

George Oscar Tankersley

March 3, 1945 - January 2, 2026

George Oscar Tankersley, age 80, of Columbia, formerly of Gravois Mills, passed away January 2, 2026, at University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics in Columbia. He was born March 3, 1945, in Otterville, Missouri, a son of the late Orvel C. and Frances S. (Rowles) Tankersley.

On December 28, 1970, George was united in marriage to his surviving wife, Kathryn (Purvis) Tankersley.

George went to grade school in Fortuna. He spent his freshman year at Tipton High School and finished high school graduating from Morgan County R-II in Versailles. George attended Memphis State University from 1963 to 1965. He proudly served his country in the United States Army and fought in Vietnam from 1966 to 1969. George had a passion for building and construction which led him to establish George Tankersley Construction. A skilled builder, he spent many years constructing beautiful homes throughout the lake area. His work stood as a reflection of his strong work ethic, craftsmanship and commitment to helping others build places where memories would be made.

Beyond his profession, he was deeply involved in the community over the years serving on the Gravois Mills Chamber of Commerce, volunteered at the Osage Indian Heritage Days and Habitat for Humanity, as well as served on the board for Cochurmin Homes. He was always willing to lend a hand, share

his time and support those in need. His generosity and quiet leadership left a lasting impact on many lives.

Above all else, George was a loving husband, devoted father and a true friend. He cherished his family and valued the relationships he built over a lifetime. George loved to make people laugh and was quick to tell a joke. He will be remembered for his kindness, humor, integrity and the legacy of service he leaves behind.

In addition to his wife, Kathy, he is survived by his daughter, Jessica Barrington and son-in-law Phillip; brothers, Paul Tankersley (Dorothy), John Tankersley (Georgene) and Dale Tankersley; sisters, Sarah Williams and Lynn Beasley (David) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Travis Tankersley.

A celebration of George's life will be held at the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 12:00 Noon. Graveside services and inurnment with full military honors will follow in Ozark Chapel Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Saturday, at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Ozark Chapel Cemetery

305 North Main Street
Gravois Mills, MO 65037

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Celebration of Life

JAN 10. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Tribute Wall



“ Jo Papen lit a candle in memory of George Oscar Tankersley



Jo Papen - January 14 at 07:06 PM



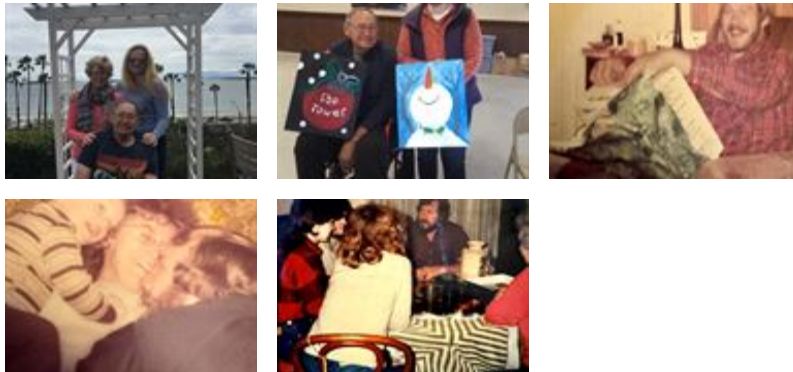
“ Hilgar's Painting lit a candle in memory of George Oscar Tankersley



Hilgar's Painting - January 12 at 05:10 PM



“ 68 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - January 08 at 04:15 PM

TS

“ Andre and I are so sorry for your loss. Our deepest condolences and love to Kathy and the family.

Thomas Stribling - January 06 at 07:42 PM

HW

“ George and Kathy were my second home as a kid. I used to stay at their house with Jessica just about every weekend. What a wonderful family! George always made it fun with his jokes and funny stories. He will be missed! My heart goes out to Kathy and Jessica and Phil ❤️

Heidi Walter - January 06 at 02:01 PM

MM

“ Michele Miller lit a candle in memory of George Oscar Tankersley



Michele Miller - January 05 at 11:24 PM

MH

“ I had the good fortune to meet George and Kathy towards the end of his time on Earth. He was a warm, jovial man who played a mean game of Mexican Train Dominos. He was an asset to every group and every person he met. I and the other residents at Cedarhurst Columbia will miss him terribly!

Mary Hunter - January 05 at 10:16 PM

MS

“ I knew George early in life as Mrs. Tankersly’s very big husband as he’d stop by the school on occasion. As a third grader looking up to him it seemed his head was in the clouds. Later through business I knew him as George. He was one our favorite customers at Sherman Millwork. Always enjoyed him coming in the office or meeting him out on the job. He was a very talented craftsman and I learned a lot from him. Just a couple of years ago he appeared at my lumberyard in Versailles and I had the joy of helping him again with his projects. Loved George and so sorry to hear of his passing! It was an honor to know him! Prayers for Kathy and the family.

Mark Sherman - January 05 at 08:06 PM

BA

“ George was ‘one-of-a-kind’ his love for life will never be forgotten.



Brenda Arment - January 05 at 07:53 PM

JT

“ I have known George since I was in second grade as Kathy was my teacher. I remember when he worked with Chuck Kempf and those two told funny stories. I mostly remember what a hard working funny story telling man he was as I grew up. His kind sweet smile and his love for his family told it all. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Jackie Tortorice - January 05 at 07:24 PM

SE

“ George was one of my favorite customers and the bank! I have known George a lot of years!! He was always kind and courteous! and quiet , polite and could be funny when he wanted to be! He was my” gentle giant “ that was one of the best ever!! Sending love and hugs to Kathy band family!!
Susan Emert



Susan Emert - January 05 at 07:05 PM

BS

“ Betsy Stevens lit a candle in memory of George Oscar Tankersley



Betsy Stevens - January 05 at 06:54 PM

HW

“ Helen Willis lighted a candle in remembrance of George Tankersley. Much love to his family and friends!

Helen Willis - January 05 at 06:22 PM

TK

“ How well, I remember George as a fellow classmate in the Versailles High School class of 1963. In introducing the basketball starting five that went 24 and 3 our senior year, I made a mistake in my alumni address of saying George was 6' feet 4" rather than 6' feet 5". When I apologized to George, he very graciously accepted my apology without the slightest hint of being angry. George, was an all-around nice fellow!



Tom Kerr - January 05 at 11:01 AM

TS

“ Tony Schaffer lit a candle in memory of George Oscar Tankersley



tony schaffer - January 05 at 10:42 AM

RF

“ Robin Ferguson lit a candle in memory of George Oscar Tankersley



Robin Ferguson - January 05 at 09:16 AM

SS

“ Shirley Sumner lit a candle in memory of
George Oscar Tankersley



Shirley Sumner - January 04 at 08:37 PM

SR

“ SHIRLEY ROOT lit a candle in memory of
George Oscar Tankersley



SHIRLEY ROOT - January 04 at 06:30 PM