



Kenneth Plesant Tate

April 22, 1934 - September 9, 2023

Traditions of yesteryear he preserved and held so dear;
Born a hundred years too late, the “Old West’s Champion,” Kenneth Tate.

Kenneth P. Tate, 89, passed away on September 9, 2023. He was born on April 22, 1934 in Bartlesville, OK to P.W. “Bill” and Ruby (Hawkins) Tate. He attended Highland Park Elementary, Rice Creek School, and graduated from College High School, Bartlesville, OK in 1952.

Kenneth was involved in farming from a very young age, helping his father in his dairy, cattle and hay businesses. As a young adult he worked at Reda Pump in Bartlesville. In the early 60’s he started his own trucking business, Kenneth Tate Equipment, with a truck given to him by his uncle Leonard Tate. He specialized in building materials, mostly brick and pipe, with contracts that took him from coast to coast.

He found his true passion and calling in Prairie Song, the 1800’s pioneer village he built on the Moore Ranch, east of Dewey. It started in 1983 with a single cabin in the woods to just “get away from it all.” Forty years later, Prairie Song has evolved into an extensive village of 30 authentic buildings, constructed with classic pioneer methods and materials and furnished in period form. His craftsmanship and creativity are most evident in the saloon, church, schoolhouse, jail, hardware store, and blacksmith’s shop. Tours,

events, weddings, and festivals brought visitors from every continent to experience the Old West through his eyes. As his wife, Marilyn, recalled, “Kenneth was a man who had a dream, created his dream, and lived his dream.”

The creation of Prairie Song sparked his involvement in numerous community organizations. He served on the boards of the Washington County Historical Society, Tom Mix Museum, and Dewey’s Western Heritage Days. Kenneth has received numerous local, state, and national awards for his dedication to preserving history.

Anyone who knew Kenneth knew about the special “gals” in his life, Maggie, Sophie, and Rosie, the Yorkshire Terriers and constant companions he has adored over the last 38 years. Whether he was mowing, going to the hardware store, or enjoying an episode of Gunsmoke in his recliner, you would never see that cantankerous old fella without one of his special gals in the crook of his arm.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Moore Tate of Dewey, OK; two sons, Kenny D. Tate and Larry J. Tate, both of Bartlesville, OK; a stepdaughter, Linda Peale Owens of Tulsa, OK; a stepson, Sherman Lucas of Peyton, CO; three brothers, Ronald Tate of Bartlesville, OK, Dale Tate of Charleston, SC, and Gary Tate of Fritch, TX; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his son, Mark Tate and daughter-in-law, Sherry Tate; sisters Rena Mae King, Norma Robinson, both of Bartlesville, OK; and sister Wilma Wells of North Carolina.

Visitation will be held at Stumpff Funeral Home in Bartlesville on Thursday, September 14th from 9 am to 5 pm and on Friday, September 15th from 9 am

to 7 pm. A private memorial service and burial will take place at Prairie Song.

Due to current circumstances the family is unable to receive condolences or visits in the home.

Online condolences for the family can be left at stumpff.org

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to support the Bartlesville Area History Museum. Donations can be sent to: 401 S Johnstone Ave, Bartlesville OK, 74005. For questions, please contact the museum at 918-338-4292.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **14.** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory
1600 SE Washington Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org>

Visitation

SEP **15.** 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory
1600 SE Washington Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-4300
info@stumpff.org
<https://www.stumpff.org>

Tribute Wall

BM

“ My heart goes out to Marilyn is wonderful wife and family. I never met more ambitious man in my life! Such a passion for life, and creating an amazing world, pretty much by himself from friends and family! Kenneth met when he called me to deliver antique stoves for the amazing village! We both had an amazing passion for the past and re-creating bring back memories of the good old days! KennethS smile and wisdom will be messed forever! Such a wonderful man! Bill McCann and friends will miss this wonderful man! Again, my prayers go out to Marilyn, friends and family. Please take care.!

