

Longview man is voice behind epic 'Mortal Kombat' scream

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Kyle Wyatt Read story inside

May 2021



Kyle Wyatt

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One of the most famous screams from 1990s pop culture came from the pipes of a man who grew up in Longview — and you've probably never heard of him.

Kyle Wyatt was 4 when he and his family moved to Longview from the Dallas area in 1972. Roughly two decades later, he would show up at one of his first acting gigs in New York City and scream "Mortal Kombat!" to birth the franchise's signature sound.

Wyatt, speaking via Zoom recently as the new "Mortal Kombat" movie began playing in theaters, said it was maybe his fourth gig in NYC after abruptly packing up and moving out of East Texas with few plans except to act. He said at the time, he had no idea what was going on.

"I remember we were being placed into groups," Wyatt said. "We were part of the background shot. That's what we were told — the extras."

He said the actor-hopefuls were told to run around the buildings in the Wall Street area of New York, "just moblike," doing a chaotic scene.

> "And I remember a director saying, 'Hey, come here. You. Come here for a second.' "

Wyatt said he hated being called out. He thought he did something wrong.

The director told Wyatt that when he hit his mark, he needed to say "Mortal Kombat."

"Well, I came out with a lot of energy, showing my body, showing my face," he said. "And I hit my mark, and I said, 'Mortal Kombat.'"

The director didn't go for it. He said Wyatt needed to try it with more energy.

On the third take, the director again called to Wyatt.

"'Now, I want you to feel like you've been hit with all the weight in the world — in your gut — all the problems, and then I want you to yell this phrase,' "Wyatt said the director told him.

"I don't want you to say it. I want you to yell this phrase from the bottom of your gut — Mortal Kombat!

The director told Wyatt to keep going and to "yell, yell." So, he kept screaming the phrase over and over.

"They got stationary cameras in position," Wyatt said, describing the scene of the shoot. "They have mobile cameras with the guys running around, then they have this huge boom crane above us with a camera and mics and everything."

Wyatt said the scream happened 29 years ago. He had no idea what it was for or how it might be used. He could not have known how widespread or how well known it would become.

"I was just happy that I paid rent that month," he said.

The scream would be used in the brutal "Mortal Kombat" video games and movie. It was many years later when Wyatt learned that it was sampled in a techno song by a group called The Immortals.

He said as the "Mortal Kombat" franchise grew in popularity, and the scream was used in various ways, people around him still did not know it was him.



Kyle Wyatt, who lived in Longview and did the "Mortal Kombat" scream, demonstrates a voiceover for a monster truck rally.

Wyatt said he is still "a full-fledged actor" with an agent. He said now his three children are signed under his agent.

Wyatt and his wife, who was born in 1986 - the year he graduated from Longview High School - have two daughters, ages 13 and 11, and a 5-year-old son.

He has gotten to act with his two daughters but not yet his son. He said he's looking forward to it.

Acting, however, is not his 9-to-5 job.

"I currently work with Homeland Security, and that's what pays the bills every day right now," he said.

Wyatt still makes it back to Longview. He said he was in town recently to pop in on his mom and dad, who are 84 and 86.

He also has siblings in the area. His sister lives in Longview, along with his oldest brother and his twin brother, Kevin. He has another brother who lives in Keller.

And Wyatt remembers vividly the years he spent in Longview before stealing away to New York City.

His early years included ties to other residents who have gone on to their own forms of greatness.

Wyatt said Academy Award-winning actor Forest
Whitaker's mother was one of his teachers at Mozelle
Johnston Elementary School, and he grew up right down
the street from Matthew McConaughey, who would also
go on to become an Academy Award-winning actor.

Wyatt recalled a time when as a youngster it snowed. He and his friend, Neal McCoy —before he became a country music star — did not have sleds because snow is rare in East Texas. No sleds, but Wyatt's mother baked a lot, so she had plenty of metal cookie sheets. He said he grabbed some of her cookie sheets, and the pair slid down Alpine Road across Loop 281, which then was just two lanes.

