



Scott Blackwell

June 8, 1954 - December 7, 2023

Scott "Jelly" Blackwell

One day when Scott was supposed to be in a high school class his mother Pat saw him walking down the street. He confessed he was headed to his favorite pool hall. Scott never met a rule he wasn't willing to break.

He was a spectacularly talented keyboard player, a songwriter, won trophies and no little money playing pool, loved racing cars, often on racetracks. He was crazy about his daughter Casey and her wife Courtney.

Scott died in his sleep Dec. 7 at his home in Cape Girardeau.

Scott's original nickname Jelly Belly was a gift from his youth baseball manager, Al Ashby, whose own nickname was Casey, after Casey Stengel. Scott's waist was a bit round back then, but he was a good hitter. Scott changed his nickname to Jelly Roll when he became a musician. Most of the musicians in his world just called him Jelly.

His parents, Pat and Joe Blackwell were musicians, playing in the Jerry Ford Orchestra for decades. During his teens they drove him to St. Louis every Saturday to take piano lessons from Herb Drury , a top jazz pianist. Scott played piano in the Central High School Jazz Band that toured Europe for six

weeks the summer before his senior year.

While still in high school a group of his jazz band friends were killed in a car wreck on their way to hear the jazz-rock band Chase in Carbondale. Scott wasn't with them only because he was attending the visitation for one of his grandfathers. The news of his friends' deaths was delivered during the visitation. He never talked about that trauma.

His dad, Joe, had a combo Scott began playing in at 17. Scott moved to Coco Beach, Fla., at the invitation of a local band called Pruf. When he moved back to the area there were stints in bands called Trux, Scandal and Ozark. He also played with Chris and Mark Moore in a band who called themselves Rascal Flats. More about that later.

Scott often organized concerts to raise money to help musician friends pay medical bills.

Eventually Scott moved to Nashville and joined a band called the Fat Cats. One night he encountered some musicians who had formed a band and were looking for a name. He suggested Rascal Flats. Rascal Flatts became one of the most popular bands in country music.

Scott played with some well-known musicians in Nashville, including Joe Stampley, who he toured with behind a string of hits through the '70s and '80s. He played with David Allan Coe, one of the original country music outlaws.

With his good friend Jerry Laseter he wrote a song titled "Somewhere Under the Rainbow," recorded by Joe Diffie. He also co-wrote "Honky Tonk Boots," a hit for Sammy Kershaw.

Scott performed at the Grand Ole Opry 14 times. Tanya Tucker just released a

Jerry Laseter song titled "Merry Christmas Wherever You Are." Scott plays the piano part on the song.

His daughter Casey recalls her dad picking her up one day in Sikeston and telling her mother they would spend a few days in Nashville. Instead they drove to a gig he had in North Carolina and went whitewater rafting. Casey remembers having fun. Her mother was not pleased.

His sister Sally lives in Cincinnati with her husband Doug Bethea. Their children Kyle, Carly and Kim are Scott's nephew and nieces. His brother Sam lives in Cape Girardeau with his wife Danna Cotner.

Joe's mother, Alta, often babysat the Blackwell children while their parents played a band job. The children knew at some point she would fall asleep and they could run the neighborhood. Sally recalls one rule-breaking night they hid in ditches and threw rocks at cars. She grew up to become a first grade teacher. He grew up paying no attention to anyone else's rules and sleeping on couches and buses.

Chris Moore says playing music with Scott was an adventure. "I always had good vibes playing music with Jelly. He had great energy and feel for a diversity of styles.

"You never knew prior what you'd get during a gig. Made it fun."

Scott spent the last decade of his life living with his 96-year-old mother, Pat, cooking for her and "spoiling me rotten."

A visitation will be held from 4-6 p.m. Thursday at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. All are welcome.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **14**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Pat and family, you have my deepest condolences. Will never forget our time together.

Deborah Simms McClinton - December 14, 2023 at 11:09 AM

WH

“ So sad to hear the news of Scott's passing. Such a great talent. We played lots of music together, and he always gave it 100%. One of my fondest memories, is when we were recording a song for a TV pilot in Orlando, and the studio engineer had to put duct tape over his mouth, as he grunted when he played. Love and prayers to his family. RIP my friend.

Bill Holloman

william p holloman - December 13, 2023 at 12:14 PM

RJ

“ God Bless Scott and his family. He was a true original and had a life well lived. RIP Scott "Jelly Belly" Blackwell. From an old Met Babe Ruth teammate. Randy Johnson

Randall Johnson - December 12, 2023 at 10:45 PM

DL

Rest in peace jelly had a lot of fun keeping you awake while driving for Joe stampley lol rest in peace my friend

David Lofaro - January 30, 2025 at 11:54 AM

DL

“ Mike Laseter aka Uncle Mike to Jerry Laseter and Jelly Roll was always proud of their musical abilities. We spent time in Nashville visiting and enjoying their friendship.
My condolences to the family and friends.



