



Terry Medwick Bethel

July 14, 1938 - June 17, 2019

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Terry Medwick Bethel, age 80, of Hendersonville, passed away Monday, June 17, 2019 at NHC Springfield, Tennessee.

Mr. Bethel was born on July 14, 1938 in Monette, Arkansas to the late James Elvis and Ethelyn Hancock Bethel.

In addition to his parents Mr. Bethel is preceded in death by his wives, Patricia Wainscott Bethel and Billie Jo Spears Bethel; and his sister, Sherry Gold.

Mr. Bethel is survived by his children, Valerie (Jeff) Rogers, Michelle Sterling, and Mike Bethel, all of Hendersonville, Barbara (Terry) Morris of Ashland City and Stephen (Linda) Bethel of Greenbrier; brother, Bill (Margie) Bethel of Hot Springs, AR; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews; and many dear friends.

Mr. Bethel started his career at an early age playing the Steel Guitar, he had worked with several entertainers such as Casey Clark and the Lazy Ranch boys, The Leon Boulanger Band, Ferlin Husky and The Hushpuppies, Claude Gray, The Borrowed Band, Jerry Lane & Niteline, Loretta Lynn, Billie Jo Spears and Mel Tillis and The Statesiders. Mr. Bethel toured all over the United States, Canada and Europe, he also did a USO tour.

He was the founder of Ozark Steel Guitar Association. He also received several awards over the years including being inducted into The Steel Guitar

Hall of Fame in 2012 and NTSGA Legends Award in 2017. Mr. Bethel designed and built his own Bethel Steel Guitar.

He retired and moved back to Nashville from Branson MO., that he had called his home for over 20 years. He came home to spend his last years with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. His wishes were to be cremated, and he will be laid to rest with his wife Pat, in Everest Cemetery in Pleasant View, TN in a private family burial.

Contributions to The American Cancer Society- Pancreatic Cancer Research, would be appreciated.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LR

“ A mentor, friend, an inspiration and a huge heart of gold. A great musician. And I could go on. I so enjoyed watching him play, especially when he played ‘air steel guitar ‘. I just knew something awesome was coming to light. I will miss him dearly. My prayers for the family.



Lana Rosselli - June 24, 2019 at 11:32 PM

JS

“ On behalf of the Brisbane Steel Guitar Club, Australia, we extend our deepest and sincerest condolences to the family. It was a special time for us all last year with hi sir visit sharing his stories and incredible talent. Linking up and playing again with his old mate Milton Quackenbush was a real highlight for him.



jeff Spencer - June 22, 2019 at 06:36 PM

MB

Thank you very much,, and thank you for sharing the pictures

Mike Bethel - June 24, 2019 at 11:50 AM

PQ

The way Milt and Terry bounced off each other in the show was priceless, and very entertaining. They had so much fun. It was magic.

PJ Quackenbush - June 26, 2019 at 03:04 AM

TF

“ *The Gupton Family lit a candle in memory of Terry Medwick Bethel*



The Gupton Family - June 22, 2019 at 03:59 PM

MB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



mike bethel - June 22, 2019 at 01:53 PM

 Randy Hartman

“ *Terry was salways willing to help a fellow musician any way possible. He helped me by putting an upgrade in my effects unit. He would give you a hint of what to do to improve your sound. He will be missed.*

Randy Hartman - June 22, 2019 at 01:35 PM

MS

“ *We will miss him so much! Mom always said he was the best Steel player she ever heard. Fly high my friend.*

Melissa Smith - June 22, 2019 at 01:14 PM



“ We will miss you Bethel....prayers for the family...Jim & Connie Garstang

Connie Garstang - June 22, 2019 at 01:07 PM

DT

“ will miss my good friend. RIP Terry.

David Thornhill - June 22, 2019 at 12:28 PM

JH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jean Herrell - June 22, 2019 at 10:54 AM

JH

Such a GREAT talent and mentor

Jean Herrell - June 22, 2019 at 10:55 AM

TS

“ After more than 60 years of playing, the picture you have displayed says it all. I can relate to everyone who posts here that being a traveling musician is a very rewarding experience with pitfall along the way. My deepest sympathies to the family.



Tom Schmidt - June 22, 2019 at 10:41 AM

SF

“ *Im sad that I lost a good friend. I first met Terry at Panther Hall in Ft worth back in the sixtys..I then caught up again with Terry when I was booking Mel Tillis. Terry was a great guy and I will miss him..RIP Terry.*

Sonny Foster - June 21, 2019 at 04:47 PM

GC

“ *I met Terry when I moved to Branson MO..... it was like we had known each other for decades, the minute we met.*

A kind, considerate person, and one of the very best musicians I ever knew. I can count on the fingers of one hand of the steel guitar players who could match him, he was truly a master of the instrument.

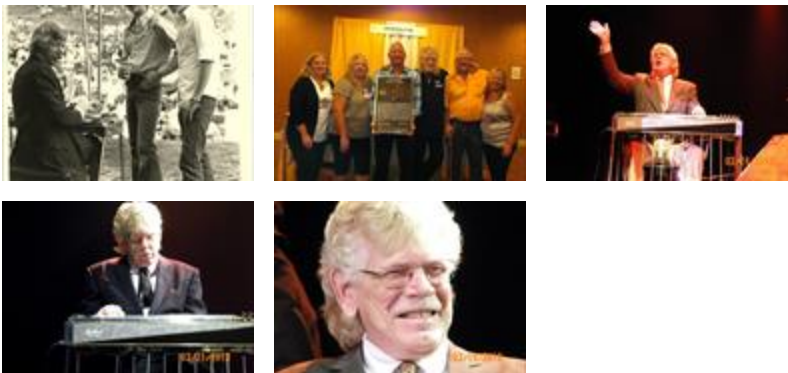
Go with God, my friend, I'll miss you.

