



Gertrud "Gerti" Tate

September 1, 1945 - May 22, 2018

PRINCETON – Gertrud Hilda “Gerti” Tate, 72, of Princeton, was united with her husband of 48 years on the evening of Tuesday, May 22, 2018. Born September 1, 1945 in Mannheim, Germany, she was the daughter of the late Karl Barth and Maria Elisabeth Giebel Barth.

Everyone called her Gerti. Born and raised in Germany, she grew up to be a tall redhead who worked as a bookkeeper in a local office. It was at a Mannheim fair in the spring of 1969 that she met Bill Tate. She thought that he was just another soldier trying to pick her up. When she spoke of their meeting, she would often say that she was amazed that she could put together enough English to tell him off. Luckily, he persisted and she eventually agreed to date. She loved that he was a gentleman and her eyes would shine when she recounted that he kissed her on the forehead at the end of their first date. Three months later they were married. They had two children while still in Germany: Christina in 1970 and William Jr. in 1972. Gerti began a new life in the United States when she and Bill moved their growing family to West Virginia in 1974, and in 1975 their final child, Elisabeth, completed the family.

Gerti worked as a waitress, mostly at Omelet Shoppe in Princeton, West Virginia for the better part of 32 years. She was a born people person and enjoyed meeting every person that came through the doors. She served

burgers and kindness. She filled coffee cups and hearts. She saved countless lives by hiding keys and sobering customers up. She made sure that everyone was fed, even if she had to help them with a few bucks. There was no need for judgement or shame. She understood that sometimes a little help was needed. She truly treated everyone with dignity and respect. She knew everyone; police officers, firefighters, nurses, doctors, bartenders, exotic dancers, truck drivers, coal miners, college professors and the list goes on. Her college kids would come in and she'd keep their coffee cups filled while they sat studying in the corner of her station. Years later, those same "kids" would bring their own freshman children to meet her. She made countless baby blankets for her customers and loved receiving Christmas cards with family pictures from near and far. She loved meeting people by chance when she was shopping and would be greeted by everyone. Everyone knew Gerti.

Gerti loved crocheting and professional wrestling. She enjoyed traveling and collecting postcards. She loved sweets, especially cheesecake and coffee. She was a loving mother and grandmother, a faithful wife and a loyal friend. She did the best she could with what she was given in life. She was blessed and knew it which made her doubly blessed. She will be remembered as an incredible human being.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William H. Tate; father-in-law, Joseph E. Tate; mother-in-law, Antoinetta Tate; and her sister, Marie-Luise Barth.

Survivors include daughter, Christina Tate-Noecker and husband Joerg of Princeton; son, William H. Tate, Jr. and wife Alicia of Princeton; daughter, Elisabeth Tate-Collin and husband Edward of Columbus, OH; brother, Fritz Barth; four grandchildren, Adia Hayes, Quinlan McKenzie, Nicholas Noecker and Zan Collin; additional chosen family, Stephen Hayes and Ryan McKenzie; special friend, Glen Angelle; in-laws, Joe Tate, J.C. Tate, Elvin Tate, Cheche

Casto, Bob Tate, Charlotte Tellez, Muesetta Holbert and Dillard Tate; and countless nieces and nephews.

Rite of Christian Burial will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 26, 2018 at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton with Deacon Don Hammond officiating. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Princeton. A reception will follow at the CASE family center, 205 Thorn Street, Princeton.

The family will receive friends Saturday, May 26, 2018 from noon until service hour at the Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. To view a video tribute to Gerti, or share condolences, please visit www.bailey-kirk.com.

Please check back here after 1:00 p.m. on Saturday to view a video memorial tribute to Gerti.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

1917 West Main St.
Princeton, WV 24740

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 26. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
1612 Honaker Avenue
Princeton, WV 24740
(304) 425-8176
info@bailey-kirk.com
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 26. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home
1612 Honaker Avenue
Princeton, WV 24740
(304) 425-8176
info@bailey-kirk.com
<https://www.bailey-kirk.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate*



Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home - May 26, 2018 at 10:10 AM



“ *Gertrud "Gerti" Tate*

December 27, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Gerti was one of the first persons me and my husband met in Princeton when we moved here from Charleston SC almost 10 years ago. We used to eat at the omelette shop some nights. I remember her being one of the sweetest people I ever met, non judgmental, just a truly genuinely kind lady. It's been years since we've ate there, but Gerti left an impression on me in my short time of knowing her. She's irreplaceable, may she rest in peace.*

Brandy Suchi Limatuj - May 26, 2018 at 07:30 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate.*



May 25, 2018 at 11:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate.*



May 25, 2018 at 10:39 PM



“ *How do you become famous in a small town, simple, just serve people with a kind heart. The truth is there have been few, if any, that has touched as many lives in this little town as Gerti did. No pretense, no flash, no assuming approach...just simple humility laced with just the right amount of motherly sternness for we inebriated college kids that would visit the Omelet Shop the wee hours of the morning after the clubs started closing in the 80's. She helped us get through those lost seasons of life without even realizing it. I look back as a pastor now and wonder if Gerti helped keep me alive to make it to more functional days. Gerti left her mark on this town and we consider her a hero. Thanks Gerti!*

Scott Catron - May 25, 2018 at 11:18 AM

 Chris Orlicki

“ Gerti was a beautiful soul. I have great memories of her and her family living next to us. It didn't matter if Gerti hadn't seen you in years, she would treat you like family. A beautiful soul inside and out. R.I.P Gerti.

