

BEAVER DAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
WALL OF FAME

Mark Malak

Stage Name Eddie Rivers

2020 Outstanding Alumnus



Mark Malak is a 1972 graduate of Beaver Dam High School and is a nationally and internationally recognized steel guitarist. Through hard work and determination, Mark left his imprint on the country music industry. His love of Western Swing music led him to self-teach himself the basics of the steel guitar. His reputation as an excellent musician began with his performances with local bands, which is when he adopted his stage name of Eddie Rivers. His talents led to him joining the best-known Western Swing bands in the State and he soon became recognized as one of the finest steel guitar players in the Midwest.

He was asked to join the Grammy-winning Western Swing Band, Asleep at the Wheel. At that time, Mark had to decline due to family obligations and for the next several years he continued performing on weekends. He was given another opportunity to join Asleep at the Wheel, which he then accepted and pursued his career as a professional musician. He recorded over 30 albums with the band and they toured nationally and internationally playing large stadiums to theaters, including the Grand Ole Opry. Mark and the band performed on the David Letterman Show and numerous times on Austin City Limits. In 2015, Mark and other members of Asleep at the Wheel were inducted into the Austin City Limits Hall of Fame.

During his career, Mark also toured with country music legends Ray Price, Willie Nelson, and Merle Haggard on their Last of the Breed concert series and performed with numerous country music stars. In addition to music, Mark also acted in the play A Ride with Bob, which was performed at the Kennedy Center for President George W. Bush, who he personally met. He also met President Obama when he performed and shared the stage with him.

Mark made his Broadway debut with the Tony-award winning musical cast of Million Dollar Quartet. In 2013, he released a solo album titled Plain Talkin' Man. Mark's music excellence was recognized in the Western Swing Rules video series of which he hosted 4 of them. Mark retired in 2019 as the longest running steel guitarist for Asleep at the Wheel.

