



Thomas Collins

March 24, 1951 - December 18, 2011

Thomas Gary Collins, best known as Gary to his family and friends, passed from Earth to heaven on Dec. 18, surrounded by family, after a brief and courageous battle with pulmonary fibrosis.

Gary was born March 24, 1951, in Corvallis to Thomas (Tommy) and Betty Jo Collins. Gary grew up and attended school in Monroe and after graduating from high school, he honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy.

Like his father, Gary was a quiet, gentle, devoted family man who loved his family very, very much. Gary really enjoyed sports, especially the Beavers, the Redskins and the Blazers. He also enjoyed golf, camping and fishing; holidays with family; Taco Time crispy meat burritos; Amish restaurants; and long drives for no particular reason. Gary worked many years in the timber industry, and retired in early 2011 from Ball Metal Corporation in Findlay, Ohio.

Gary and Linda married on Feb. 2, 2002, in Bellfountain; moved to Ohio shortly after; and moved back to Oregon in October 2011 to be near family and friends. Gary is survived by his wife, Linda (Rayle) Collins; daughter, Mindy Collins; son, Thomas Jeffery (T.J.) Collins (Cassie); stepson, Jeremy Storm (Sasha); stepdaughter, Dorothy Storm (Nate Phillips); his mother, Betty Jo Collins Ford; sisters Jane Brown (Larry) and Vonnie Bittner (Gary); and brother, John Collins (Betty).

He is also survived by grandchildren Joseph Storm, Thomas Sean Collins, Phoenix Schank, Abigail Collins, Trent Phillips and Hailey Collins; 16 nieces and nephews; 21 great-nieces and -nephews; one great-great-niece; and one

great-great-nephew. Gary's father, Thomas Lloyd Collins, and brother, Jerry Lee Collins, greeted him with a big hug Sunday afternoon in heaven.

Gary's great sense of humor, his beautiful smile and unique laugh, his gentle spirit will be greatly missed by his family and friends, for he was deeply loved by all who knew him.

A celebration of Gary's life will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 22, at Bellfountain Community Church.