Chris Orlicki - May 25, 2018 at 06:38 AM

SG

“ I'm so sad to hear this! Gertie was a wonderful soul. Heaven has gained a beautiful angel! She will forever be missed...

Sheryl Gray - May 24, 2018 at 11:35 PM

SR

“ Gerti was such an awesome person. I absolutely Loves to work with her. she was for sure one of a kind. and No doubt one of the very best people I have ever met. We sure had some good laughs together
RIP Gerti
Pastor Steve Robinette

Steve Robinette - May 24, 2018 at 11:05 PM

SP

“ I worked with Gertie at the omelette shop in Princeton when I was 19 years old... She was like a mother to all of us that work there! She was a blessing in so many ways! My condolences to the family and prayers for you all during this time. She is now walking the streets of gold with a smile on her face... The same smile she wore every day here in Princeton.

sharon peck - May 24, 2018 at 11:01 PM

MC


My heart is heavy after hearing the news, Gertie definitely touched everyone who met her. I know that she touched my life. Heaven has a new champion now, Gertie is watching over her loved ones now and forever. Mt thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Michelle Carter - May 25, 2018 at 06:32 AM

BD

“ *My college career would simply not have been the same without Gerti. What a privilege to get to know such a kind, big-hearted person!*

Barbie Dobbins - May 24, 2018 at 09:23 PM

 Cheryl Keeney

“ *Glad to have been someone privileged to be one of the lives this wonderful woman. The world will be dimmer without her in it.*

Cheryl Keeney - May 24, 2018 at 08:58 PM

JU

“ *You could always count on Gerri's smiling face being in the omelette shop. We visited her every Thursday night and just about any other late night excursion. She was a sweet lady and so kind. Personally I think her being there is why it was the magnet that attracted all of the college kids there. Every one knew her and she knew everyone. We were all blessed to know here and she meant alot to everyone that visited the omelette shop.*

Junior - May 24, 2018 at 08:52 PM

Lillie
Bee

“ Lillie Bee lit a candle in memory of Gertrud
"Gerti" Tate



Lillie Bee - May 24, 2018 at 08:17 PM

BR

“ Wow, its been 30+ years since I've thought of you. I remember you
for you kindness and happy smile. I'm glad to hear you had a good
life. Godspeed!

Bridget - May 24, 2018 at 08:03 PM

SS

“ Gerti was a cornerstone to my time in the area. I was always
amazed at how much she knew about and cared about the college
kids that regularly visited her. Whenever I speak to my children
about my time at college Gerti is a regular part of those stories. It's
impossible to overestimate the impact she has had on the young
people that have known her.

Shawn Sullivan - May 24, 2018 at 07:30 PM

JE

“ She was among the very best of us, her influence, her kindness, her
generosity, and her love has rippled out across the world wherever
her "kids" went, and will last for a couple generations at least :-)
She was the superlative of the German character, Christian values, and
Southern hospitality.

*I love you, I miss you, and I'm so glad I knew you, Gerti. God bless
your family.*

Jeanne - May 24, 2018 at 06:57 PM

PR

“ I knew Gerti for a short time when my brother Tom Hendricks took over the Omelet Shoppe and renamed it the Omelet Spot and Gerti stayed on for a while. She was always smiling and was the most popular person at the restaurant. God bless her and her family You can be sure she is now smiling in heaven.

Pat Hendricks Rye - May 24, 2018 at 06:29 PM

JG

“ JC , Nancy & Girls purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate.



JC , Nancy & Girls - May 24, 2018 at 05:54 PM

JE

“ Gertie touched so many lives she will be missed everyone will be in my thoughts and prayers



Jennie - May 24, 2018 at 05:45 PM

JE

“ Jennie lit a candle in memory of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate



Jennie - May 24, 2018 at 05:41 PM



Rebecca
Recco

“ My favorite memory of Gerti was when I went with Christina and a bunch of college friends to see her at Omelet Shop and she made us all omelettes and invited us to visit anytime. She was so sweet to me every time I visited and treated me like one of the family. I am so sad that she has left us. She had the biggest heart.



Rebecca Recco - May 24, 2018 at 02:37 PM

EA

“ I am so sorry to hear of your Mom passing, I will be praying for you and your family. So close to your Fathers passing, now they will be together rest in peace. Remember all the great times you shared and that she is always in your heart. God Bless. Prayers. Eugenia Anderson OLMS

Eugenia Anderson - May 24, 2018 at 02:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate.



May 24, 2018 at 01:13 PM

KD

“ What an inspiration you were to sooooo many people. You will be missed Gerti. I still have the post card you sent me from Germany as I'm sure you held onto mine when I was driving a truck. RIP sweet lady

Karen Duncan - May 24, 2018 at 12:43 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gertrud "Gerti" Tate.*



May 24, 2018 at 12:39 PM



“ *What precious memories of a wonderful lady! She and her husband raised 3 wonderful children, 2 of whom I taught. Gerti will always be remembered as a kind soul. My deepest sympathy to the family - to lose both parents in such a short time is so very sad.*

Mary Jane Farmer - May 24, 2018 at 12:28 PM



“ *MS. Gerti, you may e gone but will never be forgotton! Rest in Peace young lady and until that day, may the comfort of being with your husband bring a smile upon your face.*



John O. Lowe - May 24, 2018 at 12:23 PM