



Ian James Tinsley

September 23, 1929 - December 10, 2023

Dr. Ian James Tinsley passed away at his home in Corvallis, OR early in the morning of December 10th 2023 at the age of 94.

Ian was born in Sydney, Australia on September 23, 1929. He was the son of William James Tinsley and Edna Lizzie Field Tinsley. He grew up in the town of Blackheath in the Blue Mountains east of Sydney. His child home had a clay tennis court which led to a life-long love of the game.

Ian graduated from Katoomba High School in 1946. In 1950 he received a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from the University of Sydney. After working a few years at Australia's Commonwealth Science Institute and Research Organization he came to Corvallis in 1953 to pursue graduate studies at Oregon State College, receiving his doctorate in Food Technology in 1958.

The rest of Ian's career was spent at Oregon State in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry. He became a professor in 1970 and served as department chair from 1990 until he retired in 1996. He taught freshman chemistry for several decades. In 1976 he developed a course on chemicals in the environment. Chemical Concepts in Pollutant Behavior, the book he wrote for the course, was first published in 1978. An updated edition was released in 2004. He also enjoyed working with Agriculture Extension offices

throughout the state.

When Ian arrived in Corvallis in 1953 he joined its First Baptist Church and remained a faithful and active member for the rest of his life, serving over the years as a Sunday School teacher, youth group sponsor, trustee and elder.

Ian married Ruth Roberta Govier in December 1955. Ian and Ruth had two sons: Douglas James (born in July 1957) and John David (born in February 1959). Ian was widowed in January 1979 when Ruth passed away. In December 1981 Ian married Joy Melanie Wuestefeld. Ian and Joy had one daughter: Megan Lee (born in May 1983).

Ian was a voracious reader. He also enjoyed sudoku, tennis, golf and following Beaver sports. He traveled extensively both for work and pleasure, visiting five continents.

Ian is survived by his wife Joy and daughter Megan both of Corvallis, his son Doug of Vancouver, WA, his son John of Lake Havasu City, AZ and his sister Joyce Briggs of Sydney.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.McHenryFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **13**. 12:30 PM (PT)

First Baptist Church
125 NW 10th St
Corvallis, OR 97330

An organ concert will begin at 12:30pm, followed by the start of the service at 1:00pm. The service will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I had the good fortune of having chemistry in Dr Tinsley’s class. He was one of the best teachers I ever had, and I’ve had the good fortune of having many. He was a wonderful person and made learning fun. Thank you Dr Tinsley for shaping so many, including me and for your humor.

Jeff Ruby - May 23, 2025 at 03:57 PM

PW

“ Ian Tinsley was a most fatherly and affable presence for me in my growing up years in the First Baptist Church of Corvallis. I have measured every Australian I have ever met since against his gold standard!

Paul Willis - June 03, 2024 at 07:52 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Ian James Tinsley.



December 13, 2023 at 01:12 AM