



Terry A. Choate

October 7, 1949 - September 26, 2021

Terry Allen Choate of Vienna, Illinois, was born on the pleasant crisp fall morning of October 7, 1949. He arrived ahead of the family doctor, Dr. Veach, and was the last person born on the beloved Hight family farm east of Vienna. He was the fourth of seven children born to Norman and Myrtle Hight Choate. He passed away on September 26th, 2021, at the age of 71 at Massac Memorial Hospital in Metropolis, Illinois, from complications of congestive heart failure. He is survived by his mother, Myrtle Mae Choate of Vienna; brother, Larry (Dianna) Choate of Grantsburg; Karen Sue Choate of Anna; Nancy (Jackie) Wright of St. Croix, Indiana; Mary (John) Davidson of Alto Pass; sister-in-law, Sandy Choate of Vienna; son, Yuri (Khristin) Rentfro of Metropolis; and daughter, Elaina (Kyle) Scerena of Herrin. Grandchildren, Alexis, Natalya, and Kyle Rentfro and Stella Lena Scerena. He is also survived by nephews Donald Choate, Jr., Aaron Choate, Joshua Choate; nieces Janna (Matt) Woodfall, Brianna (Daniel) Moore, Kasey (Derek) Mehling, and Abby (David) Hoch. In addition, he will be fondly remembered by numerous great nephews, nieces, cousins and many friends. He had great love and affection for each of his family and friends, and they all loved him. Terry was preceded in death by his father, Norman; infant brother, Danny Lee; and older brother, Donald.

Terry was the first of many redheads in our family, and wore that red hair proudly. Although he was short in stature he made up for it with a big personality. He was the family and school class clown. He kept his family and

friends entertained with his antics and funny stories. You always knew when he was around. He never met a stranger. He was loving and loyal to his family and friends. It's been said by many that Terry was everyone's favorite guy.

Terry believed that a friend of a family member, or a friend of a friend was his friend too. He was especially fond of the employees of the restaurants, businesses and city hall in Vienna. He made an effort to get to know each one on a personal level and learn their stories. Thereafter, he became an encourager to them. He often referred to them as his buddies. He made his rounds around town routinely. Giving out warm greetings and hugs with genuine affection. Thus endearing himself to everyone he knew.

Terry grew up on the family farm east of Vienna near Grantsburg. He greatly enjoyed life on the farm and the adventures that his older brothers took him on. There is where he learned the importance of work. Working on the farm and hay fields was his entry into the work world. While in high school he became a regular employee at Daniel's food store. While in college he worked for Bill's IGA and several years for the U.S. Forest Service.

He received an Associate Degree from Southeastern Illinois College and attended Southern Illinois University. Following college he returned to grocery store management in Vienna, and later became the manager of the Country Gardens store in Fairfield. He also worked in the regional grocery store wholesale business. In the 1980's he transitioned to working in corrections, serving at the Vienna Correctional Center as a Correctional Officer until his health issues caused him to retire early. While working at the prison he enjoyed entertaining the men on his unit by telling jokes and performing his best impression of Michael Jackson's moonwalk. He had a captive audience, and they appreciated his efforts at entertaining them.

Terry had a wide variety of interests and hobbies. One of which was metal detecting. On several occasions he was asked to use his skills in finding lost rings. He was usually successful in recovering those lost treasures. He had a lifelong passion for studying, hunting and collecting Native American artifacts, especially arrowheads. He took great pleasure in sharing his knowledge by

talking about and displaying his extensive and impressive collection at various public events in southern Illinois. He especially enjoyed displaying his collection at the encampment at Ft. Massac and other such venues.

Another of his interests was family genealogy. He researched extensively our family history, and shared his discoveries by documenting information regarding deceased members of all branches of our family. Terry was also knowledgeable on Johnson County history. He especially enjoyed being a contributing long time member of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society where he served as an officer and past president. He also was on the boards of the Johnson County Revitalization Committee, Friends of Fort Massac, Kincaid Mounds Support Organization, Christian Motorcycle Association, Trail of Tears Association, Central State's Archeological Society, and the Illinois State Archeological Society. He was also a regular volunteer at Red Cross blood drives in Vienna.

