



## Thomas Liantonio

January 27, 1951 - May 31, 2008

Thomas "Tommy Gates" Liantonio, 57, of Momence, died May 31, 2008, at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Memorial visitation will be from 4 p.m. Wednesday until the 5 p.m. memorial service at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais. Memorials may be made to the family wishes. Mr. Liantonio was a disc jockey for WVLI for 10 years. He was born Jan. 27, 1951, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of Gaetano T. "Jerry" and Winefred James Liantonio. He was a graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, N.Y. One of Jehovah's Witnesses, he attended the Kingdom Hall in Momence. He enjoyed music, trains and anything to do with trains. Surviving are his wife, the former Carole Waddell, whom he married July 3, 1999, in Momence; two daughters, Sheralyn T. Liantonio of Madison, Wis., Brandi V. Liantonio of Racine, Wis.; one sister, Cristina Liantonio of the Bronx; and one brother, Paul V. Liantonio of the Bronx. His parents are deceased.





“ *"Hey Tommy!" was something heard around the office and studios everyday. ĩ½He was someone that always had something interesting to say and you would be a fool if you didn't listen. ĩ½I had learned so much from him and he will be missed not just by myself but all who knew him.##imported-begin##Erika McGrath##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Tommy, I enjoyed his "Diner" show just about everyday.<br><br> He will be missed .<br><br>##imported-begin##Dave##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ *Tommy came to work everyday with a smile and, of course, brought great knowledge of the music and artists we play. ĩ½We'll all miss him.##imported-begin##Gordy##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ *I listen to the "Diner" as well as the "In the Mood" show.....<br><br>Such a wealth of knowledge for all the music Tommy played.....his love for his work was obvious.....<br><br>He will be missed very much##imported-begin##Jeffery Boland##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy, you were always so much fun and so interesting to listen to! I will miss just hearing your voice, and the behind-the-scenes stories you would give with some of the songs and groups you played. I liked the In the Mood and Tom's Diner as well. <br><br><br>And of course I loved listening to you in the car, Tommy, - Thanks for the ride!##imported-begin##Jennifer Phillips##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ You struggled with your life and issues but always kept your sense of humor. I won't forget you!##imported-begin##Mary Christiansen##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ All of your expressions are so touching and encouraging to our family.<br><br>Tommy was one of a kind. He loved doing his work so much so that he would come home and play his favorites all over again for me to listen to. His passion for music and his love for his listeners always inspired him to do his absolute best on the air. So often he you would hear him when he was feeling awful but it would never come across in his golden voice. As his sister stated  
1/2earlier, he had a passion for model railroading and would spend countless hours reading about how to create his next layout. 1/2As his health began to fail him, he took solice in trying his hand at art. He created many different pieces on canvas, some of which he sold.<br><br>Next to trains, his most favorite thing to do was to cuddle up on the couch and watch old movies. He loved gardening in the summertime he care for vegatables and beautiful roses.  
1/2Tommy was so handsome and so charming.He will be missed by so many but not forgotten.<br><br>His body betrayed him, but he never stopped loving his work.<br><br>Thanks to you all for caring so much for him. He certainly could feel your love and affection right through the radio waves. :o)###imported-begin###Carole Liantonio###imported-end###

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy was the highlight of me day at WVLI!! He always made time to sit down in the office with me and we'd just talk about our lives! I called into the station every once and a while once I no longer worked there just to speak to him! I was deaply deaply saddend to hear of his passing and he'll be greatly missed by alot of ppl!<br><br><br>He was such an amazing person! Too good for this world!<br><br><br><br>RIP friend! I'll miss you!<br><br><br><br>XoXo<br><br>Jess###imported-begin###Jessica Bessette###imported-end###

