

Thomas "Tiny" Matthews



MATTHEWS, THOMAS "TINY" Thomas Charles Matthews, "Tiny" to friends, beloved husband to Sandra Lee Hall and father of Annette Marie Matthews passed away peacefully in the early morning of Aug 23, 2004. He was raised in the Eugene-Springfield area where he worked on the family farm, the lumber industry, and in sales. He would often tell stories about the day they got the first light bulb on the farm (which went in the barn) and the people he knew who have gone on to great success in the timber industry. He was an Eagle Scout and liked to brag how well he was able to hunt and fish during the survival test. He graduated from Elmira High School in 1958 and married his wife of 38 years in 1967. He met her while selling encyclopedias and said it was love at first sight. He was employed by Oregon Liquor Control Commission in 1968 as a clerk at the 10th and Salmon Street liquor store. He made a career of selling whiskey, first for the state and then by building his own private business. Throughout his career he was a passionate advocate for his professional society, the Oregon Liquor Agents Association, and an active lobbyist at the Oregon State Capital. He was instrumental in gaining better working conditions for liquor agents including health insurance, increased compensation, and the "Widows and Orphans Bill" which allows family member to inherit liquor stores at the death of the agent. He was the winner, with three of his fellow liquor agents, of the 1994 Cascade Policy Institute Oregon Better Government Competition for his ideas on reform of the liquor sales industry. When younger, Tiny did wood-working and more recently built yard art out of copper tubing. He was an avid, skilled tournament and highstakes poker player, and played 30-60 Texas Hold'em the day before his death, after eating at Buster's Bar-B-Q with his daughter. He also enjoyed computer games, and his Free Cell Score was 4676 with no losses at his death. He spoiled several basset hounds. They frequented the Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Clinic where one served as a blood donor. Tiny recently got a new van that held his scooter, and he scooted his way around the several states looking at Native American ruins in the summer of 2003. His daughter is a medical doctor in the Portland area, which made him very proud. Tiny was a loving husband, a confidant, advisor and advocate for many. He could often be found sitting in his liquor store dreaming up some new scheme, plan, or invention; or at the poker table, winning. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Matthews; and his daughter, Dr. Annette M. Matthews. Tiny will be greatly missed by many. A memorial celebration for friends and family will be held on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004 at 1 p.m. at the Gateway Elk's Lodge. Please bring stories and pictures. BarB-Q will be served. Contributions can be made in his memory to Dove Lewis Emergency Veterinary Hospital at 1984 N.W. Pettygrove, Portland, OR 97209 or call Ellen at (503) 535-3391 extension 44.

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