Terry made a decision at the age of twelve that set the course for his life then and for eternity. He asked Jesus into his life and was saved at Pleasant Valley Church near Grantsburg, and was baptized in a farm pond near Dixon Springs. Over the years he worshipped and served in numerous churches in Fairfield, Paducah and Vienna. He loved working with the youth in those churches. For the past decade he has been a member of the First Baptist Church of Vienna.

The family greatly appreciates Dr Bharat Patel and his assistant Mallory, as well as the nursing staff at Massac Memorial Hospital for the wonderful care Terry received from them over the past several years.

Terry was a blessing to all who knew him. He was loved and will be greatly missed, but our family rejoices in knowing that he is in the presence of our Lord and the family and friends who have gone on before him. We take great comfort in the verse in 2 Corinthians 5: 8 that says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

His greatest wish would be that all his family and friends would accept Jesus

Christ as their Lord and Savior, and live for him so that one day he can greet each one of us as we enter heaven's gates.

Funeral services honoring the life of Terry A. Choate will be held Thursday afternoon, September 30, 2021, at 12 Noon at First Baptist Church, 301 North Seventh Street, Vienna, IL 62995. Pastor Matthew Woodfall and Rodney Gholson will officiate. Burial will be in the Vienna Fraternal Cemetery.

Visitation will be conducted Thursday morning from 10 AM - 12 Noon at the First Baptist Church. Memorials may be made to the Heather Harper Treat Fund, P.O. Box 98, Vienna, Illinois 62995.

For those unable to personally attend the service, the ceremony will be livestreamed on the Bailey Funeral Home Facebook page and will be archived for later viewing.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Cemetery Details

Vienna Fraternal Cemetery

N. 6th Street
Vienna, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
7th & Washington St.
Vienna, IL

Service

SEP 30. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
7th & Washington St.
Vienna, IL

Tribute Wall

JZ

“ *James R Zolper lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



James R Zolper - August 18, 2024 at 07:25 PM



“ *Terry A. Choate*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM

JZ

“ *Jim Zolper lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Jim Zolper - January 02, 2022 at 08:13 PM

GT

“ *Greg Taylor lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Greg Taylor - October 03, 2021 at 08:05 PM

JC

“ *All our love and prayers are with the family.
Love, Joanna, Richard and children*



Joanna Corbin - October 02, 2021 at 12:40 AM

JC

Joanna (Ross) and Richard Corbin

Joanna and Richard Corbin - October 02, 2021 at 12:41 AM



“ *Maria Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Terry
A. Choate*



Maria Vaughn - October 01, 2021 at 12:00 PM



So very sorry for your loss

Maria Vaughn - October 01, 2021 at 12:01 PM

PH

“ *Phyllis lit a candle in memory of Terry A.
Choate*



Phyllis - September 30, 2021 at 11:21 AM

EH

“ *Ernie Henshaw lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Ernie Henshaw - September 30, 2021 at 07:39 AM

 Jerry Hight

“ *Cousin Terry will be greatly missed I knew over 50 years and I spent many of my summers with him and his parents and other brothers and sisters and in this time we hiked all over Johnston and surrounding County not just enjoying the scenery but the history of sites and people and many of the cemeteries both public and hidden away in the woods doing family history. Proud to of known and experienced his ways and knowledge. However, his biscuit gray was not one of his triumphs.*

Jerry Hight - September 29, 2021 at 04:11 PM

JW

“ *We want to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Terry Choate regarding his passing. Terry was a personal friend who was a fine, caring, and compassionate gentlemen. My mother, Angie Williamson, taught Terry at the Grantsburg grade school, and she was very fond of Terry and the Choate family. Terry will be truly missed.*

Judge (Ret.) James R. and Debbie Williamson

James R. Williamson - September 29, 2021 at 03:14 PM

LC

Thank you for your kind words regarding your friendship with Terry. He always thought highly of you. And he loved your mother both as a teacher and later as her friend. Hope you're enjoying your retirement.