Bill McCann from Minnesota - February 21, 2024 at 11:49 PM

 Terri
Yost

“ On a visit to Bartlesville some years ago my husband and I ran across Kenneth and Pararie song by accident, we received a personal tour from Kenneth, just me and hubby. This man was so full of knowledge and proud as a peacock with his creation. We enjoyed the man and is work, his graciousness in showing us around and his guessing games, we were still out in the pasture 10:00pm with flashlights and the most amazing man. Your community should be so proud of what this man had to offer. I was looking forward to returning with a list of friends. Hope this place continues to thrive.

Terri Yost - November 01, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ *Kenneth Pleasant Tate*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM

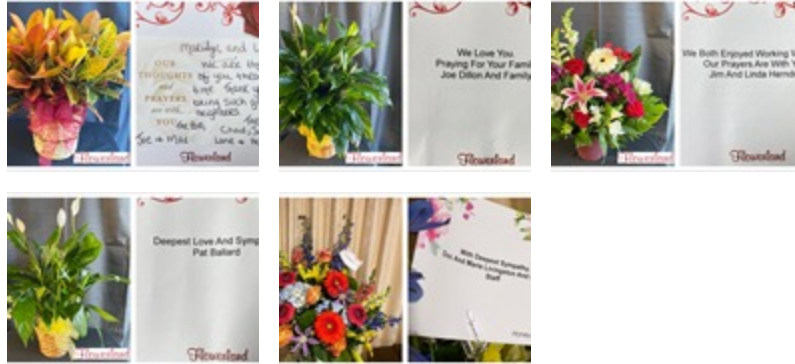


“ Kenneth Pleasant Tate

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - September 15, 2023 at 12:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Video



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - September 14, 2023 at 03:04 PM

SJ

My best friend and my boss for 27 years. I learned a lot from him and enjoyed all the hours that we worked together in the heat and the cold. He was like a father to me and I will miss him more than one could know. I will cherish every moment of time that we spend together. Thanks for everything Dad and I hope to see you in the town that you built in heaven for your family and friends.

Stephen Jardot - September 15, 2023 at 08:06 PM

BC

“ *My condolences to Marilyn and family. Kenneth created such a wonderful legacy with Prairie Song and I know he was so proud of it. Praying God gives you comfort in the precious memories that you hold so dear.*

Becky Cowen - September 14, 2023 at 11:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth Pleasant Tate.*



September 14, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Kenneth always showed me great respect and I will return that with admiration and great respect for him being such a determined and generous man. RIP Pilgrim, Rooster*

Clarence Benes - September 13, 2023 at 10:49 AM

LP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Hugs to Marilyn.*

Linda Clark Prentice - September 12, 2023 at 01:46 PM

MW

“ *Uncle Kenny taught me how to drive an 18 wheeler. Not too many 12 year old girls can say that. You were truly a special person. You loved my mom and she loved you back. Michelle*

Michelle Wells-Colgate - September 12, 2023 at 12:50 PM

TT

“ *Special condolences to Family. Lots of great memories at Prairie Song and on the ranch for many years since childhood. Dad and I and sometimes sisters would appreciate fishing on the ranch and we would cook up some fish and bring them to Kenneth and Marilyn for breakfast hot. Kenneth loved the fried fish. He could eat a lot of them. Great memories at fish fries also. Most sincere prayers for all left behind. Teresa (Lucas) Templeton*

Teresa Templeton - September 12, 2023 at 12:01 PM

DE

“ *We were blessed to visit Prairie Song and y'all a few years ago with our nephew (Brian) Praying as you walk this valley of grief, that God's love brings comfort to your hearts...*

Deb - September 12, 2023 at 06:52 AM

KC

“ *Marilyn. Love and prayers to you and all who loved Ken. He lived his life to the fullest and I am glad he will rest where he was the happiest.*



Kathy Tierney Cain - September 12, 2023 at 12:21 AM

JS

“ *Jeanne Foreman Shepherd lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Plesant Tate*



Jeanne Foreman Shepherd - September 11, 2023 at 08:39 PM

RB

“ Marilyn, I was so sad to hear of Ken's passing. He was one of a kind and I always learned something from him when i visited with him. He was so proud of Prairie Song and you.
I will be praying for you now and in the a head.



Rosy Nikkel Beck - September 11, 2023 at 07:40 PM