



Theodore Steele Todd

April 9, 2015

Theodore Steele (Ted) Todd died unexpectedly on April 9th in Oxford, Mississippi. Ted was 63 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Kay Miller of Spokane and his five loving children Kimber Todd of Delaware, Drew Todd of Texas, Toby Todd of Vancouver WA, Tessa Todd of Spokane, and Tana Todd of Fort Collins CO. He is also survived by his brother, Bruce, of Spokane, and his sister, Molli, of Oxford Mississippi.

Ted was born on July 12th, 1951 in Yakima to Steele and Marianne Todd. He and his family relocated to Spokane soon after where Ted graduated from Lewis and Clark High School in 1969 and later attended Spokane Falls Community College. Ted retired in 2013 from his position with the City of Spokane where he served as a proud and dedicated Public Works Inspector.. Ted was known worldwide for his work with blues music; he was a founder of the Inland Empire Blues Society (IEBS), helping it and other blues societies grow in numbers and importance. From writing the newsletters to organizing meetings and awards programs, Ted poured his heart and soul into his support for the Blues and the IEBS. Ted was a regular presence at many of the region's blues festivals, where he worked to recruit members for the IEBS and other societies, and to support blues artists in reaching fans with their merchandise and recordings. Ted was a successful radio disc jockey whose work earned him a coveted "Keeping the Blues Alive" Award from the Blues Foundation in Memphis. Ted's show "Blowtorch Blues", first on KKZX radio for 20 years then as a web-based radio program, gained listeners and new blues

fans throughout the world. Ted also worked with the Blues Foundation as a judge in its International Blues Challenge and its Blues Music Awards. In Spokane Ted helped to create and nurture the Blues Kats for Kids program, which provides funding for at risk teenagers.

No funeral is scheduled, but a memorial service will be held for Ted at 6 PM on May 10th at the Eagles Lodge, 16801 E Sprague, in Spokane. The service will include musical performances and remembrances of Ted. The Inland Empire Blues Society will also be on hand for memberships, renewals, and donations in honor of Ted.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Blues Kats for Kids to STCU, PO Box 1954 Spokane, WA 99210-1954. Make checks payable to Inland Empire Blues Society (IEBS) and on the memo line indicate Blues Cats for Kids. The family would like to thank all of Ted's friends and acquaintances who have expressed sympathy and to the greater Blues Community for their love and continued support.

Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall of this website.

Tribute Wall



“ It's nearly impossible to talk about Ted and not mention The Blues. In fact I met him through the music, as many on this page have. I have a ton of stories from our times together in the Blues booths and onstage at Untapped but I just would like to tell you my impression of Ted Todd from the heart. Ted was a person who was unequivocally sure of himself. He didn't follow, he led the way. He was a generous listener who cared about other's opinions but don't think for a minute that you could change his mind. Stubborn comes to mind and we sometimes debated the "bluesy" qualities of bands (or lack thereof). I know I occasionally softened his opinion but I never expected him to completely agree. I can still hear the deep resonance of his voice as he said "_____ is NOT Blues!" I agreed with him for the most part. The one thing he and I saw eye to eye on every time was how much we cherished doing radio and sharing our love of the Blues with our listeners. When Blues Therapy Radio was looking for a new home Ted took the time to tell me exactly how I could do a podcast from home. When I was picked up by a commercial station he was one of the first to congratulate me. When I emcee festivals i always think of Ted before I go onstage. Ted had a no BS attitude onstage. Nothing seemed to intimidate him. I use that whether I am in front of 20 people or 3000. I'll miss hanging out backstage and sharing stories, especially about his times in Memphis. I'll even miss losing the Best Blues Radio Show award to him every year. I made the trip to Spokane, on a work night, every November, not because I expected to every win but to see my friend-Ted Todd and his amazing wife Kay. Ted left a legacy and he left great people to carry it on. I look forward to continue to travel to Spokane and see my Blues brothers and sisters. And I shall endeavor to "walk slow and talk low". Rest in Peace my friend

Biggdaddy Hansen - May 01, 2015 at 12:22 AM

JC

“ I'm sooo sad to read of Teds death. I first met Ted while working at 2-Harvest Food Bank in Spokane a year or so ago. He came in several times with food & money donations from Events with the Blues Bands.....we talked a few times about his LOVE of helping others and his LOVE for the Blues....I told him I would try to make a Blues Event & sadly I never did. I will remember him passionately every time I hear Blues....Peace & Hugs to all.....

Julie Chase

Julie Chase - April 29, 2015 at 11:37 AM

JF

“ I first met Ted at a blues society meeting at the Bronco Tavern and did not know then that he was Kimbers dad.I found out soon after and we became good friends and he taught me a lot about the blues and gave me a better perspective about the music and its rich history. I hope kimber you always will trasure the memories of your dad and the music he loved so very much.

