

Wayne Tate



Wayne Tate passed away on the morning of January 2, 2023. Born in Queens, New York, on January 26, 1946, to Ruth and Fred Tate, he lived 76 years. Well-informed and with a sharp opinion on everything, Wayne was known for both his irreverence and his wit, often using the latter to ease the delivery of the former. He made a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Wayne was a patriot who believed in the mission of this country. He was in the Army Reserves and worked for the Navy before serving overseas for more than 30 years as a USAID Foreign Service Officer. Postings included Philippines, Pakistan, Bolivia, and his proudest, Mission Director in Paraguay. On returning home, Wayne was a professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College in Washington, DC. He was a consummate historian, with an office filled to the brim with books, artifacts, maps, and medals. More than someone who remembered facts, figures, and dates – though he did – he understood the mechanics of global change, seeing patterns and understanding the underlying human follies that cause history to repeat. When not on assignment, Wayne was on the water, where he was happiest. An avid fly fisherman and a lover of nature, he could find the fishing in any country on earth – and carve out the time to throw a line in.

He was preceded in death by his wife Rita of 47 years and is survived by his mother Ruth, sister Janet, and sons David and James.

The family will accept visitors at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home on January 16 from 1-2 p.m., followed by a graveside service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Potomac Riverkeeper Network – specifically to the Shenandoah River, which held a special place in his heart. www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/shenandoah-river.