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy and I met working together at WLIP in Kenosha WI. We both suffered through board op'ing those never ending Brewer's games and became friends. We both ended up getting fired around the same time. (We were replaced by automation.) In typical Tommy "Gun" Gates fashion rather than look upon the firing negatively he immediately said: "Now that we have the time let's do a cable access show." Tommy and I co-hosted "The Big Show On Video" in Kenosha county WI and Lake County IL for several years. Together with assorted friends we mocked, punned and ridiculed our way across both counties for a couple of years. I always thought of Tommy as my Ed McMahon and I was his Letterman. An odd combination for sure but he always made me laugh, which was good enough for me. Over the last several years I had lost touch with Tommy and sadly a friend came across this obituary page when we started trying to track him down. Tommy was a sweet man with a big heart, a love for music and radio, full of corny jokes and goofy stories that always made me laugh. I treasure my autographed photo of Tommy (It was the headshot he used for print and commercial work.) that I cajoled him into signing to me. He will be missed by myself and the rest of the 'Big Show' family.##imported-begin##Mike Smith##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ I will always remember Tom as a funny, sweet man, who really seemed to love life. i¿½Though I hadn't talked to him a number of years, I enjoyed our talks in the past, and will continue to have fond memories. i¿½The hope of paradise is most certainly the best comfort. i¿½I pray for all who were close to him and loved him, and am sincerely sorry for their loss.##imported-begin##Paige (Simpson) Garrett##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ I have known Tommy for most of his ten years on the air at WVLI. I had the pleasure of meeting him and being interviewed by him many times over the years. He was a sweet, kind, funny man who's talent will be greatly missed. My sympathies to all of his loved ones, and his radio family at Milner Broadcasting.##imported-begin##Becky Wilder##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Carole, I remember when you worked at Ackman, Marek's office and how excited you were to get married to Tommy. ĩ½I hope your years of marriage to him were memorable. ĩ½No one can replace him and no words I say will take the hurt away. ĩ½Just know that my thoughts are with you. ĩ½Whenever I heard him on the radio, I often thought of you.<br><br><br><br>Blessings to you,  
Tami##imported-begin##Tami Wagner##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ It's been our pleasure to listen to Tommy's In the Mood Show as our family time on Sunday nights. To hear his voice on the radio while we dance in our kitchen has provided so much joy to our young family. It was fun to see the excitement in his face when he got to share the history of radio and music trivia with other people. He had a real heart for people, for pets, and for his profession. God bless you Tommy.##imported-begin##Ed & Erin Soper##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy will be sorely missed. ĩ½He was a terrific radio personality. ĩ½His taste in music was terrific. ĩ½In the past, we met Tommy and his wife on a train excursion from Chicago to Galesburg, and we enjoyed getting to personally have this contact with Tommy and his wife. ĩ½We remember how excited Carole was that this was a surprise for Tommy, and how excited he was. ĩ½Our sympathy to Tommy's family.##imported-begin##Michael & Janice Bonnell##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Just wanted to say that I will miss hearing Tommy "Gates" on the WVLI radio station, which I listen to regularly. ĩ½He had a very soothing voice and I enjoyed his programs very much. ĩ½I'm sure he is having a great time in heaven!##imported-begin##Jeanette Schneider##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ One of the first things we discovered when we moved to Bourbonnais two years ago was Tommy's " In the Mood" radio<br><br>program on Sunday nights. It was such a pleasure to sit on our patio and listen to the wonderful music. Tommy's vast knowledge and obvious love of music was apparent each week. He will be sorely missed.<br><br><br><br>Steve and Jeannie Olson##imported-begin##jeannie and steve olson##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tom will be miss! My son, Jeremiah, knew him as the brother who gave him the GOLD candy!##imported-begin##Lukes Family##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy was one of my favorite patients. i¿½He was someone I always looked forward to seeing when he came in. i¿½He could always get us to laugh when the staff most needed it. i¿½He will always be remembered.##imported-begin##Sarah Spence##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ I have listened to Tommy since he began his program here. And I missed him when he was off the air with heart trouble. I called him a few times when he was on the air with a comment or a question. I was talking to a friend.<br><br>The world is a sadder place without him<br><br><br><br>Thanks Tommy,<br><br>Eldon<br><br>##imported-begin##Eldon Plante##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ I really miss hearing Tom on the radio. I know that WVLI will have a very hard time replacing him. I really enjoyed his knowledge and insight into the artist and the songs that he played. I will also miss him saying "if you are listening to me at home thanks for tuning in and if you are listening to me in the car thanks for taking me for the ride". I took him for the ride quite alot. I even took him for the ride when I drove for charity fund raisers, this was the most that I listened and he really made the ride easier. My job truly was more enjoyable thanks to him. I really want to thank him for the rides. My prayers are with you and I hope that you find comfort in all who enjoyed him. Again I thank him for the ride.##imported-begin##Mrs. Joann R. Lambert##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ I am saddened to hear of the death of "Tommy Gates". I enjoyed listening to him on the radio. He will be missed. Please accept my sympathy for your loss.##imported-begin##Linda Scering##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy was very friendly & helpful the minute I walked into the studio. He was always willing to assist me and give me advice on how I could do a better job. He was one of the nicest human beings you would ever want to meet. He loved his job! I enjoyed his laugh. He was truly a good man.<br><br>May You Rest In Peace Tommy and suffer no more.<br><br>God Bless!<br><br>Mike Turcol I I##imported-begin##Mike Turcol##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Tommy was my friend or as he would say on the air "My GOOD BUDDY James Jones!". I am sad with his passing, not be able to hear him on the radio, & the conversations we had as one buddy to another. I will celebrate his life though, enjoy the good & hilarious memories we shared, and his warm smile even when life was not so accomadating. I referred to Tommy as a walking encylopedia of music knowledge. He truly loved music and the people that listened to his shows. He had quite a following. Tommy I will truly miss you my friend and I hope you have a "great gig" in Heaven, I am sure the Lord is enjoying your wonderful personality & your bits of trivia that came off the top of your head. Rest in Peace Tommy... Love,  
james jones - WVLI 95.1 & WFAV 103.7 fm###imported-begin###James D. Jones###imported-end###

