



## Daniel Rock

November 2, 1942 - April 15, 2011

A memorial service for Daniel Dean Rock will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at the First United Methodist Church with Reverend Terry Martindale officiating. Private family interment will be prior to the service in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva. There will be a visitation with the family Monday evening at Marshall Funeral Home from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Daniel Dean Rock, son of the late Logan Dean and Helen Marie (Williams) Rock, was born November 2, 1942, in Beaver, Oklahoma, and passed April 15, 2011, at his home in Alva at the age of 68 years, 5 months, and 13 days. Danny joined the Methodist Church, was baptized April 15, 1954, and was currently a member of Alva First United Methodist Church. He attended the Beaver schools and graduated in 1960. He graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and then went on to receive his Masters of Education in 1972.

On July 28, 1962, Danny was united in marriage to Sherry Linell Howell in Alva at the E. U. B. Church.

In 1961 he became a single engine land Private Pilot and later received his Commercial and Instructor rating. He was the owner of Northwest Aero Flying and was well known in northwest Oklahoma. He was a Flight Instructor from 1969 until 2011. During his career he owned several aircrafts, including a 1946 Taylorcraft, a 1946 Aronca Champ, a 1948 Stenson, a 1964 Cessna 150, a 1968 Cessna 150, a 1969 Cessna 150, a 1976 Cessna 150, a 1976

Cessna 172, and a 1957 Beechcraft Bonanza. He was a member of Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association, Charter Member and President of NW Pilot's Association, served as Chairman of Alva Airport Board, FAA Safety Officer for Alva Regional Airport; and owned and operated the FAA Testing Center at Alva Airport.

He served as Band Instructor and High School Principal in Oklahoma and Kansas public schools for 33 years. He served as President of Alva Classroom Teachers and was a member of OEA and NEA.

He worked with his family as a custom harvester for 22 years, cutting wheat in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and South Dakota. He owned the Rock Ranch at Beaver where he operated his Broken Arrow Cattle Business. Danny bowled for many years with his family, attending state and national tournaments all over the United States. He was a member of the American Bowling Association and served as President of Alva Men's Bowling Association. Danny and Sherry enjoyed collecting antique cars and pickups, driving them in parades at Alva and Beaver. He was also a member of the Alva Masonic Lodge #105 where he served as Worshipful Master. Danny is survived by his wife, Sherry, of Alva; two sons and their families, Cory and Michelle Rock and Chris and Kate of Westminster, Colorado, Ryan and Michelle Rock and Isabella and Joshua of Mukilteo, Washington; two daughters and their families, Lezlie and Brent Miles and Kaylan and Tristen of El Dorado, Kansas, and Lisa and Cory Baker and Jake, Aidan, and Boston of Wichita, Kansas; two sisters, Debbie and Clifton Willeford of Perryton, Texas, and Deitra Rock and Robbie Rhoads of Alva; two aunts, Loubelle Campbell of Beaver, and Mary Beleele of Kingwood, Texas; other relatives and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Alva First United Methodist Church Music Department.

# Tribute Wall



“ Daniel Rock

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January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM



“ Sheery and kids, I just heard that our beloved DR is now flying a plane while marching in a great band in heaven! It&s been over 28 years since I was so blessed to be instructed by this quirky, funny, loveable and talented man! Oh, the fun we had that he made for us! He was such a mentor to our musical minds, and even some of us who were&nt so inclined to be musical! He touched so many and due to that his band will play on forever! Psalm 33:2-3 "Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." My prayers are with you!

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Ann Fuson-Woodmansee - May 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear the world had lost such a good man as Danny Rock. It has been years since I had seen you two, but Dan and I had emailed last summer and joked about different marching bands that did not have the great leadership of a good band leader like him. "Mr. Rock" taught my children to love music. Both you and Dan were special friends at Buffalo. My heart hurts for you Sherry. He loved you so, and you will miss him so much.

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Carolyn Leonard - April 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ DR was a great man and will be greatly missed. He was given a rare talent in the ability to teach music and share that gift with others. My best High School memories are centered around the AHS music program and he&s right in the middle of them. He touched so many lives and we still carry the music with us today. May God bless you and your family as knowing DR has blessed us. My prayers are with you Sherry and with your family.

