



UTPCR Honors Willie Nelson

Willie Nelson Story

Willie Nelson is widely recognized as one of America's most enduring cultural icons. In life and art, Nelson symbolizes integrity and the common man. His advocacy on behalf of a myriad of causes springs from a deep well of compassion. As

a musical crusader for peace, not only is he a caretaker to the underprivileged and dispossessed, but a singular voice of reason.

A native of the Central Texas farming community of Abbott, Nelson was raised on traditional forms of music such as gospel and the blues. His love of country music and Western Swing led him to his first release in 1957, followed by a notable career in Nashville as a singer-songwriter. After moving to Austin in the 1970s, Nelson brought rural and urban fans together in concert to witness a musical synthesis that merged rock with country. In doing so, he became a symbol of translation and blazed a new path for popular music.

Nelson embodies the kind of tolerance that can resolve conflicts. As a man of conviction, he has become increasingly involved in charity work over the years. From 1985, when he established the annual Farm Aid concerts, to 2005 when he formed Willie Nelson's Biodiesel to market biofuel to truck stops, Nelson's efforts have drawn public attention while advancing social progress. And the wide range of causes have only increased in recent years, from raising money for victims of natural disasters to advocacy for horses and their treatment.

In April 2007, Nelson founded the Willie Nelson Peace Research Institute to support the promise of peace in our lifetime. With his daughter Amy Nelson, he wrote "A Peaceful Solution" to get the message of peace out into the world. His contributions to the common good and good time music remain a singular achievement.

