Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
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Oscar David Tate

Nov. 2, 1946 - Jan. 24, 2024

Oscar David Tate, 77, of Morganton, NC, passed away Wednesday, January 24, 2024.

Born in Manhattan, NY on November 2, 1946, he was the son of the late Samuel Alexander Tate and the late Dora Baker Tate of the Lake James Community.

Oscar graduated from Olive Hill High School in 1965 and Harris Barber College in 1966. He served in the US Army from 1967 to 1969, one year of which was as an infantryman in Vietnam. As a result of injuries obtained from his service, he retired as a barber for Western Carolina Center in 1975.

Oscar was a born again Christian and attended New Bethel Baptist Church. He was an active student in Sunday school and Bible study, and he served as an assistant vacation Bible school teacher and member of the missionary.

Mr. Tate was very active in his community. He helped organize and served with the North Carolina Agent Orange Outreach Program for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, a chemical used in the Vietnam War. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, a member of American Legion Post 322, and member of the Riverine Force Association.

Oscar was also a life member of the NAACP and chairman of the Veteran Affairs

Committee and Parliamentarian of the Burke County NAACP for 15 years. He participated for many years in the Black History Festival of the NAACP, providing black history books, posters, pictures, cards, and materials to the public.

He was a past board member of The Outreach Center, where he worked with special projects. He also served on the Community Resource Council at the Foothill

Correctional Center for 15 years.

Oscar was a member of the History Museum of Burke County and past member of the Burke County Historical Society. He was also active in voter registration and getting voters to the polls for many years.

He had a passion for geology and organized the Rock and Mineral Club at Hillcrest Elementary School and served as its advisor for 7 years. He continued to teach about rocks and minerals to children through the Morganton Recreation Department mineral shows and to various schools, scout groups, and churches.

Always willing to serve, Oscar was a 25-year member of Caring Hearts Mission Outreach of Morganton. He helped serve and deliver meals to the sick and shut-in. He also transported individuals to medical appointments, ran errands for the needy, and delivered payments to utility companies and rental agencies for those unable to do so.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 54 years, Diann Thomas Tate; daughter, Richette Tate-Gore (Michael); grandchildren, Michaelanthony T. Gore and Benjamin David Gore; brothers, Samuel B. Tate and Louie P. Tate; brothers-in-law, Stephen L. Thomas (Susan), Frank A. Thomas (Sandra), and Phillip J. Thomas (Vonda); sisters-in-law, Audrey B. Tate, Belinda T. Vinson (Walter), and Frances T. Parker; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., Sunday, January 28, 2024 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home with Rev. Willard Watkins officiating. Burial will follow in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Caring Hearts Mission Outreach, P.O. Box 2013, Morganton, NC 28680 or to a charity of your choice.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

To the family of Oscar Tate He was a great friend.Met him when I worked with his wife Diann.Remember he and Diann when Ritchette was born.Beautiful lovely man of God.He will be missed by all who knew him.May he rest in peace.Father God please hold Diann and family in your arms and comfort them.

—Sue Bumgarner



I feel so blessed to have all of you express so many beautiful thoughts of Oscar. He was a very special, kind and loving man. I'm so humbled by all the acts of kindness and sympathy that was expressed to Richette, my family and myself. Also, the donations that were made to Caring Hearts Mission Outreach in his memory. May God bless each of you and you remain in my most sincere prayers.

—Diann Thomas Tate



Dear Mrs Diane I was just browsing and came across your husband’s obituary I’m so very sorry he was a great man of God and I know you miss him.. you are in my prayers for it has been 17 months since the passing of my Charles!! You can call on me anytime if needed! Love Lolita

—Lolita Armstrong

Diann and Family, I am so sorry to learn of Oscar's passing. I know you adored him as you always spoke of him with such admiration and love. I extend my sincere sympathy. May God grant you all much peace and comfort in the days ahead. Do you ever hear from Myrtle B.?

—Norma K Rains

—Norma Rains

Sending condolences and prayers to "The Tate Family." My God bless you and keep you strong. Love you, Cathy Rakestraw.