Donna Laseter - December 12, 2023 at 10:39 PM

Jl

I'm the girl in this picture. I just I learned of Jelly's passing. The Quartermoon band loved Jelly so much. He would make the trek to southern Illinois every weekend to play with us for years. My condolences to his family. Fly high Jellyroll...fly high.

juli ingram - February 09, 2024 at 05:11 PM

BB

“ What an adventure to play music in 3 bands with Jelly. It was an honor to be on the bandstand with such an incredible talent. Some of my favorite musical moments were with Scott. Rest in peace , brother.
Bill Bolton

Bill Bolton - December 12, 2023 at 04:46 PM

SD

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, sending love to you all....
Freda Bethea and Sharon Douglass



Sharon Douglass - December 12, 2023 at 11:16 AM

GD

“ So sorry to hear of Scott’s passing. However, so very pleased to hear of his musical experiences and success! I have fond memories of him in Stage Band, making the Europe ‘71 album and sharing the 31 days in Europe together. Prayers of sympathy go out to the family.

Gary Dolle

Gary Dolle - December 11, 2023 at 08:31 PM

KP

My husband played music with Scott 'Jelly Roll' in Ozark. We also lived down the street from Scott and his family. Great neighbors, great friends; Scott was talented, personable and kind. And he made great mashed potatoes. Prayers for his loved ones he left behind, especially his mother and daughter.

Kathy Perkins - December 11, 2023 at 11:26 PM

BN

So very sorry. A lot of loss...and it saddens me to hear about this. Scott was one year behind me in school...but we were good friends. We were both in the Central High School Stage Band...and in addition we both...had played in Jerry Ford's Band on different occasions. My best friend was Rick Samuel...a classmate of Scott's. Rick was a saxophone prodigy...and Scott was an extremely talented piano player. They both taught me so much about playing and songs and chords. We had so many fun, happy times together...getting pizza...playing songs. But we had the most fun playing pool together ! Scott was a master pool player. Scott reminded me of Paul Neuman's character in the movie "The Hustler"...Scott was that "Cool" and that "good" at pool. In the fall of 1972...I asked Scott to play in a band with me...that was being put together in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. I wanted to share with you...that at that time...I had an album..."Nancy Wilson/Cannonball Adderley...Save Your Love For Me". Scott loved that album so much...he would play it continuously...over and over and over. To this day...any time I play that album..or listen to one of the songs from it...I think of Scott. I also...have hand written manuscript from the song...he and Rick used to play so much..."Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most." Scott told me back then...those are the chords I play for that song. It is a beautiful song...and beautiful chords...and I always think of Rick and Scott when I play it. Scott was a friendly, kind...beautiful person. I will always cherish knowing him.

Bruce Nunnelly - December 12, 2023 at 03:10 PM

GJ

Scott was a member of the house band , Larry Swift at Ramada Inn in Sikeston Mo when I met him 1983 . Later he came back has a founding member of Trux , a very talented band . Go rest high my friend .

guy jenkins - December 14, 2023 at 07:00 PM

DA

“ Honored that our bands Proof and Scandal were mentioned. Great musical memories. Scott was the best and so much fun....fly high friend....Don and Suzy Akers

Don Akers - December 11, 2023 at 04:45 PM

DL

“ Scott was one of the first people I met when I moved to Cape. He made me feel very welcome as he new citizen of the town when I met him at the pool hall. I married into the family, and he continued to make me feel most welcome. He was one really good guy! He will certainly be missed.

Doug Lewis - December 11, 2023 at 04:09 PM

JD

“ We had so many good times here in St Marys, Ohio and Put-in-Bay. Lots of wonderful conversations. I will miss you pj. Love to Pat and family.

Jules Dowling - December 10, 2023 at 07:19 PM

DB

“ Pat, I can't believe that we all just shared Thanksgiving and now Scott is gone. You are in our prayers. ❤️ Danel and Doug Burch (Danna's sister)

Danel Burch - December 09, 2023 at 12:40 PM

CS

“ I went to grade school and high school with Scott. He was a very talented musician and a very nice guy. Very sad to hear this.

Cara Sprigg - December 09, 2023 at 09:22 AM

DA

“ We are so sad to hear of the passing of our precious friend. Always in our hearts.
Love, Don and Suzy Akers

Don Akers - December 08, 2023 at 09:18 PM

CL

“ *Scott was a very accomplished piano player.
He was my cousin. Rest in peace Scotty* ❤️ 🙏



Chris Lewis - December 08, 2023 at 05:19 PM