Ronnie Gates, 79, of Montezuma, died unexpectedly July 7, 2016, in Montezuma where he managed the motel. Graveside memorial services were held Sunday, July 31, 2016, at the Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Montezuma Fire Department or the Knoxville Sprint Car Hall of Fame and Museum. Holland-Coble Funeral Home of Montezuma is in charge of arrangements.

Ronnie Lee Gates, the son of Harold and Dorothy (Staker) Gates, was born of March 29, 1937. He previously lived in Des Moines where he worked for Firestone for 28 years, before moving to Montezuma to run the Cozy Country Inn for the past 14 years. He professionally showed German Shepherd dogs all over the country. He was a great fan of sprint and stock car racing and raced stock cars as a young man. He was an excellent gardener and enjoyed working in his garden and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Patty; son, Jimmy (Cindy) Gates; daughters, Sally and Carol Ann; grandchildren, Jimmy Gates, Jr., Anthony Gates and Joy Chavez; 13 great grandchildren; his brother, Larry (Kathy) Shaffer and sister, Marjorie (Al) Bean.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Dorothy Gates.