



William Tate Rutherford

September 7, 1934 - April 14, 2026

Mr. William Tate Rutherford passed away on April 14, 2026, at Diversicare in Ripley, MS, at the age of 91.

Tate was born to George and Ruth South Rutherford on September 7, 1934. He graduated from Falkner High School and attended Northeast Mississippi Jr. College. He began his career at Genesco Shoe Factory. In the early 60's he bought the grocery store in Falkner from J.T. Gay. He sold groceries until he sold the store in 1978. He then opened Rutherford Gulf Service Station, which changed to Rutherford BP Service Station, then North Mississippi Tire Service, and finally Tate's Tire and Road Service. He attended Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church.

Tate was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Shirley Reed Rutherford, one brother, Terry Rutherford, and his sister Shirley Scott.

Tate is survived by his four daughters, Patricia Wiginton (Ken), Pam Rutherford, Renae Rutherford, all of Falkner, MS, and Terri Stella (Tony) of Tuscaloosa, AL. His four grandchildren, Clint Wiginton of Falkner, Clay Wiginton (Kristen) of New Market, AL, Nicholas Stella of Tuscaloosa, AL, and Alex Stella (Quinn) of Helena, AL, and his two great-grandchildren, Tyler Wiginton and Connor Wiginton, both of New Market, AL. One sister, Maye Doster of Gainesville, GA.

A private service for the family will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church,
c/o Rutherford Family, 661 CR 406, Falkner, MS 38629.

Tribute Wall

WS

“ Rest In Peace Cousin Tate. I still remember how badly I felt for you when you got that scar on your lip. Which is not noticeable. You were born just a month after I was born and we have the same Great Grandfather, John Wesley Jobe.

Wayne Shelton - April 20 at 12:26 AM

JL

“ I use to work for Me Tate he was the best friend you could have at the shop rest in peace Me Tate

Jeff Lumpkin - April 18 at 08:32 AM

SH

“ As farm kids we didn't get to go to "town" much, but on a day our whole family went and we were allowed to get an ice cream out of his freezer.i chose a push-up and promptly pushed it up onto the floor. I was one disappointed kid but Mr. Tate saw my face and gave me another one. Sweet memories of good folks. Wish I could walk those old wood floors again. Old school Falkner...as Cindy said...Mr. Tate was a big part of that. We will miss him. Comfort and peace is extended to this family.

Susan Johnson Huggins

Susan Huggins - April 16 at 10:11 PM

MM

“ Tate was probably the biggest part of the heart of Falkner. I remember his store along the railroad track in the old town. Through the years, we bought groceries and gas from him, and he friend fixed our tires and cars. He was always busy. He was friendly to us all and if there was someone who didn't like him, I didn't know them. Our sympathy is extended to all his girls and his family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Mark & Cindy Brown Miller

Mark and Cindy Miller - April 16 at 04:56 PM