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ To The Family:  
You have my deepest sympathy in the loss of "Tommy Gates". I know it is a difficult time for the family, but take comfort in knowing that this wonderful "personality" made life so enjoyable for everyone around him, especially his "loyal listeners". What a "fountain of knowledge", and from where I sat beside the car radio, he seemed to be one of the "kindest" men I have ever come accross. His "sign-off" everyday was such a very "kind" grouping of words that conveyed a wonderful message. Part of which was "if you're in the car, thanks for the ride". Tommy, "thanks" for being there. I know now you are on a "much more important ride" now. It's your turn to "enjoy the ride". We'll miss you terribly here, but we know you will be "well taken care of". God Bless!###imported-begin###Celia Calbert###imported-end###

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ My Sweet-faced Tommy Gates. ĩ½How you will be missed not only on the air but as a friend. ĩ½I'll miss the diner and your Big Band show on Sundays. ĩ½No one loved rock and roll or big band more than our Tommy Gates. ĩ½So if I happen to hear a little rock and roll in the skies I'll know that Tommy put a quarter in the jukebox in heaven.##imported-begin##Tinker Parker##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ I wanted to sign this page briefly and let all his friends, fans and co-workers know how much our family appreciate ALL of your kind words about my brother. ĩ½<br><br>While this is a sad time, it makes me glad to know Tommy had so many people around him who enjoyed his funny stories, his show and ĩ½"musicology" as much as I did too, whether up close & personal or "on the air"! ĩ½Just like many of you, I also learned A LOT of popular music history from him. Music was a very large part of our family life going right back to our parents, who were talented musicians in their own right. ĩ½<br><br>Some of you might know that Tommy was also an avid train buff, starting right here in NYC with our subway system, and creating his own "model railroad" layouts. That was something that was a lifelong enjoyment for as long as I can remember. <br><br>I've wanted to keep this short, so I'll again say thanks to all, and hope you'll continue to remember Tommy in a story he told, a particular expression, or a special song or artist he may have exposed you to.##imported-begin##Tina Liantonio##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ You have my deepest sympathy in your loss...I so enjoyed listening to Tommy on the radio at work...he had such a wonderful radio voice...he will be deeply missed by all!!!##imported-begin##Jean Cyr##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ He always had a big hello, i½a smile, i½and, of course, a story. i½Tommy had a love for our business and his listeners that was evident every time he opened the microphone. i½Tommy Gates had 'style' and I will truly miss him.##imported-begin##Kathy Gagliano##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“ Each day for lunch I will drive to the park just to sit, relax and enjoy listening to the oldies and Tommy on the radio. i½He will be sadly missed.<br><br>God Bless you Tommy and your family.<br><br>I am sure we will be hearing the music from the big blue sky.....thank you for making our days special!##imported-begin##Julie Dinkins##imported-end##

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“*"Tommy Gates" was my rock in nasty weather. When I'd hear him on the air I knew exactly how to react to the impending storms. He always had a calming effect on the situation and I never doubted - as with my dad, a farmer in his youth - that when Tommy said we were back in the safe zone that we indeed were.<br><br><br><br>I was honored to speak with him on Monday, May 26 when I won a contest. He was, as always, jovial, teasing and just plain funny.<br><br><br>But I know he's well now, and will without a doubt be watching over us all. His loved ones, especially, will feel his presence. I am \*sure\* of that!##imported-begin##Ronda Claire##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“*My deepest sympathies. ÿ½Tommy was such a nice man. ÿ½He will be missed greatly by all of his loyal listeners.##imported-begin##Karen Tedford##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM



“*Tommy was a wonderful radio talent; great knowledge of "his music." His passion for the radio business and his role in it is a lost art. ÿ½His knowledge, his smooth relaxed delivery will be missed. My deepest sympathy to his radio family and all his listeners. ÿ½God Bless...##imported-begin##Carl Gerdovich##imported-end##*

---

June 03, 2008 at 09:59 AM