



## Charles Thomas "Tommy" Tate Sr.

August 20, 1925 - July 30, 2020

Charles Thomas "Tommy" Tate Sr. of Blacksburg, Va., died peacefully at Roanoke Memorial Hospital as a result of a traumatic neck injury on July 30, 2020.

Tommy was born August 20, 1925 in Mullins, W.Va. to Charles V. and Edith M. Tate. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Frances S. Tate, daughter Charlotte Tate Burgess, sons Charles Thomas Tate II (Nancy), James Edgar Tate; grandchildren Amy B. McKinney (Ryan), Megan K. Tate (Salman), Charles T. Tate III (Dorcas), two great grandchildren Christian Gutierrez Tate, and Charles Thomas-Joseph Tate. He is predeceased by his three great grandchildren Emma Grace, Joshua Ryan and Landon McKinney; many nieces and nephews.

Tommy was a life long resident of Blacksburg. He served in the 20th US Army Air Corps in WWII as a gunner on a B 29, flying 21 missions over Tokyo, Japan. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star. He graduated from Virginia Tech after the war in Business Administration, and was co-owner /manager of Hardie's Esso. Tommy left the Esso station to act as Asst. Director of the Cooperative Education program at Va Tech.

Upon his retirement, Tommy began working at Heavener's Hardware, where he worked until he was two weeks shy of his 91st birthday. Until the day he died, he regretted not being able to continue working.

Tommy was a member of the Blacksburg United Methodist Church, one of the founding members of the Blacksburg First Aid Squad, and served on the

Blacksburg Volunteer Fire Department. He had a kind and cheerful spirit, loved his family , friends and dogs dearly . He never met a stranger , and was known to feed the stray cats behind Heavens in the mornings before work . He enjoyed his gin and tonics, cigars, telling good jokes, and cutting a mean rug with his bride to Big Band Music. He is dearly loved, and will be greatly missed

There will be a graveside service at Westview Cemetary in Blacksburg on Tuesday , August 4, 2020 at 11:00 am, the family encourages guests to dress for the weather. The Reverend Scott Obenchain will be officiating . In lieu of flowers , donations can be made to the Montgomery County Animal Shelter, or the Va. Tech School of Veterinary Science. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

AUG 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Westview Cemetery  
723 E. Roanoke Street  
Blacksburg, VA

# Tribute Wall

NA

“ Both of your parents were treasured friends of my parents. Jack, my husband, was one of Tommy's co-op students at Virginia Tech. We have such wonderful memories of your father both together and separately.

We plan to drive from our home of 8 years in South Carolina for the funeral on Tuesday so we, like many others, can pay our proper respects.

Much love to all,  
Nancy Hummel Aden

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**Nancy Hummel Aden** - August 02, 2020 at 02:29 PM

JD

“ Tommy and I worked together at Heavener's for a few years. I have missed seeing him since he retired. He was always fun to be around. We lost another of the greatest generation.

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**Jim Dailey** - August 02, 2020 at 01:40 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Charles Thomas "Tommy" Tate Sr..



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August 01, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Charles Thomas "Tommy" Tate Sr..*



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July 31, 2020 at 10:26 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of your family's loss. Tommy was a versatile and entertaining man. He will be missed. Cecelia Ferguson*

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**Cecelia Ferguson** - July 31, 2020 at 03:18 PM



*Mr. T was a good man and an even greater mentor. He took this city kid from Cincinnati and helped me to appreciate life in a small town and it's people. He, Roger and I shared lots of laughs and many good times.*

*Tommy Tate was a great man and I am happy to have called him friend.*

*Love and Prayers to you all*

*Kimberly ware.*

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**Kimberly Ware** - August 07, 2020 at 05:19 AM