Larry Choate - September 30, 2021 at 10:38 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Terry A. Choate.*



September 29, 2021 at 04:34 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Terry A. Choate.*



September 28, 2021 at 01:01 PM



“ *I went to high school with Terry and he was one of the happiest people I knew. I saw him several times at the blood drives through the years and you could count on a positive attitude and he never seemed down. I am so sorry for his family. He was a very good person.*



Sondra Goins - September 27, 2021 at 09:19 PM



Condolences to the family of Terry Choate. Terry and I worked together in Corrections and he was a very loyal and dedicated employee. We shared an interest in Indian Artifacts and stories of local history. Terry's smile and friendly disposition was always present. He will be remembered and missed.

Larry W. Mizell - September 27, 2021 at 09:36 PM

LB

Terry and I grew up together in Grantsburg. Our families were close. Terry shared his love of Indian artifacts with my father, as well as with me. Terry was always a friendly, happy person who seldom met a stranger. He was an extremely interesting person with much knowledge about many topics. He was loved and will be missed by many. Our condolences to the family.

Larry and Charlene Baity - September 28, 2021 at 10:01 AM

JH

“ *Janet And Gary Hacker lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Janet and Gary Hacker - September 27, 2021 at 06:43 PM

JH

“ *Terry was a good friend for many years. We enjoyed discussing and working on history projects concerning Johnson County. All the members of the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society are indebted to Terry for all his work in preserving the history of this County.*

Janet and Gary Hacker - September 27, 2021 at 06:42 PM

DB

“ *Dorothy Bacon lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Dorothy Bacon - September 27, 2021 at 05:40 PM

AB

“ *Anita L Bullock lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Anita L Bullock - September 27, 2021 at 05:30 PM

RS

“ *Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney - September 27, 2021 at 05:03 PM

LM

“ *Linda And Jeff Mathis lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Linda and Jeff Mathis - September 27, 2021 at 03:49 PM

PH

“ *Paul Hunsaker lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Paul Hunsaker - September 27, 2021 at 03:10 PM

JP

“ To the Choate family, Our sympathy to all at this time. Terry and I were classmates at VHS class of 67. He was a most kind person and will be missed by many. May God comfort you.



JPhelps - September 27, 2021 at 02:51 PM

SD

“ Sharon Douglas lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Sharon Douglas - September 27, 2021 at 02:28 PM

SA

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Sally - September 27, 2021 at 02:04 PM

HV

“ Harold & Georgia Vinson lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Harold & Georgia Vinson - September 27, 2021 at 01:35 PM

HV

So sorry for your loss. Terry was a classmate and always had a kind word for everyone. He will be missed!

Harold & Georgia Vinson - September 27, 2021 at 01:37 PM

BW

“ *Bill And Barb Warmack lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Bill and Barb Warmack - September 27, 2021 at 01:12 PM

ES

“ *Dad was the kindest. I am so blessed to have had him for a father. He loved his family more than anything*



Elaina Scerena - September 27, 2021 at 01:00 PM

JF

“ *So sorry for this loss of life. Always enjoyed talking to Terry. He was a good person and will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this sad time.*



Richard and Joan Faulkner-Owen

Joan Faulkner-Owen - September 27, 2021 at 11:14 AM

TM

“ So sorry for your loss. Terry was a very good friend. Always had a smile and kind words for everyone. He will truly be missed. Tom and I will keep you all in our prayers. May God be with each of you in this difficult time.



Tom and Carmen Murrie - September 27, 2021 at 10:56 AM

SS

“ Condolences to Terry's family .
Sue (Johns) Dodd



sue Schaffer-Dodd - September 27, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ Carol Bryant sent a virtual gift in memory of
Terry A. Choate



Carol Bryant - September 27, 2021 at 10:48 AM



Heaven gained an angel for sure . Sending Love and Prayers to Myrtle and Family

Carol Bryant - September 27, 2021 at 10:50 AM

MH

“ *Martha Henshaw-Crane lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Martha Henshaw-Crane - September 27, 2021 at 10:15 AM

AW

“ *Sending my sympathy and prayers to the family. Terry was such a kind person and friend. I will miss talking with him and his yearly Christmas cards.*



Aleatha Wright - September 27, 2021 at 09:34 AM



“ *Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Karen Brumley - September 27, 2021 at 09:27 AM

TH

“ *Tricia Hartline lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Tricia Hartline - September 27, 2021 at 08:27 AM

TR

“ Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Teresa Richerson - September 27, 2021 at 08:10 AM

JS

“ John Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Terry A. Choate



John Slack - September 27, 2021 at 08:04 AM

DH

“ Dallas And Charlene Harner sent a virtual gift in memory of Terry A. Choate



Dallas and Charlene Harner - September 27, 2021 at 07:48 AM

DP

“ Davis And Pat Prewitt lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Davis and Pat Prewitt - September 27, 2021 at 07:18 AM

BR

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Bobby Rentfro - September 27, 2021 at 01:25 AM

YR

“ He was the kindest man I've ever met. He accepted 2 kids as his own... and we will forever be grateful. To say he will be missed would be an understatement. Til we meet again. We love you.

