



Kyle Shirley

March 21, 1953 - April 26, 2015

Kyle “Hawk” Shirley, 62, of The Valley, in Syracuse, NY, died unexpectedly on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at St. Joseph’s Hospital. A native and life resident of the Syracuse area, he was the son of Charlotte Shirley Tooley and the late Ronald Lee Shirley. Hawk enjoyed his family and friends, walking his dog, Miah and riding his Harley. “The father of Syracuse blues” he was an avid harp player and promoted local and national blues acts in Syracuse. He was a founding member of the NYS Blues Festival and the Great North East Blues Festival. He attended numerous blues awards in Memphis and was looking forward to attending the 50th anniversary of Woodstock with his brother Gary. Surviving are his wife of 39 years the former Mary Tarbell; sons, Joshua (Kerri) of Atlanta, GA and Jeremy Lee Shirley of Syracuse; his mother, Charlotte Shirley Tooley of Onondaga Hill; brothers, Gary of Syracuse and Keith Shirley of Ft. Collins, CO; sister, Linda (Bill) Jansson of Camillus; grandchildren, Hunter James and Grayson Hawk; several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Services will be 10 AM on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home, Inc., Syracuse, NY. Burial will be in Onondaga Valley Cemetery. Calling hours will be on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 from 4 to 7 PM at the funeral home, 4612 S. Salina Street. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Blues Foundation, www.blues.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kyle Shirley*



Ballweg & Lunsford Funeral Home - April 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM



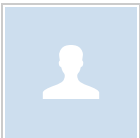
“ *I didn't know Kyle, but I did know Gary & Keith. Very sorry for your loss guys.*

May 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kyle was the first person to turn me and Bill on to the Blues way back in the day. We are still Blues addicts, just were on Beal in Memphis.
Rest in peace.
Michelle & Bill Nett*

May 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *mary and family so sorry for your lost he was one of nicesmichael boyle guy u could meet or know*

April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM



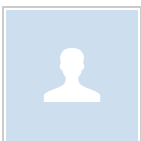
“ I was stunned to hear of Kyle’s passing. I will miss seeing him walk Miah past the house and the roar of his Harley up and down the street. When I would hear it, I knew it meant Spring had finally arrived and summer wasn’t far behind. I will miss his quiet, peaceful nature and friendly smile. Rest easy, neighbor. To Kyle’s entire family, May the blessings of love be upon you; May its peace abide with you; May its essence illuminate your heart; Now and forever more...

April 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM



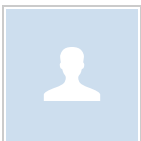
“ Mary, Lynn and I were stunned to hear of Kyle passing. He showed us great hospitality every time we came back to Syracuse. Please let us know if we can do anything. We know y’all were thinking of visiting us here in Georgia, we would love it if you would still come down and see us.. you take care, Kyle was a much loved giant in central New York.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ We were so very sorry to hear about Kyle’s passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Very sorry for your loss Mary any Josh and family. May he rest in peace. Sincerely Dave & Tammy Tarbell.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ You were a good man . A walking blues encyclopedia . Prayers to Mary , and all his family . Too young .

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary, I am saddened by your lose. You and Kyle have always been so kind to my sister Pat. Kyle will be missed.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Kyle I felt like I've know you forever. That unique voice over the phone asking for Mary and the playful mannor that always had me laughing. I'm truly thankful to have met you and your love for the Blues will live on. Rest easy my friend.

Angie (EKG)

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss!

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary.I was shocked to hear of the passing of Kyle. He truly was a good egg. Thinking about you!!! Call me if you need ANYTHING. His sense of humor will be truly missed ?????

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers going out, to Charlotte, Linda and Gary and all of Kyle's family! May time and precious memories, help to console you all at this most difficult time! So sorry, for your loss and know that our loved ones are always near by and you will, know by a sign of some sort, like a bird a butterfly, a song, sound or smell!

May God Bless You All!

Sincerely,

Cindy Coyne & Family including my sister & Husband Pat and Dick Reney

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



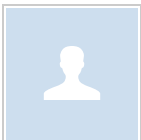
“ The Blues and the Syracuse music community has lost a good friend. My deepest sympathy to Kyle's family.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary, Josh, and families-
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I am out of town until next week, so I will miss calling hours, but know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary we are saddened to hear of Kyle's passing so suddenly and too young! You and family are in our prayers. Someday soon we will be there in person for a big hug and I hope we can smile together remembering a wonderful man. Blessings, Steve and Ellen.

April 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your sudden loss. I didn't know Kyle, but heard many wonderful things about him from my friend, Linda. My prayers and sympathy is with the entire family.

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary, We were so very sorry to hear of Kyle's passing. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you and your Family.

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ I love ya buddy. The Nighthawks will miss you. I cannot believe that when we play in Syracuse in the future, you won't be there. It will never be the same. You were loved my brotha

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ The music scene in Syracuse has been forever changed as a result of Kyle's contributions. Our sincere sympathy is sent to his family at this most difficult time. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Condolences to Kyle's family. He will be sorely missed. Events will not be the same without his presence. May your spirit soar, Kyle!

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *will be truly missed grew up with him and went to school with him
prayers for the family*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary and Family, I am so sorry for your loss of Kyle. My thoughts
and prayers are with you and your family, Kathy*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary and family, I am so sorry!! Thinking of you.*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



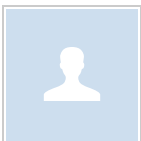
“ *Prayers for the family~ we are very sorry for your loss.*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss, may God give you strength in this time of
need.*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *my friends and I, reminisced todaywhen we learned the sad
news, of the musical influence on our lives that Kyle gave us when
we were only 15/16 years old. The Hawk showed us the roots of the
music that we loved....at such a young age.
May you Rest In Peace (or Rock In Peace) Kyle.....you were
special, and showed us the way.*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary,Charlotte and sons: I am so sad to hear of Kyle\'s passing. My prayers are with you at this sorrowful time.Let me know if there is anything I can do.*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sad, and shocking. I live up the street and just saw Kyle walking his dog last week when I was walking my little Cairn terrier. Am sending prayers....so sorry for your sudden loss.*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *In the late \'60\'s and early \'70\'s, Kyle taught me so much about the Blues. I still remember him riding on a bike down Valley Dr, either on his bicycle built for two, or on the handle bars of a bike with Kris Johnson.
I saw on Facebook that he was to be going to Memphis to a Blues event this week. Its too bad he didn\'t make it.
R.I.P. Kyle*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *please tell me buddy how can I smile on such a sad sad day. thanks for the beautiful song hawk rest well terry*

April 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was shocked and saddened to hear of Kyle's passing. He was a friend, and a fine musician. I'll especially miss his laugh. My condolences to the family.*

April 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sad to hear of Kyle's passing. My condolences to his family. Pam and I got to know Kyle just over the last few years and I considered him a friend. We broke bread and enjoyed many blues concerts together.*

Rest in Peace, Hawk.

April 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so saddened to hear of the passing of Kyle. He and Mary were a big part of my growing up years. Especially remember many many times sitting in the basement listening to blues music and Cannons Ballroom with the famous Blues acts he would bring to Syracuse.... My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*
Amy Miller

April 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary...I just can't believe this...my heart is breaking for you, your sons, and your grandsons!!!! My thoughts and prayers are with you all....please know that if there is anything I can do for you...please ask!!!*

April 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Very sad loss to everyone.

April 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM