33 PM



“ I met Darren when he was working in a shop on York. The woman that was doing my hair gave me an awful hair cut. He pulled me aside and told me he was sorry I got a bad haircut. He said we could do my hair when she wasn't there. And for months we did exactly that. That was 19 years ago. We became the best of friends. He didn't call me by first name he called me Nana. We had lots of great times and made wonderful memories from the very first time he did my hair. I could just let him do my hair and never worried about how it was going to look. It always looked great. I will miss those times with my friend Darren. I will cherish those memories. Rest In Peace my friend. Love you, Nana.

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**Valetta Parham (Nana)** - January 26, 2017 at 07:32 PM



“ Darren was always so friendly to me. He never met a stranger and was simply amazing. Thank you for friending me at our many campouts. Thanks for the food, drinks, and shenanigans. Most of all, thank you for being a great friend.  
Love,  
Kelly Powers

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**Kelly Powers** - January 26, 2017 at 05:28 PM

DD

*I met Darren though Jeff several years ago, Jeff and my son Dusty were friends, Jeff and Darren came over to my son's house and the first day I met him he hugged me and smiled so big and after the first day, I fell in love with him like another son of mine, one summer we all went on a float trip and when I was a young girl had a bad experience. In my swimming pool, so when I went on float trip, I was a little scared to get in the water, we had so much fun and we went where this cliff was that some people jump off in deep water and Darren and Jeff talked me into climbing high on top of the cliff to jump off to get the fear of water gone, Darren said, do you trust me, I said yes I do so we are going to jump off the cliff together and I will hold your hand, if I had a life jacket on but he was such a loving and caring soul I trust him making it back to the surface, oh I was scared but right before we jumped Darren said don't worry I got you, then we jumped holding hands today I do not fear water anymore, he has a heart of gold, I will miss him so but I know he is in good hands!*

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**Denise Polonchak. Mom Denise** - January 26, 2017 at 09:05 PM

CS

*I met Darren when my son Matt Weatherford worked at the salon in York. They became good friends and I started going to Darren for my hair. Darren asked Matt if I would keep his new dog Jessie for a couple of weeks because he was moving into an apartment. Darren hadn't had Jessie very long and had taken him in because the people that had him were not happy with his chewing. Well I did take Jess the little black schnauzer and I already had a little gray schnauzer so I thought a temporary playmate would be good. Well 2 weeks led to 2 months and I fell in love with Jessie. Darren heard how attached I was to Jess so he gave him to me! Jess was my buddy and the best dog ever. I thanked him every time I saw him for my Jessie. He would come to the house for visitation and he always asked me about him. I could never repay his kindness or selflessness because we all know how he loved his dogs. I'm going to miss his happy smile and hugs and I love you. He never let me leave without all three.*

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**Cindy Sherwood** - January 27, 2017 at 05:17 AM

CA

*Aunt Nora, I am so sorry I am just hearing of Darren's passing. I speak of him often and tell stories about how I was his guinea pig when he was working on new dances at the skating rink or when he wanted to try to get my long stringy hair to "do something". He was my cousin and childhood friend and if mom hadn't been so ill in the hospital I would have most certainly been there. My heart aches today to have him gone from this world. He was a beautiful, beautiful, wonderful, amazing, sweet soul and I am sure he is missed terribly by all those who knew him. You have endured so much and I am so sorry. All my love, Carla*

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**Carla** - April 07, 2017 at 04:11 PM