A search of News-Journal articles lists Wyatt's name under headings for Longview High School singing productions and theater performances. According to a June 1987 item in the Longview Morning Journal, Wyatt was a member of the Singsations, concert choir, Lobo Band, musical comedy company and was seen on stage in numerous productions of the drama department.

He said he went through college, graduated from Texas A&M University and came back to Longview. Then, he started teaching at Pinewood Park Elementary School. It didn't agree with him.

He said he and Donald Wesley, brother of former NBA basketball player David Wesley, decided to just head to New York to pursue acting.

Wyatt said Wesley had a relative he could stay with in the city. But Wyatt had to sleep on the subway before he found a place to live.

"I had transit cops kicking me, waking me up," he said.

Wyatt soon found an agent out of New Jersey. The agent got him the gig where he would scream those two words that would follow him in his career and in life, after his fanbase told him about its popularity — something for which he'd still be grateful to get a royalty check.

His passion for acting also hasn't changed much in the nearly three decades that passed since the scream at his one-time gig.

"I've always had the acting bug," Wyatt said. "I've loved entertaining people since I came out of the womb. I think I ended up coming out of the womb with a cigar in one hand and a martini in the other, and I said, 'OK, Where's the crowd? Let me work 'em, you know?"

"And my teachers, probably if they're still alive there in Longview, they'll probably tell you the same things."



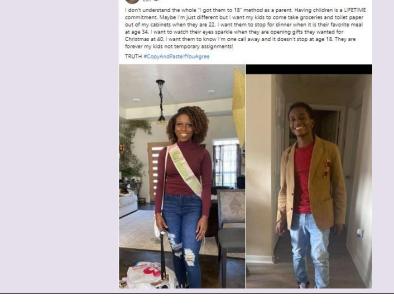












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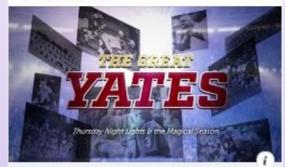








This documentary takes a look at one of the greatest legacies birthed in Houston Texas. We are familiar with the 1985 classic between Jack Yates vs Odessa Permian. Two high school football dynasties met in Texas Stadium to determine who was King in Texas. That day Yates proved to be supreme. Yet there is a far more rich history waiting to be discovered in the film.



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#### The Great Yates 85

The Great Yates film highlighting the '85 high school football seas...

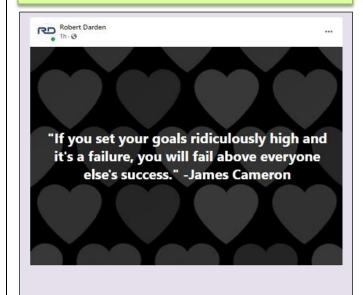






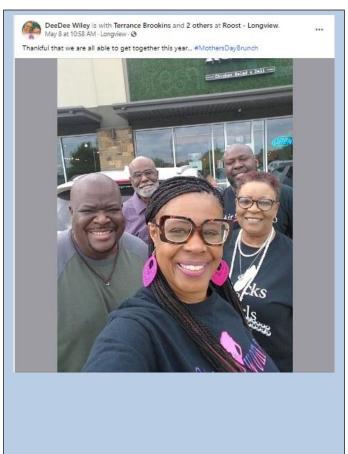


































HAS ANYONE BEEN OUTSIDE? I'M ABOUT TO GO STREEKIN DOWN THE QUAD!! WHO WITH ME? come on you know you want to!







