

Don Gene Wilcox

Don Gene Wilcox graduated from Chickasha High School in 1954. Don Gene Wilcox is an American collegiate band director. Wilcox was born in 1936 in Shattuck, Oklahoma. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Michigan in 1958 and a Master of Arts Degree from California State College in 1966. Upon his graduation from the University of Michigan, he worked for several years as a public school music teacher before he was hired by California State College at Long Beach and eventually West Virginia University. At West Virginia University, Mr. Wilcox served as the director of the marching band from 1971 to 1997 and as the director of bands from 1997 until his retirement in 2005. Some of Mr. Wilcox's honors include: President of the American Bandmaster's Association, Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, Special citations from two governors of the State of West Virginia and he was named Outstanding West Virginian in 1979 for service to the State. At West Virginia University he was named Outstanding Teacher in 1982 and won the President's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching in 1985. He was the Grand Marshall for the Homecoming Parade in honor of his 25th year at WVU in 1995.

Throughout his time as a teacher, Mr. Wilcox frequently worked as a guest clinician and conductor for high school honor and festival bands. He has been a member of the American Bandmasters Association since 1985 and was elected president in 2001. Honoring his many accomplishments in Band directing, The University of Maryland has in their Archives a digital collection entitled, Don Wilcox Collection.

Mr. Wilcox was inducted into the Chickasha High School Hall of Fame in 2003.