

April 16, 2023

Concerns & Sympathies

Sympathies

Word has been received that **Caller Paul Cote** has passed away. Caller Ted Lizotte was a close friend of his and his family asked Ted to send out a notice. I have copied Ted's message from his FB page and am pasting it below.

Ted Lizotte is 🙄 feeling sad.

So I guess this is falling to me...

I've been asked to inform everyone that my best friend, the incomparable Paul Cote, has moved on from this world, as of yesterday afternoon, 4/7/2023. His family has asked to not receive phone calls and to respect their privacy during this time. They asked that I put something together to let everyone know.

Paul and I have known each other since the 10th grade, and have been life long friends since then. We worked together, lived together, and performed together. He's been called my "first wife", and I suppose that's about as close to the truth as it gets.

Paul was a "go big, or go home", kind of guy. Everything he did, he did to it's fullest. Of course that means he could rub some people the wrong way, but as gruff as he could be, I knew the big old softy differently.

I owe him a lot. I only started square dancing and calling because he didn't give me a choice. We ended up performing together for a decade before we got a "divorce" of sorts, and went our separate ways for almost another decade.

When my parents passed, Paul reached out with his condolences and we reconnected like no time had gone by. I still have the heart felt note he sent more than 20 years ago.

I managed to get him back into the Square Dance fold and he again dived into the deep end. He was one of my biggest supporters as my square dance career moved along, always cheering me on from the sidelines. He was always worried that being my friend would tarnish the way people thought of me. Like I cared.

He'd almost always be good for an hour long phone call to catch up. And if I called him after midnight to say a drunken "Hello" - he would answer and I'd hear about it the next day.

He would go out of his way to try and take care of things for you if he could. He loved his food, that's because his mom was a hell of a cook. And don't even get me started about his dogs, he would turn into a different man in their presence. And he absolutely loved the square dance activity and the people in it.

I could continue to babble on but right now, I'm still in a little bit of shock. I'm sure there will be more emotions headed my way. Let me just say, he was a hard guy to love, but love him I did.

I'm going to miss you old friend. The old songs will never be the same. I hope peace is finally yours to embrace.

Love ya big guy. Safe travels...

- Ted

*If you'd like to send a card or note to Mary Ellen and his family, they can be reached at the address below:
9727 Sugar Tree Court, Houston, TX 77070.

The DANCERgram magazines are written and published by a square and round dancer concerned about preserving our dance activity. The magazines include *Planner* (weekly), *This & That* (monthly), *Joys, Concerns, & Sympathies* (as needed), and *Directory* (as needed). All of the magazines are under the DANCERgram banner. In the event of new information between publication dates, notification is sent via the *Flash*.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any submission to the DANCERgram magazines. Opinions expressed in any DANCERgram magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor. All new information (since the previous issue) in these magazines is highlighted in yellow.

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DANCERgram Staff

Editor: Penny T. Green Webmaster: Cliff Reiss