James Forczek - April 27, 2015 at 05:15 PM

DT

“ I knew this man from a long time ago, the music he loved seemed to be in one sense a means of greater expression of ideas and emotions, some complex and deep, which could never be explained otherwise, while at other times the music was a place which you could go to like an old friend and experience childlike happiness. This was apparent from as far back as I could remember, even about 1975 - (I was four then). I can still hear him saying as he was tapping on his thigh with his hand to a song he enjoyed- He would say “That is a gr-e-a-t song! Don’t you think?”

Thank you for all the great ways you shared, and the kindness and commitment with which you were so dedicated. Thank you for all the loving years as my Dad.

I am going to miss you Papa. Love you.

Drew Todd (Son)

Drew Todd - April 27, 2015 at 01:18 PM

GB

“ Northwest Blues lovers are losing not only a great man but a great friend. Ted dedicated his life to his love of the Blues and was the heart and soul of the Inland Empire Blues Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kay and family. RIP Big Guy!

Gary Boardman - April 26, 2015 at 04:22 PM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



Kevin Ryno - April 25, 2015 at 10:45 PM

TE

I first met Ted back in the glory days of Spokane's live music scene. This would be the 1980s with venues like Washboard Willie's and Fort Spokane all around town. Robert Cray and Curtis Salgado made regular stops in those days. Kim Simmonds, Bo Diddley, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and a host of other blues greats would appear on our local stages. I kept seeing Ted's friendly face at all the same events I attended and we soon became friends. I became friends with Kay also after Ted met her. If there ever was a match made in heaven that was it. I remember Ted explaining to me this blues society concept and then watching him fulfilling his dream to a great level of accomplishment. Obviously Ted loved the blues but more importantly Ted loved bringing the blues to everyone. Ted is responsible for bringing some of the great blues masters to Spokane. Debbie Davies, Delbert McClinton, Charlie Musselwhite and brilliant locals like Nicole Fournier, Pat Coast and Too Slim are just a few groups that Ted brought for my enjoyment. It's safe to say that without Ted's efforts many of these blues shows would never have happened. Many of my favorite memories would never have happened. Thank you Ted Todd. I've said a prayer for you and hope God will put you in charge of the blues booking in Heaven. See you there . . .

Tom Engdahl - May 02, 2015 at 05:10 PM

JH

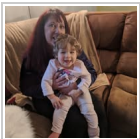
“ *Most of my interactions with Ted were at blues festivals throughout the region, but I had an extended conversation with him when we were seated next to each other at the finals of the International Blues Challenge this past January. I could always count on him to be absolutely forthright and honest with his opinions, although I never knew him to be unkind. I also vividly remember talking with him after his first heart attack. He was absolutely content with his life - loved his family, was in-love with his wife, and so enjoyed his connection to the blues. Bless his heart. I'm gonna miss this man!*

Jane Henderson - April 25, 2015 at 05:59 PM

CS

“ *The first time I ever had contact with Ted was a voice on the phone that said 'KKZX this is the Blues Show'. I stumbled across the Blues Show by accident. Who ever said accidents are bad was wrong. I have seen and done things during the past 16 or 17 years that I would have never done with out meeting Ted. Rest in Peace my friend. I would say you affected more people then you know. But he did know, and got a great deal of satisfaction from that. I am very honored to be part of that. Take care. Carl*

Carleton Speer - April 25, 2015 at 01:32 PM



“ *I was so devastated to hear about Ted's passing, Don and I had so much fun with Ted, Kay and all the parties we shared together, I remember Ted racing me down the road to Winthrop Blues Festival, I did good on the straight-away but I couldn't catch him on the turns, poor Kay and Don, scary for them but fun for Ted and I. I will miss you so much Ted and remember how much Peggy and Don loved you.*



Peggy Cabaniss - April 25, 2015 at 11:58 AM

PM

“ *Blues was the sound track to Teds Life. He turned me on to so many different artist, i thank him for being such a good friend, He will be missed dearly...*

Patrick McGrotha - April 25, 2015 at 11:15 AM

BD

“ *There will never be another Ted Todd. He was a tremendous guy, hard headed, but knew what was right and wrong, and boy did he love the Blues, and all the friends, that became his large extended family. He touched so many musician's lives, I am sure had he also had an influence on many. His loss will be felt by the Blues community, not just in the Inland Empire, but through out the country.*

However I am sure he has already gotten most of the work done organizing the "Heavenly Blues Society" already.

RIP, Ted, I am proud to have known you and call you my friend.

Bobbi Doupe' - April 25, 2015 at 01:06 AM

VM

“ *I have only known Ted for a few short years, but always looked forward to sharing some time with him at events in Memphis. One thing you could count on with Ted, there was always a smile in his eyes.*

Vinny Marini - April 24, 2015 at 05:28 PM