



## John Carroll Mackey

March 31, 1941 - February 7, 2015

John C. Mackey of Corvallis peacefully passed away in the early morning hours of Feb. 7, at home with his wife at his side.

We lost a warm, generous, hard-working, fun-loving man as a result of a recent cancer diagnosis.

John was born March 31, 1941, in Foley, Alabama, to Fred A. and Polly M. Mackey. The Mackeys had sold their family farm in Nebraska and detoured to Alabama for two years on their way to Oregon.

John was the last born of eight children, and learned the value of being responsible at an early age as he picked berries and beans with friends in the fields near Salem. When he was a teenager John worked two summer jobs (16 hours a day) to save for the coming school year, and he always had a nice car.

He graduated from North Salem High School in 1959. During that time, he joined the National Guard (eight years) and thoroughly enjoyed the summer training camp with the good guys that he met. Following high school, he became an apprentice bricklayer for his brother's masonry company and had his journeyman's card by age 21. During the next few years, he attended night classes, learning to bid jobs, and became a foreman for the company.

It was in Salem that John met Jeanne Edwards, an elementary school teacher who also was studying for her master's degree in guidance and counseling through Oregon State University. They had wonderful times drifting the Santiam River, hiking, fishing and dancing to those romantic, melodious 1950s and 1960s tunes. They were married in May of 1968 and moved to Corvallis that August with John's two small daughters.

John's life as an entrepreneur began shortly thereafter when he started John C. Mackey Masonry – basically doing commercial jobs (1968 to 1977). John often had several businesses during the same years and loved the challenge of starting them or bringing them back to a profitable basis.

He and a partner started Eastgate Construction Co. (1974 – 2006). They constructed and leased office and industrial space in Corvallis, Newport and Albany. They also owned Tidewater Veneer in Bandon, Oregon (1981 to 1986). In addition, John owned Eastgate Cabinet Company (1975 to 1979).

John acquired a real estate license in 1979, and sold commercial and industrial properties for Ransom and Smith Realty in Albany. After acquiring his broker's license he founded John C. Mackey Real Estate (1983 to 2005). He purchased Mega Tech of Oregon, an electronic board house whose customers produced a variety of products (1992 to 2003). He did not retire until Eastgate Construction was sold in 2006.

John was a good, kind employer who cared about his employees, his fellow man and the youth of our great country! As a result, he and Jeanne established an endowment scholarship at Western Oregon University, OSU and Linn-Benton Community College, and one through the Benton County Foundation to assist the youth of Oregon in reaching their educational goals.

Along with his many business ventures, John has been an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed many years of deer and elk hunting, which usually included using the packhorses and mules and staying in the mountains for several weeks at a time. In later years, he continued pheasant hunting and added some great chukar hunts.

John and Jeanne went on many snowmobiling trips with close friends, and one of the most memorable times was stopping on the Continental Divide in Yellowstone National Park at midnight! Golf was another of John's interests, and he belonged to the Corvallis Country Club and also the Anthem Country Club in Arizona the last four years.

Another of his many loves was flying and after acquiring his private pilot's license in 1971, he and Jeanne became very active members of the Corvallis Chapter of the Oregon Pilots Association. In 1985 John was invited to become a member of a very special pilots group, Quiet Birdmen, which has chapters nationwide. Over the years, John was a member of the Elks Lodge (early 1970s to 2010), Ducks Unlimited and several other organizations.

John was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Cleo, Orval and Kenneth; and sisters, Garland, Lyda and Naomi. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jeanne; two daughters from a previous marriage, Kimberly Angle of Salem and Lori Hackwell of Turner; three grandchildren, Karl and Ryan Angle, and Aaron Earl; one brother, Lyle of Lansdale, Pennsylvania; and numerous nephews and nieces.

A graveside service took place Feb. 12 at Oak Lawn Memorial Park in Corvallis.

# Tribute Wall



“ *We are sorry to see that John is gone but he is not forgotten. He was a great neighbor. Our prayers are for his family.*  
*Bob and Carolyn Webb*

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**Carolyn & Bob Webb** - February 13, 2015 at 09:43 PM