

Owasso Trail Days is an annual event that salutes the heritage of our great city. Each year a very special couple is selected and recognized as Mr. & Mrs. Trail Days. Today, this award is significant as it reflects not only personal accomplishments of this special couple, but indeed, the many lives that they have impacted over decades of service. Lives of students, lives of adults, while elevating the spirits of our community.

Mr. Trail Days graduated from Owasso High School in 1973. Mrs. Trail Trails followed in 1977. They each received their college degrees from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. They have been married for 40 years. They have four grown children and two grandchildren, who are all with us today.

Mrs. Trail Days worked in the corporate world for 20 years, but always had a burning desire to teach. She fulfilled that desire as she entered the teaching profession 16 years ago as an Owasso High School English teacher. For the past 15-years she has taught the Sophomore English Honors & Advanced Classes.

In addition to being a dedicated classroom teacher, she is a great volunteer, with a passion for our Veterans. For 15 years, she has organized the annual Veterans Day Luncheon in November. The event has grown year after year. In her class she teaches a non-fiction literature unit on the Vietnam Wall. And, last year fulfilled a dream of bringing the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall to Owasso, here on the grounds of Tulsa Tech. Over 10,000 people visited the Wall while in Owasso. The 4th largest attendance nationally of the 42 stops around the nation, last year.

Mr. Trail Days is an Owasso Ram through and through.

- In 1973, in his senior year, the Owasso Rams won its first state baseball championship.
- After college, he came back to serve 4 years as an assistant coach to the great Ram coach, Melvin Spencer.
- Mr. Trail Days became the Rams head baseball coach in 1983, now coaching in his 35th season.
- His teams have won 11 State Championships
- His 1000th victory came in March, 2015. And remarkably, his son Dodger, was on the mound, pitching in his first varsity game, going the distance, bringing dad his milestone 1000th victory, while wearing his dad's number 5 jersey, a number that hadn't been worn in 33-years. A remarkable story.
- He is a member of the Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame.
- If I have my information correct, within the next week, he could be playing for his eleven hundredth coaching victory making him the winningest coach in Oklahoma Baseball history.
- He is a hardcore N.Y. Yankee Fan and a legionary High School baseball coach.

I think you will all agree that today's honorees are dedicated servants to Owasso Public Schools and to the citizens of Owasso.

Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please welcome our 2018 Mr. & Mrs. Trail Days, Larry and Kim Turner.