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**Tanya Pettit-Sinibaldi** - April 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Hi Ryan and Rock Family you are in my deepest thoughts and prayers. Like a bird singing in the rain, let greatful memories survive in time of sorrow. Peace - prayers - and - blessings.

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**Harninder Singh** - April 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Sherry and family, Sorry for your loss, thinking about you, my thoughts and prayers are with you

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**Robert Conner** - April 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Sherry and family,  
Just sending so many thoughts and prayers your way at this sad time. I was honored to have D.R. as a band director AND as a flight instructor, so I have tons of wonderful memories.  
The thing I remember most is his sense of humor and ability to ALWAYS make me laugh (cracking jokes in band or &buzzing& farmers in the field). I honestly can't think of him without smiling...  
He was one patient guy - that's for sure!  
D.R. touched the lives of so many in such a positive way. What an amazing legacy..  
With deepest sympathy, Lisa

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**Lisa Holder** - April 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Mr. Rock taught me trumpet at Buffalo Elementary School, he made me love music. He is the reason I play the guitar still today. I really enjoyed having him as a teacher. My prayers are with you all.

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**Dusty Hugaboom** - April 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Sherry and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. I have always thought all of you as very special friends even though we did not get to see each other often. Knowing Mardis Ann and Lonnie's college friends made my years at Northwestern Oklahoma State University even more special. I will try to get away to come to the service. love, Martha Draper

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**Martha Draper** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Sherry and family,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.  
Many smiles and warm memories of D.R.! May you find peace and  
comfort in the Lord!

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**Beth Elliott Molenda & family** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Sherry, Corey, Ryan, Lezlie, and Lisa, So sorry to hear about Dr.  
Rock. D.R. will be missed by many as he had a tremendous impact  
on their lives. He was definitely a positive influence in my life. It was  
a joy to have him as a band director eventhough he might tend to  
disagree on a couple of specific instances I recall. He had a  
tremendous heart and a passion for making the world a better  
place. It was an honor to know him and be a student of his.

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**Kevin Dixon** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Sherry and family: We are very sad right now, hearing of Danny&s  
passing. Dan was a very positive and warm person and very  
generous with his time to anyone who needed his help. We had the  
opportunity to meet most of his wonderful family and were  
impressed at the good feelings we received from all--seems that it  
runs in the family!  
As a fellow aviator, I am proud thinking of his legacy in teaching all  
those pilots over the years, spreading the love of flight as he did.  
I hope our thoughts and prayers are a token of our sympathy and  
that you will be surrounded by your loved ones and friends in this  
trying time.  
I will miss Danny, too.

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**Paul & Kelly McCracken** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ To the Rock Family,  
Our thoughts and prays are with all of you in this time of sorrow.  
May God bless you all.

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**Tom and Sherry Ramy** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Last May our class of 1960 from Beaver High School had its 50th year reunion and you and Danny attended. I am glad that after many years we could see some of our classmates again. Danny will be missed. Please accept my sympathy in your personal loss and know of the sadness we have in the loss of a friend.

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**Judy Potter Hancock** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Sherry,Debbie & Deitra and family,We are all so sorry for your loss.Danny was a wonderful(& onerary) cousin. He will be miss by all who knew and loved him. Our family sends our condolences and prays. We love and miss you all. Lita,Aunt Mary and family.

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, - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ I first met Danny through the Alva airport. We exchanged many emails and had many conversations, mostly about flying. In fact, he gave me two of the most professional BFRs that I&ve received. He was always friendly and always had a smile on his face and a laugh in his voice. I&ll miss seeing him around the airport. My most sincere condolences to Sherry and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

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**Robert Wiebener, Jr** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all the Rocks. I&ll always remember his contagious smile, his jokes, and generous heart. My fondest memory of him was his catfish fry and him captaining the boat at the lake camping trip many years ago. He will be so missed!

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**Shawna Thompson** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ Danny was a terrific teacher -- you are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Annie Evans** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Danny was a great friend and fellow aviator. I remember his excitement when Rock and Sherry bought their Bonanza and I had the pleasure of TEACHING HIM some of the finer aspects of flying it. I&m sure it&s an astonishing number - if one counted all the pilots Rock created over the years. The aviation community, as well as Alva - will miss him. Know that he finally went West with all the other aviation greats!

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**John Wiebener** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Praying for you and your family for peace and comfort, at this time of your loss.