—Cathy Rakestraw

We are so sorry for your loss . Sending hugs and prayers to the family. Such a great men.

—Ivan & Evelyn Burgos

May you be blessed with memories of joy and happiness that you and Oscar had for all those years, also I would like to THANK you guys for all the Hugs, smiles and words of encouragement that you gave me when we meet at the VA or shopping. Thanks you so much God Bless be with you in those days to come we Love you and yours

—Kenneth & Margo Williams

Diann, This is Martin from the long ago Martin Jewelers on South Sterling Street there in Morganton. I am so sorry to hear about Oscar's passing. As you already know, Oscar was a great man and true friend. I so enjoyed the time he and I spent together talking about geology, the Vietnam War, Family, Friends and Burke County. Oscar admired and cherished you and Rockette so very much as he often spoke of you both in our conversations. Although miles and events seperated us I have and will always cherish his friendship as he was, "THE REAL DEAL." If there

is anything that I can do for you and your family please do not hesitate to give me a call. Always in my thoughts and prayers and in God's trust, Martin

—Martin K. Saulman

To Sis. Diane and Family You have my condolences and prayers in the transitioning to the after life of Bro. Oscar Tate. Oscar wore his spiritual gifts of giving, helping, and encouraging along with other that were blessings to so many of us. I pray God bring healing to the wound of grief, so the day will come when you have the memories of Oscar without the pain you may be experiencing right now. Remember earth has no sorrows heaven cannot heal. God Bless Pastor Owens

—Ronald Owens

Sending Our Condolences to you and your family. So sorry for your loss. Mr. Tate will be greatly missed. He was one of the kindest and caring person you could meet. You are in our prayers. Angela & Bobby Robertson

—Angela Robertson

A very great man God speed my brother see you in heaven and our condolences to the family

—Pastor James &,Elizabeth Rutherford

Dear Diann and extended family. So sorry to read of your loss of such a fine man with many talents. Peace and Blessings to all.

—Bo Cash

My condolences to you family and friends, Oscar was a friend and a hero to me. I thank God for allowing me to be apart of his life and I will cherish the memories we had together. My prayers are with you all and I will continue to uplift you all in my prayers. Love you all..

—James H Avery

With sympathy and prayers to the family. May the hope of heaven give you peace. Rest in Jesus Bro. Oscar.

—Bro. Greg means

Cousin Oscar was such a wonderful man, an example and inspiration. I love every moment I ever spent with him and how he helped and encouraged me in studying Black History. He will be greatly missed because he was greatly loved

—Aiesha Suttles



Diane and family I was sadden to hear of Oscar's passing. He was always such a quiet gentle soul. It was always such joy to see him at the family reunion or any family gathering. My cousin will be missed but I know he has earned his rest. The family will be in my prayers. Much love, Bobbie Cooper and family.

—Bobbie Cooper



God bless tha family

—Lorraine Frederick kincaid



RIP MR TATE

—MARSHA KILLIAN



Dianne, Our prayers for your family and deepest condolences are extended your way as you find your way through this most difficult time. Oscar had a genuine love for his family whether immediate or extended and had a kindness and true concern for others about him that you don't find in folks much anymore. We ask God to send the Comforter your way to strengthen you and comfort you. Our love to you all, Bobby and Luci

—Bobby and Luci Davis

Oscar, I new the hug that you gave at the olive hill reunion was so special that it was heart felt. Diane and you know how special you are to us. Precious ant it sweet that we have a wonderful and just God that loves us so much that He want us with Him

—Arney and vera

My most sincere condolences to the Tate family..Nice memories of this family growing up. May God's Peace and Blessings be with you all! Mary Hunter Hardy

—Mary Hunter Hardy



My sincere condolences to the Tate family! God Bless!

—Sarah W Tate

My sincere Condolence to Diann and the entire family, Oscar was one of the Sweetest and loving man, Always greeting with a smile,He will be truly missed, Mildred Hawkins

—Mildred Hawkins

Oscsr was a wonderful person with a kind and fighting spirit. My prayers are with you.

