



Tom E. Grigsby

January 1, 1937 - February 11, 2017

Thomas (Tom) Elvin Grigsby of Corvallis, Oregon passed away on February 11th, 2017, surrounded by his family at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Corvallis. He was 79 years old.

Tom was born in 1937 in Hilt, California to Byrd and Elsie Grigsby. He graduated from Klamath Union High School in 1955 in Klamath Falls, Oregon. As a talented trumpet player and musician, Tom received a music scholarship to attend Pacific University. He later earned a PhD from Oregon State University. Tom was a Professor in the Adult Education Department at Oregon State University, and he later worked as the Vice President of Research and Development for Evanite Fiber Corporation.

On August 11, 1962, Tom married the love of his life, Paula Wright, from Manzanita, Oregon. They raised three sons Mike, Dave, and Todd. Tom was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed time with his family fly fishing and exploring the Metolius River, hunting each year with his brothers and families near Klamath Falls, and boating off the Oregon Coast. Tom and Paula loved gardening together and shared their fresh produce with family and friends. Tom was very close to his grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them and attending their activities. They love him dearly.

Tom is survived by his wife Paula, three sons Mike (Kimberly), Dave, and Todd (Heidi), his brothers Mel and Jan, and grandchildren Thomas, Owen, Natalie, Alexandra, Matthew, and Jake.

A private celebration of life will be held.

He was a beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather and will be sorely missed.

Tribute Wall

PS

“ Dear Paula and family - I am greatly saddened by the passing of Tom, who was my professor and head of the Adult Ed Dept. at OSU during my master's studies, 1982-84. I enjoyed learning he was an accomplished musician and outdoorsman and that he was close with your six grandchildren - what a blessing! I greatly enjoyed Tom's relaxed warmth and his fascinating lectures. I still remember many things I learned from him such as the library study (the unconscious hand touch aiding student satisfaction), the characteristics of adult learners (why we take longer on tests, the importance of scheduling), the two kinds of students in his classes (the constant note takers vs. more thoughtful ones), and much more. Tom's relevant and insightful teaching definitely contributed to my successful teaching career. I also remember the student coffees which you two hosted for your grad students. I lacked the confidence to come and schmooze w/the elite (you), and now I'm so sorry I didn't go, brilliant or not! Sending my deeply caring thoughts,
Pam Stephens

Pam Stephens - March 06, 2017 at 02:16 PM

JR

“ I was surprised to read of Tom's passing. He was one of the professors on my doctoral dissertation committee and I also was a graduate student in several of his adult education classes at Oregon State University from 1981-84. Tom and I traveled together to Tillamook Bay Community College once after a strong Pacific storm and he enlightened me with stories about his life and Oregon experiences. Please know that he will be missed and that he made a positive difference in many students' lives at OSU. Blessings to the family from Joe Rich, Ph.D. 1984 and Nancy Maxwell-Rich, Ph.D 1984.

Joe Rich - March 01, 2017 at 04:20 PM

LS

“ Tom was my major doctoral committee professor at OSU. His motivation and direction helped me complete a difficult program and paved the way for my families future. Mahalo Nui Loa Tom for everything. Sincerely, Dr. Larry Schuetz 1990.

Larry Schuetz - March 01, 2017 at 04:19 PM

MS

“ I was a graduate student in Adult Education when Tom was Head of the Dept. He was a gentleman and a scholar. When I really made a mess of a bit of data gathering, he gently helped me see how the process should be done with just a few good questions and a sense of humor. I not only learned how to gather data and report it more clearly, I also learned how to help others notice and correct their own errors with some gentle prodding. I will never forget that. He practiced what he preached. A good man. A good teacher. Melinda Sayavedra

Melinda Sayavedra - March 01, 2017 at 04:19 PM

MF

“ To Paula and family.....I would like to extend our family's deep sympathy to all of you. My memory of Tom was of a quiet, thoughtful man who was always generous and interested in the welfare of others. I had good conversations with him at several fundraising events, and on occasions when I needed to talk to Paula on the phone, I was always met with a kind voice when he answered. Holly, Stephanie, Heather and I wish you peace as you move forward. Love, Mary Fryer

Mary Fryer - March 01, 2017 at 04:19 PM

MP

“ Our peaceful and loving wishes go out to the Grimsby family. We knew Tom Grigsby in two different venues. First, I was a doctoral student at OSU and took courses from Tom that prepared me for my now 28th year of teaching in higher education. Then when Tom moved over to work at Evanite, my husband, Tom Pardew, worked as an engineer along with him. The poignant part of Tom Grimsby's passing for me was that he died exactly 23 years after my Tom died in an automobile accident on his way to work. We thought so highly of Dr. Grigsby that we asked him to speak at Tom Pardew's memorial service. Now when I honor my Tom every February 11th, I will also send a special message to the Grimsby family. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy. Mickey Pardew and sons Kevin and Michael.

Mickey Pardew - March 01, 2017 at 04:18 PM

DD

“ *My sincere condolences to each member of Tom's immediate and extended family.*

Tom was a good and caring friend and colleague at OSU. When I returned to OSU in 1983, Tom was welcoming and helpful to me as I became re-acquainted with my Alma Mater. We shared office space in Batcheller Hall for time. Tom was a first-class educator, admired by both students and colleagues. He is now, and will be missed.

Sincerely,

Dan Dunham

OSU '62, '63, '70

S

Dan Dunham - February 27, 2017 at 07:01 PM

ML

“ *I was a student of Tom's many years ago. He was also my advisor for my M.A. . He talked to us like people not children and never told us how to vote, think or feel. Tom will be missed and I hope he has fun up there in the big sky.*

Mary Leek - February 22, 2017 at 09:43 AM