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**Gregg & Donna Flaming** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Mr. Rock was an inspiration to so many of us. He made band so much fun - yet he was fair, firm, and consistent with his discipline. Many of my fondest high school memories revolve around band events. Mr. Rock will always have a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers will be with your family.

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**Caron Camp Morris** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Sherry, I am so sorry about your loss. I pray that God will comfort you in the way that, only He, can.

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**Rhonda Fields** - April 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ We have been friends with Debbie and Clifford for some time and just wanted the family to know we feel your loss. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of your family during this difficult time.

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**Dave & Sonja Heald** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Sherry and family: I am so sorry about your loss but know that in your heart Danny will always be near. I am flying out of state this morning (Sun) and won't return until the 27th. I tried to re-arrange my speaking schedule but it was impossible.  
You will be in prayers. Donna

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**Donna Rush Lamb** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

“ *Saying goodbye to a good friend is hard by Helen Shaw Barrett on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 10:59am Last night, one of my friends slipped from the confines of a body that no longer responded to his thoughts and wishes. He taught my kids to play their band instruments better, to march with pride, and to enjoy music. He taught me life was too short to be unhappy, to put my fears aside, to spread my wings and fly -- literally. Danny Rock left this world, but the memories of him will never die. Many times after letting me "vent" on topics ranging from local government inequities, education, job stress or marriage, he would say something encouraging and end with "Don't forget to smile." Or, "are you smiling yet?" He enjoyed his role as "cheerleader" to everyone he met. We joked about his looking good in his cheerleader outfit. Long instant message chats saved my sanity repeatedly over the years. He fought fiercely for improvements at the Alva Airport. While serving on the Airport Commission, "the Port" became his home away from home. He was unafraid of fighting City Hall over what he believed rightfully belonged to the "Port." When board meetings would get heated and tense, Danny often just sat there, say what needed to be said and smile. That smile kept the tension from getting out of hand. During the summer he often loaded his own mower on his trailer to mow his "island" around his hangars. Unselfishly, he helped neighboring pilots repair their planes or the doors on their hangars, usually without a thank you. Flying was a passion. He flew frequently to Beaver to check on his mama cows and their babies. Flying his own plane got him from Alva's "front door" to Nevada, Washington, Texas, New Orleans and other places to visit his kids or compete in a bowling tournament, another passion. He learned to fly as a kid from his dad, and he was proud that his sons shared his passion. They agreed to being featured in one of my stories of the three generations of pilots titled "When Rocks Fly." The interview time was filled with laughs and family stories. Several of Danny's students went on to aviation careers, but they frequently came back to fly his Cessna 150 for fun. Danny was a very persuasive person. He chided me until I signed up for his ground school class. My first flight came during a lunch break*

*from work. We went over the check list before crawling in the plane and fastening our seat belts. My stomach was in my throat and my heart beat rapidly like a bass drum gone wild. He guided the plane with ease into the air then told me I had control. My hands gripped the yoke so hard my fingers became numb. He repeatedly tapped my fingers and told me to relax, that flying was easy and I needed to remember to use my feet. It was an incredible experience that I was privileged to repeat two more times, with less fear and more excitement each time. Once when it was time to again enroll in ground school, I really didn't have the money for the fees. He said, "You're taking it. I'll pay for it and you can pay me back." With each payment, I said a heart-felt thank you. "You're not the first student I've helped," he said. "I've helped a lot of kids get their license and nobody ever knew." That's the way he was -- generous with his time and his assets. Danny was a strong man. After losing both of his parents, he shouldered the heavy responsibility of settling their estate as executor -- a task he finished just before learning of his diagnosis of ALS -- Lou Gehrig's disease. He meticulously worked to insure an equal distribution between himself and his sisters, enduring heavy stress throughout the process. He always credited his wife, Sherry, with the way his sons and daughters became such upstanding citizens. He obviously adored all of them, especially Sherry. Christmas parties at the Rock house were the highlight of the year for his students. Sherry cooked the chilli and cake while everyone discussed flying and other fun topics. Each session ended in the living room, gathered around the piano singing Christmas songs. Danny would bring out h*

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**Helen Barrett** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Sherry and Family, I was so sorry to hear about Danny&s death. I enjoyed seeing you and Danny while I was in Alva in June for our 50th reunion, and I was fortunate enough to be able to visit in your beautiful home. We haven&t seen each other often over the years, but I have many wonderful memories of our lifelong friendship which flowered in high school. I send good wishes to your family from Redmond, WA. Sherry, if you ever go to visit your son in Mukilteo, I live less than an hour from there and would love to see you. Fondly, Jean

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**Jean Melton Hammerback** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ Sherry and family, I am so sorry to hear about Danny&s passing. I am so glad that I got to see and visit with you both when I was last in Alva. I will keep you all in my prayers.

