



Gary Wayne Tate Jr.

July 17, 1972 - December 4, 2020

Frankfort – Gary “Shorty” Wayne Tate, Jr., age 48, passed away on Friday, December 4, 2020.

Shorty was born in Frankfort on July 17, 1972, to the late Gary Wayne Tate, Sr. and Diane Marie Demmer Craig. He worked at Castle & Key Distillery as the Site Manager, which was the culmination of his years of dedication watching over the property. In a television interview, Shorty said that Castle & Key was the best thing that has ever happened to him besides his marriage. He formerly worked in the Thoroughbred industry and had a passion for his own horses, MacDaddy and Piper. There wasn't a trail he didn't like. A true outdoorsman, Shorty loved to be outside, and especially like to hunt and fish. Shorty was known as a dedicated, hard-working man, and his infectious smile and sense of humor touched many lives. He truly made an impression on everyone he met.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Linda Joyce Webb Tate; son, Rusty Wayne Tate; and sister, Leslie Ann Tate. Shorty leaves behind many extended family members and a multitude of friends who will miss him dearly and cherish his memory.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory. Private services will be held. Serving as pallbearers will be family and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - December 15, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ 60 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - December 15, 2020 at 09:12 AM

LT

“ Oh Shorty. My heart is broken. You were my best friend since 1992 and I met my other best friend, Linda, through you. You taught me how to lead a mare and foal at Vinery, and welcomed me into your home at Midway with Linda and your 3 month old son, Rusty. I know that whoever I brought to your house was automatically welcomed because you trusted me. I have never had a friend like you that I could speak so frankly to, and the fellowship that we all had carries on with Linda and Spence and a few others we trust. Spence is also broken hearted – you and he were brothers and I grieve for his heartache.

When you came to visit me after I moved to Missouri, you brought your weed eater, chain saw, table saw, mower, and tools as a surprise because you always wanted to make our lives better and because you couldn't sit still, even on vacation. And then you gave me a whole set of tools in a tool bag so I could do my own work from what you taught me! Installing my dishwasher at 1 in the morning was challenging but oh my gosh we just laughed and laughed until you sent me to bed.

I remember going to the distillery with you, when it was all vacant and run down, we had private parties by the spring and I remember those late night calls you would get about people trespassing because everyone knew you took care of Old Taylor even though no one else seemed to care. I was so happy for you when Will and Wes bought it because we had waited so long to have a legit person buy and invest in that place that was so dear to you. And then Marianne came and the bond that you had with her was strong with that common purpose to produce amazing spirits in a historic place.

It was so odd to me, when Linda and I would plan our Derby parties, you never attended, even though you took care of some of the best horses in the Thoroughbred industry and had a stellar reputation for your horsemanship. You were a behind the scenes guy, and anyone who knows you knows that you kept the wheels rolling and the train running down the tracks so that the owners could enjoy their

successes. And then there were the others, complete strangers, who you helped because you could. Your heart was so big.

I remember what a defender of animals you were; there was a time when someone ran over a dog on purpose in front of you and I know for sure he remembers the experience of you running him down and pulling him out of the window. You always had honor and did the right thing – I see that in Rusty too.

I remember frog gigging and fishing and turtle cleaning and that night that someone was running their dogs up the hill behind Jim Beam and the howling and the fog and the moonlight was incredible. We sat on the porch many times and just listened to the holler.

We had a lot of adventures – Marty riding in that old Scout with you...the one that you could see the pavement through the floorboards. That Scout had a passenger door that randomly opened at inopportune times and when it flew open and Marty was sure he was going out you reached over and pulled him back in. And the time when Diane was dying and asked for us to come see her so she could talk to Marty about the Lord. That was at Christmas. They talked and she got saved and knew a peace she had never had before. You were sentimental, Shorty; it was important to you to carry on that Christmas breakfast tradition in her honor.

You believed in family and friends...sometimes that bit you back, but you rarely had a bad word to say; I won't say never. You had a deep heart and sometimes people took advantage of that, but not more than once.

Thank you for teaching me the true meaning of family and for loving me throughout our 28 years no matter what. I am really trying to let you go peacefully and to let go of my anger for having you taken so soon. I pray the Lord will help me to think right and I have Marty and Spence to help me with that.

Rest easy Shorty. It was a privilege to know you. I love you.

Lisa Thompson - December 12, 2020 at 02:26 PM

CC

“ *I have known Gary for a long time, he was a very great person and would do anything for anyone, I am beyond words of this... Fly high my frien... RIP*

Cynthia Craig - December 11, 2020 at 07:26 PM

BB

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Shorty 7 years ago while he and the Colonel were the custodians over the property now known as Castle & Key Distillery. I've never met anyone more pleasant to talk to than he. Shorty had a way of lighting up a room with a laugh and a smile! It was almost magical the way he made people feel when in his presence. This world certainly won't be the same without him! I will miss you my friend! My condolences to the family.*
Bruce Beam

Bruce Beam - December 10, 2020 at 04:48 PM

BA

“ *Brenda Adams lit a candle in memory of Gary Wayne Tate Jr.*



Brenda Adams - December 10, 2020 at 09:27 AM

JL

“ I just want to say how sorry I am. I met Shorty through Sandy Goin and spent many a morning in front of a hot wood stove with Sandy tending a fire Shorty started. He was a kind, decent and hardworking man and there are not enough of them in this world today. He will be missed by anyone who ever met him. May God ease the suffering of his family and friends. Jason LeMay

Jason LeMay - December 10, 2020 at 07:55 AM

CJ

I was there for many of those mornings as well. Many blessings for his family. He was one of the friendliest men I've ever known.

Christopher Johnson - December 10, 2020 at 09:57 PM

LT

“ I miss you so much. I know you are at peace now. Fly high with the angels until we're together again

Linda Tate - December 10, 2020 at 07:16 AM