He did it! The rain moved us indoors, but it was very sweet and meaningful. Thank you LISD for making it a special evening! Thank you family and friends who were able to join us and everyone who was cheering for him from home! (And thank you to my good friend who helped take pictures for me so I could enjoy it all! 4

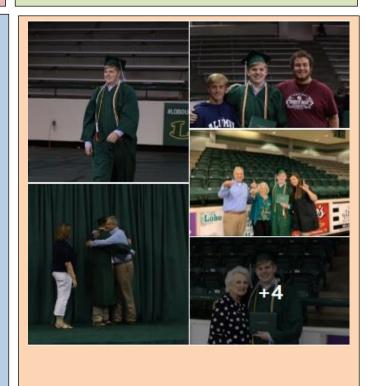
That big beautiful smile melted this mom's heart as he walked up to the stage - an image I will treasure in my heart. And his Lobo Alum dad had the honor of handing him his diploma.

We stayed up late talking about all the good times throughout School For Little Children, Hudson PEP, Foster Middle School and LHS, Lots of sweet memories and times of struggle, too. (We heard a few stories mom and dad had never been told. 😉 😩)

That's a wrap! On to college! Bittersweet rite of passage as a student and parents, but I think it's safe to say, no more science fair projects for the Lorenz family! 🔊 🔊 🔊 🏂 🎉 🎉

Congratulations Sam! We are so proud of you! W # @ 1 00





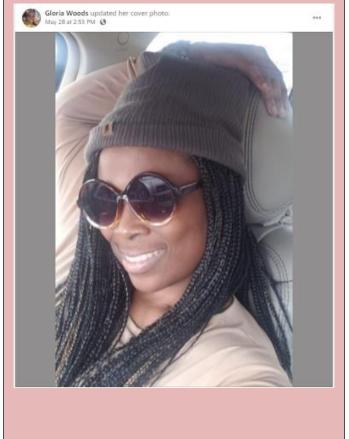


The blessing of another year can't be taken lightly. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send a text, fb message or call. Life is filled with many cycles. We tend to focus on the dispositive and forget to relish in the positive. Each day I rise with a perspective of gratitude. My young menter recently told me "You're Old". To that I laugh, there were times when it didn't seem probable. Yet like Caleb, give me the hill country. #moments2memories #bdshenanigans #gratitur\_See More







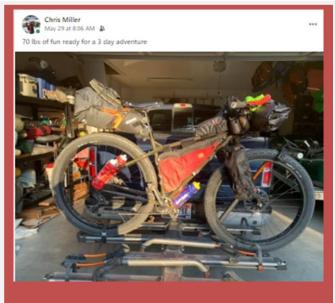


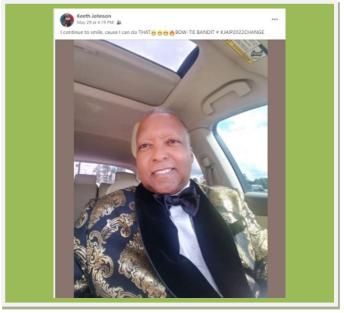


I'm watching Karate Kid, and I just realized that my kids enjoyed a childhood like his training. 😃













### June Happy Birthday!!!

Lawana Frazier-Mims- 2nd Melissa Swearingen-Evans- 2nd Terri Wilson-Jefferson- 13th Terry Lilly- 16th Lavonda Guice- 18th John Coss- 19th Kenneth Beishir- 25th Dana Lilly-Dessesaure- 27th Harvey Boyd- 28th









#### CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:

## The Lobo Class of 1986 Webpage THE BEST CLASS EVER!



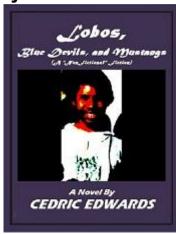
http://www.lobos 86.org

### **Longview High School – 1986** A Class To Remember



http://www.classcreator.com/Longview-TX-1986/class index.cfm

# Lobos, Blue Devils, and Mustangs by Cedric Edwards



http://lobosand bluedevils.blogspot.com

https://www.facebook.com/AClasstoremember86lobos

LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1986 FORUM



August 19, 2009 Barber Institute of Texas re opened a boarded up barber school in South Longview. August 19, 2014 we have a Staff of 7, trained hundreds of Young Men and Women to become Licensed Barbers. Thank you East Texas for your support! Now Enrolling for the Fall. www.bit.edu

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