–Deloris Johnson

Condolences and prayers to the entire family! May God contunue to bring you peace and comfort! Our great friend will be missed.

–Rev. & Mrs. Herbert Carter and Family



Our condolences go out to the family for your loss and may your memories bring you comfort in the days ahead.

–John and Paula Ferguson

Dear family. Oscar was the sweetest calming person. Will miss seeing him at the family reunions. Rest in heaven my dear cousin

–Diane Tate Cornwell

Words cannot express the sadness and emptiness I am feeling. It feels like a part of my heart has ceased to exist. As far as I can remember, my cousin Oscar and I have had a special bond. I never witnessed any anger or negativity from him. Always enjoyed his leadership and contributions to the family reunions. His absence will be missed by many. Now as he sleeps, let us always remember the impact he had in our lives. Thank you Diann for your love, endurance and care for your soul mate, Amen

–Duke Logan & Artie Mckesson-Logan

I am sending my love, prayers, and condolences to Diane, Richyetta, and the whole family. Uncle Oscar has been in my life since I was a baby. He has taught

me and all my children so much. He was and always will be AWESOME. RIP Uncle Oscar.

–Gina Erwin Murphy

Our heart is sadden about your departure & to your family. We thank God that our path crossed with you & your family! “Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning “.

–Dr.(Rev) & Mrs. Dennis Mims & Family

My sympathies go out to Diann and the Tate family. You didn't have to know him well to see that Oscar was one of the givers, truly a man of service and love. Much love to you all.

–Laurie Johnston

Sending our deepest condolences during this time of loss. Doris Fleming and Family

–Doris Fleming

Mr. Tate, I will miss you dearly. I am so glad that you are at Peace. I will never forget our Christmas and New Year Dinner at Uncle Gene and Aunt Frances. You will always be my favorite mentor!!! See you on the other side Uncle Oscar Tate.

–Craig Boston



My deepest condolences to the family during this time. Oscar was my first cousin & I have very fond memories with him. He will truly be missed!

–Alice Surratt & Family

Dear Family Sending love and sincere condolences. Oscar was always so welcoming to all and will be missed greatly by so many.

–Virginia Hyman

Love- is the message you always spread in all our talks throughout my life. You were a True example of how a Man of any color should live his life. Your inspiration you instilled in me will continue. You have meant so much to so many with your kind and giving heart. Rest easy Brother-n-Law. You will be MISSED-

–Phillip & Vonda Thomas

While I am saddened to learn of Oscar's transition, I smile when I think of memories. He was that person who walked into your life and left his footprint in your heart. To the family, we will always have that special bond and we'll gather later by and by. Love you all, Jackie and Don

–Jacqueline Scott



I am so very sorry to hear about this. Oscar was one of the nicest people and the most humble person. He will be missed. Diane, you and your family have my deepest condolences and prayers for this most difficult time. I love you all. God bless you all.

–Thomas Toni



My loving cousin Oscar ! Nowhere could you find a more caring and loving soul. He loved people, he really loved family, but most of all, he loved God! Wherever you encountered him, you left with a word of encouragement, a word of wisdom, a word from God; that was who he was. Oscar David Tate, not of large stature, not of loud voice, but

a giant of a man of humility and humanity, of respect and dignity, he will be truly missed by all. You're be forever in my heart and as you never forgot to say, I love you.

–Greta Tate

So sorry to hear Oscar's passing. I moved away and it has been awhile saw he and Diann. May condolences to the family. Will always be greatful for his guidance applying for VA Benefits. Lorenzo and Diane Richardson PO Box 525, Mineral Springs NC. 28108

–Lorenzo Richardson

My condolences go out to the family sorry for out lost

–Troy Mcgimpsey

Chris and I were friends with Oscar and Diann for many years and are saddened by his passing. He certainly left his mark on many many people for he gave unstintingly of his time and energies whenever he saw a need. A stalwart Christian like Oscar and his accomplishments will remain in the memories of everyone that he helped. Our sincere condolences to all his family.

–Chris and Lucille Hartmann

–Stephanie Ervin Davis



My condolences to the family. God bless.