Yuri Rentfro - September 27, 2021 at 01:16 AM

BR

“ Terry was a lifelong, good friend, classmate and brother from another mother who will be greatly missed. Thanks for the memories buddy and may the memory of you always be a blessing to your family and friends. Until we meet again.



Bobby Rentfro - September 27, 2021 at 01:10 AM

MH

“ Mary Lou Hynes lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Mary Lou Hynes - September 27, 2021 at 12:20 AM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jeffress lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Barbara Jeffress - September 26, 2021 at 11:30 PM

CW

“ *Clearon And Jane Ross Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Clearon and Jane Ross Wright - September 26, 2021 at 10:41 PM

CW

Terry was such a special cousin. We will miss him and all his family history he would share with us. He was so full of love for everyone.
Clearon and Jane Ross Wright

Clearon and Jane Ross Wright - September 26, 2021 at 10:45 PM

RJ

“ *ROGER & DEBRA JOHNSON lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



ROGER & DEBRA JOHNSON - September 26, 2021 at 10:35 PM

JH

“ June Hartline lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



June Hartline - September 26, 2021 at 10:14 PM

PA

“ Paul & Diana Annable lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Paul & Diana Annable - September 26, 2021 at 09:53 PM

AM

“ Arlene Miles lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Arlene Miles - September 26, 2021 at 09:32 PM

LK

“ Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Linda Koehler - September 26, 2021 at 09:23 PM



“ A friend to everyone and so glad we enjoyed our highschool years with Terry as a classmate! Our deepest sympathy to you all!

grange and cathy gorden - September 26, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ Jeannie McCall sent a virtual gift in memory of Terry A. Choate



Jeannie McCall - September 26, 2021 at 08:39 PM



“ I'm So Sorry for Your Loss Sending Prayers to ALL of You.....Wonderful Guy who will be Missed



Theresa Mckenzie-Trovillion - September 26, 2021 at 08:32 PM



“ Teresa Anderson lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate



Teresa Anderson - September 26, 2021 at 08:29 PM

NW

“ *Neal & Carol Watkins lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Neal & Carol Watkins - September 26, 2021 at 07:16 PM

TH

“ *Tamri Huckelberry lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



tamri huckelberry - September 26, 2021 at 07:03 PM

AS

“ *Angie Street lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Angie Street - September 26, 2021 at 06:55 PM

CT

“ *Carla Tapley lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Carla Tapley - September 26, 2021 at 06:53 PM

MH

“ *Never met a man so sweet and kind. I will miss his special hugs!!!!
Love you Terry.
Marsha Hayes*

Marsha Hayes - September 26, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ *Mike Crews lit a candle in memory of Terry A.
Choate*



Mike Crews - September 26, 2021 at 06:36 PM

LM

“ *Larry And Carolyn McGill lit a candle in
memory of Terry A. Choate*



Larry and Carolyn McGill - September 26, 2021 at 06:34 PM

WF

“ *So sorry for your loss. Sympathy and prayers
for the Family. Terry was such a kind and
thoughtful neighbor; he will certainly be
missed. R.I.P. dear friend.*



wanda florey - September 26, 2021 at 06:12 PM

KB

“ *Kim Koehler Blackman lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Kim Koehler Blackman - September 26, 2021 at 06:11 PM

JM

“ *So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers for your family during this time*



JD and Tammy Mathis - September 26, 2021 at 05:56 PM

PS

“ *Paula Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Paula Sullivan - September 26, 2021 at 05:56 PM

SR

“ *Sheri Robinson lit a candle in memory of Terry A. Choate*



Sheri Robinson - September 26, 2021 at 05:52 PM