



L. Craig Gates

July 13, 1943 - July 25, 2020

(Leroy) Craig Gates, born July 13, 1943, passed away on July 25th at the age of 77. He was predeceased by his parents, I. Cree (Barner) and N. Curtis Gates; his brother, Duane; and his sisters, Lorraine and Sandy. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, David and Kate; grandson, Storm; brother and sister-in-law, Lanny and Sandy; nieces, Debbie and Patty (and families); nephew, Randy (and family); and Storm's brother, Rick.

Craig, lovingly known as Goots, was a long-time resident of Maine, NY and made many friends over the years. When he would visit Country Wagon Produce, the employees knew him by name and exactly what he would order: triple berry pie. Craig was a dirt-track racing enthusiast, driving in many races over 4 decades at Glen Aubrey Raceway and Five Mile Point. If you mention Goots' name to anyone, they will all say he was one of a kind – set in his ways yet selfless and caring.

In 1974, Craig and Lanny established the family business: C & L Plastering. The brothers worked many long hours over the years, proudly passing the trade secrets on to David and Randy - with love and family being the most important.

When not working, Craig would spend time at Lantz's Junk Yard with close friends Butch and Eddie, watching western television shows at home, or trying

his luck on video poker and scratch-offs.

Craig was a humble man, devoted father, and gentle soul. He would give his last dollar to a stranger in need without giving it a second thought. He would do anything necessary to ensure David's needs were fulfilled. He was the perfect example of caring and honesty. He will be deeply missed by everyone who was blessed to know him.

A remembrance celebration for family and friends will be announced at a later date. The family would like to thank Tuttle-Yeisley Funeral Home, Inc. for their kindness and compassion during this difficult time.

Tribute Wall

HF

“*Fly high Mr.Gates it was my pleasure to know you and your kindness and loving personality to your family and friends. You are a person you meet once you never forget. Sending my Condolence and Prayers to his family.*”



Hope Frederickson - August 01, 2020 at 10:21 PM

LL

“ After my husband, Butch, passed away Craig continued to visit with me which I loved. He would talk of Butch and the many years of their friendship from being young boys in grade school all the way through their lives. I learned so many great things about my late husband that I did not know through Craig. I loved the stories of the shenanigans that they got into and how we would laugh over those things. Craig spoke very fondly of his son, David, and the rest of his family. He talked quite often of the dogs at home as well. We had so many discussions about politics as he and I were on opposite sides of the fence but we were able to express our opinion and remain friends. There are so many things that I loved and admired about Craig Gates. I loved his full, white head of hair that I found amazing as he wore his hat all of the time. He would come off with some of the funniest things and would make me laugh at times that I really needed a pick me up. I admired his ability to continue to push on in the shape that he was in. He amazed me over and over again with his will power and strength. When my husband was in and out of the hospital many times Craig found his way just about every day to come and visit with him. He could hardly carry himself and yet he made it for those visits. You always knew where you stood with him. He was straightforward and right to the point, no beating around the bush. He was quick to give credit where credit was due also. He was an honest man. In getting to know him and he becoming my friend it became very evident as to why he and Butch were lifelong friends. I am so sorry for the family's loss. The blessing is Craig no longer suffers and is now at peace. You will all have your cherished memories that will carry you through. God bless you.

Linda Lantz - July 31, 2020 at 01:27 PM

RA

“ I worked at Tioga Downs for several years, and Craig was always so kind and soft spoken when I had the pleasure to interact with him. My heart goes out to his family.

Rachael Ann - July 28, 2020 at 04:23 PM

KG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kate Gates - July 28, 2020 at 12:01 PM

LK

Dave, Kate and Storm, my sincere condolences on your loss. Prayers to you all at this sad time.

Linda Krmeneč - August 01, 2020 at 02:55 PM

RG

“ *I will always remember from the time I was a young boy all the racing trips to all our local and distant race tracks every Saturday night at Five Mile Point Speedway and every Sunday at Weedsport Speedway. We would travel 2 Rolling Wheels Raceway for every special they had through the mid-70s until they close a facility. Craig's dedication to my racing was unwavering. we worked hard with what money we had to put a good race program, in 1997 I was able to give him that elusive win that he never had as a driver at the Fulton Speedway for the Victoria 200 weekend in the street stock division. Together we beat some of the best street stock racers in the Northeast it was a star-studded field with over 50 cars in attendance I will never forget that night.*

Craig thank you for all the memories.

Love you

Rest in peace

Sincerely. Randy

Randy Gates - July 28, 2020 at 10:58 AM