–Vanya McElrath

Sending my Condolences To The Tate Family. Oscar was definitely a Legend of Burke Co. God Bless U Family. Love U.

–Rev Audrey Gwynn

I am very saddened to learn of the death of cousin Oscar. He has been an inspiration in my life for over 50 years. Here was a man experiencing great difficulties in life as a result of his time in service of our country, yet he used his time to make everyone else's life a little less difficult. In time, In time I came to realize that our talks during my teenage years were actually mentoring sessions, when Oscar would share his stories, experiences, and lent advise. It was his advice about the military that I carried with me throughout my time in service. Although we didn't see much of each other since my leaving Morganton so many years ago, Oscar has always been in my heart. I'll always remember Oscar as the dear sweet person that did not let his disabilities get in the way of his desire to help others. Diann/Ritchett, with all my love! Louis

–Louis Tate

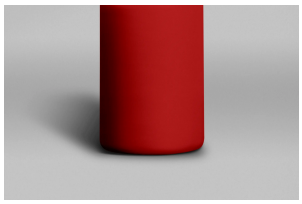
Family my deepest sympathy to u. May our God comfort you and keep you . I'm sorry for your loss my prayers are with you.

–Minister Daniel corpeningFamily my deepest

Oscar will be truly missed. A kind and gentle soul that was full of love. Always caring for his fellow man and that of the younger generation. Even though we were cousins I considered him to be a brother and a great friend To his wife and family I offer my sincere condolences. They are not dead who live in the hearts they leave behind.” – Tuscarora

–Bill Harvey





—curtiss L. Poteat



Sending my deepest heartfelt condolences to the Tate Family. Oscar was so very special to me and my children. I felt privileged to call him friend. My heart broke at the sad news of his transition. He will forever be in my heart and family you will continually be in our prayers.

—Ruth Roseboro



My heartfelt condolences to Diann, Richet, Sammy, Louie and all the immediate family! Cousin Oscar was so kind hearted and was an awesome Man of God. You will truly be missed! Cousin Kimberly Howell Charlotte, NC

—Kimberly Howell



—Edna Suttles

Dear Diann and Family. My sincere sympathy on the passing of Mr. Oscar! I met him years ago while you were teaching at Hillcrest. I knew about and admired his work in the community! To me, he was a kind, gentle giant! I'm thinking of you as you move forward without your beloved husband and father. Blessings, Nancy Ferguson Brown

–Nancy Ferguson Brown



–Linda Givens



With love and condolences to the family.

–Jacqueline C. Kanipe



Oscar played in a huge part of my child hood. From getting many differnt coins from him at the recreational center to seeing him at church on Sunday's. He made a point to make sure my sister and I was ok and if we ever needed anything we could come straight to him. He loved my sister and I. And I just want to say Thank you Oscar Tate! May you rest in peace! Also my condolences goes out to Mrs.Tate and Richette may god give you guys strength through this saddend time.

–Angie Largent

Hi Diann and Ritchie, I just want You to know how Sorry Amy,Angie and I are. He was like my Brother and will be missed.

–Wanda Largent

–Louis, Mary and Barbara Smith

My prayers are with you Diann and family. The loss of a dedicated community member and loyally committed to whatever he was involved in. Loved sharing Black History Memorabilia with one another, transporting voters to the polls and time volunteering with the Caring Hearts Ministry. He was a man full of

knowledge and wisdom and loved sharing it with others. What a Christ-like example he was. Sleep on Oscar my friend

—Carla Kincaid

I love Oscar he was always there ever since I could remember anyone in my life. He was so faithful to God and his family. We will miss his sense of humor and love for us . Love Frank and Sandy

—Frank Thomas

So sorry for the loss to this family I am a friend of Belinda Judy Johnson

—Judy Johnson

Mr. Tate is a wonderful father-in-law, and a wonderful grandfather. I am proud to be his son-in-law. Love on family every chance you get.

—Michael Gore

Diann, family and friends, My deepest condolences. I wish I had had more opportunities to have good conversation with the Christian man who is now in his room in the mansion of our Lord. Blessing as you all go through the tough grieving process.

—Wayne Giese