Gary Cornelius

Gary Cornelius - June 21, 2019 at 03:24 PM

MB

“ *7 files added to the tribute wall*



mike bethel - June 21, 2019 at 01:39 PM

MR

The lower left picture is my most favorite picture of my sweet friend 😞

Martha J Randall - June 22, 2019 at 07:31 PM

SS

Terry was a great person and Professional Steel Guitar player. Met Terry at the Doltan, Al. Steel Guitar Jam. Shorty Smith

Shorty Smith - June 17, 2023 at 11:40 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



mike bethel - June 21, 2019 at 01:29 PM

MB

This was the same nite at the Opry I recorded the video of Chuck Landry and the statesiders practicing a new song in the dressing room

mike bethel - June 21, 2019 at 01:32 PM

MR

“ I met Terry in 1974 I I considered him my dear friend. My husband called him his best friend and my daughter has called him uncle Terry from the age of two I loved him greatly and he will be sorely missed by everyone. He was a friend and mentor to many steel guitar players. know you're in heaven with many of your cronies playing lots of sweet music. God bless my dear friend and I'll see you sometime later



Martha J Randall - June 21, 2019 at 01:07 PM

JF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie Foulk - June 20, 2019 at 04:42 PM



“ I never had the privilege of meeting Terry in person but Oh how wish I could've. That being said, his music has touched me and made my love for the pedal steel grow every time I've listened to him play. He will certainly be missed. Prayers go out to the friends and family of this musical hero to many! God bless!

James Morris - June 18, 2019 at 08:48 PM

SW

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Terry and hearing him play last year at Revelry in Hendersonville with Perley Curtis and his band. He was such a nice guy and great to talk with. His steel playing was smooth as silk. I will remember that night always. My prayers and condolences to Terry's family and friends. Here is a picture I took that night.

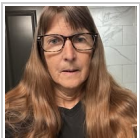


scott wikle - June 18, 2019 at 03:25 PM

JF

“ I only known Terry for a short time met Terry at the Wisconsin Steel Guitar Show . He was such a hoot in his sory telling and a great steeler. He will be missed by many. Condolences to the family and close friends.

Julie Foulk - June 18, 2019 at 01:40 PM



“ My prayers go out to you and his family . I orginally knew Terry Behel from the Grand Ole Opry at the Ryman where i knew he played when i was growing up in Nashville. My dad Jimmie Barnes was the first Pilot to the Opry that they used when Martha white was onstage around the Tennessee Erinie ford eria. I got the chance again to re meet terry at Dary King, and told him who my family was and how i knew him orrginally, along w the Larry Weakly Band that i had reconnected with when one of my best friends husband played at el chico w Larry weakly Band. Terry was was great additon to the Ryman , Which i had the pleasure of meeting even at 58 yrs old again, He will be missed.

Bettie Catherine Barnes Orman - June 18, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ I met him in the early '80s in Ireland when he toured with Billy Jo Spears and had the good fortune to bump into him at the Steel Convention in St. Louis in 2008. I couldn't believe he remembered me and we had a great chat. RIP my friend, it was nice to meet you.

Roy Campbell - June 18, 2019 at 07:16 AM



“ I had known of Terry for Decades but never had the chance to meet him until 2007/2008. Right away we became friends as we knew so many of the same people. He and I even shared a deep love and friendship with a very special gal. When my father passed in 2010 (whom I had been caring for 8 years), Terry offered to let me come stay awhile until I was able to gather myself. I'll never forgive myself for not accepting his remarkable hospitality. Terry Bethel is a legend and leaves behind remarkable list of accomplishments. My deepest condolences to Terry's family, friends and followers. "God speed Mr B.... Say hello to our friends for me, let them know I miss them too. Prayers for you, prayers for us all....

Jim Walker - June 18, 2019 at 02:31 AM



“ Big loss to the music community his family and friends Prayers for family. My deepest condolences Mark and Kim Broyles

Mark Broyles - June 17, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ My name is Terry Smith and I met Terry Bethel in Las Vegas in 1979. We reconnected five or six years ago and played together at many steel guitar shows. He was a good friend and will be missed. I pray God comforts all the family and friends of Terry.

Terry G. Smith - June 17, 2019 at 07:07 PM

RS

“ *Very Sorry for your lose. He was a great steel player that I got to know pretty well when I lived in Ozark Mo.*

Ronald Eugene Scott - June 17, 2019 at 06:14 PM

Mary Kyne

“ *Mary Kyne lit a candle in memory of Terry Medwick Bethel*



Mary Kyne - June 17, 2019 at 05:58 PM

Mary Kyne

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Mary Kyne - June 17, 2019 at 05:57 PM

Mary Kyne

“ *Terry Bethel and my son "Lil Man" AKA Ronnie shared a special relationship. Ronnie has always looked forward to seeing Terry every year at the Ozark steel guitar show. Ronnie would always sit on his lap and talk about playing the steel guitar. Ronnie also looked forward to handing hugs around the neck out like candy to Terry. They had a special connection. Terry you will be greatly missed by the Kyne family. Go rest high my friend. Our condolences to the Bethel family. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.*

Mary Kyne - June 17, 2019 at 05:56 PM