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**Nancy Roepke Gwaltney** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HE

“ Our prayers are with you, Sherry, and all the family. God be with you!

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**Hank and Mary Evans** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Sherry and Family, Thinking of you during this difficult time. Leo and Colleen Myers

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**Colleen Myers** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ May God hold you close as only He can do at this time.

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**Jackie R. Sheldon** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Sherry, I was so shocked to read of Dan&s passing. I&m so sorry for you & your family. I know he will be missed. My thoughts & prayers are with all of you. God bless you.

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**Jeanne Winn** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IE

“ Dear Sherry & family, Danny was such an exceptional person. It&s hard to think of a world without him. He was more than a band teacher, a bowler, or a pilot. I&m proud to consider him one of my dearest friends. May God be with you in your loss.

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**Ida Evans** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Dear Sherry & Family.. Our prayers & thoughts are with you during this difficult time. Danny was a wonderful person. Many memories we have. We will miss you our friend.

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**Sharon & Larry Lyon** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Dear Sherry and Family, So sorry to hear of your loss. D.R. was such a postive influence in my and Lana&s lives. A teacher, mentor, and a true friend. He will be greatly missed.

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**Greg Joachims** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ Dear Sherry and Family, Our deepest sympathy is with your family. May you find comfort in the wonderful memories you will carry with you forever. God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

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**Virgil and Lavon Wiersig** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Sherry and Family~ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Danny. He will be greatly missed. His high fives and big smiles I will forever remember and hold near my heart. I can still remember talking to him about taking flying lessons. He always told me that anything I ever want is just a plane ride away. I will truly miss him and the way he could always make me smile.

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**Megan Smith And Family** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GQ

“ Sherry and Family: My prayers are with you and your family during this very sad time. Danny was my band director, teacher, flight instructor, but most of all a very dear friend for many years. I will always remember his smile, laugh, and encouragement that he gave through the years.

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**Gary Quinby** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Dear Sherry and family, We were so sorry to hear about Danny. He was a wonderful cousin with such a ready smile always. We pray God&s arms will surround you with comfort during this time. Love always, Keith and Linda Miller

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**Linda Miller** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Sherry, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. For the few short years I have gotten to know you and Dan he filled them with laughter. Mike and I enjoyed and are very grateful for the time we got to spend with you and Dan at the bowling alley.

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**Debbie Barby** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I am shocked and saddened to read of Mr. Rock&s death. Please accept my condolences. I pray that God will give you peace and comfort at this time. Mr. Rock had a profound influence on my life and I will forever be grateful that he was my band director and my friend.

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**Joyce Hughes Montgomery** - April 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear Rock family, I was so saddened to hear of D.R&s passing. DR was more than a band teacher, he was a good friend not only in the class room but out in the world as well. He was very warm and giving opening his home whenever you needed it. When I teach drum students I try to teach in DR&s way, stern but caring! I loved him very much and he will be sorely missed!

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**Ryan SeEVERS** - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Sherry and family, my thoughts and prayers go out to you at this time. He was a gentleman with a capital "G" even though he loved to tease, he always made me smile. He will be dearly missed.

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**Janice Litton** - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ D.R.was the funnest teacher i ever had.He was more than a teacher,he was a friend.He always had a smile and was always good for a laugh.He was a hard worker at every thing he did.In band he taught us all to be the best we could be and expected no less from us. You are flying high now my friend,I will miss you.Rest in peace

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**raymond knabe** - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *The Rock Family your in my deepest thoughts and prayers. D.R was a great man all that loved him . He will be missed. He always had a smile on his face always had a kind word to say to every one he was one of the greatest band teachers I had ever meet*

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**Brenda Morrow** - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ *Sherry an family...Im so sorry to hear of the loss of Danny...my thots an prayers are with you during this difficult time....*

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**Charlotte Holt Edwards** - April 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM