

Remembering ‘The Maverick’

In Loving Memory



Advocacy is associated with public support or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. We associate ‘advocacy’ with Gaylon Lee Tootle (October 30, 1959-September 10, 2022).

Being born to blind parents and with himself and his brother (Stancil) both having vision issues is what pushed Gaylon to get involved with fighting for the rights of blind/low vision individuals.

A few honorable mentions of Mr. Tootle’s work include: serving as 1st and 2nd Vice-President of the National Federation of the Blind-Georgia Affiliate, President/Founder of the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Chapter in Augusta, Georgia, helping blind/low vision people through Walton Options Center for Independent Living, volunteering with Georgia’s Aging & Disability Network Agency, and the list goes on...

Gaylon was known throughout the community as “Maverick” because his advocacy skills and techniques were a little outside the box. He was very passionate; taking a bold, ‘in-your-face’ approach about what he did. This was demonstrated as he served as co-chair of Rev Up Georgia, a disability advocacy group, that pushed for voter rights. Also, while serving on the committee to ensure that voter machines were accessible to people with a disability, this included going to various locations and training the volunteers.

The Augusta Department of Transportation as well as many members of City Council are familiar with Gaylon Tootle! He spent several hours doing and promoting what he believed in. Having a degree in Political Science aided his mission when speaking to congress. His passion caught the attention of Vice-President Kamala Harris, whom he personally spoke with at least twice, gaining an invitation to speak in The Rose Garden at the White House in 2022. The Maverick touched the lives of many, in the state of Georgia and beyond.

There is a large void and even bigger shoes to fill within the community with this unexpected loss. He IS and WILL be greatly missed.

Soar with the eagles, Maverick!!



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