



## George Orland Watts

December 19, 1933 - January 10, 2020

GEORGE ORLAND WATTS

12/19/33 - 01/10/20

BEND, OREGON

George was born the son of Jack and Hazel Watts in a farm house outside of Brownsville, Oregon but was reared and attended schools around the Salem area. He was a hard worker from the time he was just a lad holding down jobs such as paper routes, crop picker, farm hand, meat cutter and retail such as Barb's Sporting Goods.

He graduated Salem High School with the class of '51 before going on to Willamette and the University of Oregon. Early in 1956 he graduated the U of O and entered the US Air Force as a second Lieutenant. At this same time he wed a young Canadian nurse who was working at the Dallas hospital, Sarah Willa Till. Sarah passed away in November of 2019 just 2 months shy of their 64th wedding anniversary.

George's military career took him to many bases around the world where he was needed as an F4 jet fighter pilot. He was working at Langley AFB, Virginia when he retired to Bend, Oregon with the rank of Colonel after serving his country for 21 years.

Bend offered opportunities in dabbling in Real Estate and business ventures but nothing lived up to his school days of being a tennis player. He was soon involved in USTA senior tennis at both the regional and national levels. He represented the Pacific NW in national team competitions and earned a top ten national ranking in the 65 age division. His ability and sportsmanship were well known throughout the tennis community.

For many years George was a volunteer driver for the Veterans Administration helping Vets get to the hospital in Portland. He also was a regular blood donor to the American Red Cross.

Gone ahead of George, his wife, Sarah Willa 2019 and his sister, Ruth Frederick 2012

Surviving and beloved are his son, Steven, his sister, Barbara Thomas of Salem, several nieces and nephews and a host of wonderful friends.

No gathering will be held at his request.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Partners In Care Hospice House 2075 NE Wyatt Ct. Bend, OR 97701.

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.  
541-382-2471

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 02:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album*



**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 02:43 PM

DN

“ *What a guy! When he and Willa moved to Bend, I acquired a not only a friend my age bracket, but a hitting partner who pushed us both to be a better tennis competitor. We probably played 2 or 3 times a week, if not more, and often played each other in many, many semis and finals in NW play. We became better players due to our competitiveness. He climbed the ladder to be #1 in the NW a couple of times also reaching a couple of national finals in both singles and doubles. A super guy who always gave his best. RIP, George!*

**Dennis Nielson** - April 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ George Orland Watts

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**Dennis Nielson** - April 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Thanks for everything George Knowing you and your family was and is a great privilege Thanks for all the great examples of good sportsmanship Thanks for all the great examples of stilling trying to improve your game Thanks for helping with all the Tournaments and being Captain of our Senior Team Thanks, thanks, thanks Jim and Betty Murphy

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**Jim Murphy** - February 13, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ George was a great friend and tennis buddy. Many wonderful memories playing with George. He taught me a lot about a lot of things.

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**Scott Walley** - January 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ We loved seeing and having George and Sarah at our office over the last 25 years. George was a man of great integrity, honor, humor, class and intelligence. Over the past few years, he took incredible care of his wife as her health declined ... always patient, always understanding, always there for her. George was a pleasure to watch on the tennis courts, as he ran his opponents around the court with pin-point precision placement of his shots and he seemed to always be one stroke ahead of whoever he was playing! On top of all that, he ALWAYS had a smile on his face whenever you ran into him. He remembered everything about everybody and took the time to listen and share a laugh whenever you ran into him. An absolute gem of a man, and someone whose character and integrity we looked up to. We will miss George and Sarah. Dr. Mehdi Salari and the entire staff at Skyline Dental

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**Mehdi Salari** - January 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Steve, we are saddened by the passing of your Dad, and our Uncle George. He was a kind, caring, generous and gentle man. A real gentleman. His airforce career was exemplary and we loved watching him during his tennis games. Lots of tennis memories. Uncle George will be missed by everyone. Love from your Vancouver, BC family. Lynda Mulligan and Family

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**Lynda Mulligan** - January 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I have many fond memories playing and discussing tennis with George. He always had a positive attitude and was a joy to be around. It was such a treat to meet with him at ORPS last year and meeting him in Bend for tennis or lunch while traveling through the area. He will be missed. Dave and Marilyn Sabens- Nipomo, Ca and Outdoor Resort Palm Springs

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**David Sabens** - January 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Dear Steve, We are surely thinking of you at this time of loss of both of your parents in such a short time period of your own compromised health issues. Your Dad and Mom were so kind to us every time we saw them, always a pleasure to be with them, and your Dad, a gentleman in everyway, and passed some wonderful qualities down to you, too. We have so appreciated your being in our Wed afternoon bible study these last several weeks while you were held close to home caring for your folks. We surely hope you can take the time to get on top, yourself, before having to tackle the responsibilities upon you now, after your losses. Take good care,  
Bill n Carolyn

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**Bill & Carolyn** - January 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ George Orland Watts

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**Bill n Carolyn** - January 19, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Steve, it was with great sadness and shock that we learned of the death of our Uncle George. We followed with pride his service in the air force and his tennis success. He was a lovely man who never lost his sense of humour. He will be missed by his Canadian family.  
Love Anna and Tom

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**Anna Fawdry** - January 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Sad to learn of George passing ...have been neighbors for years and he was such a nice person to for 'walk around neighborhood conversations'...a gentle soul. rest in peace. your neighbors Darryl and Pat Doser/Parr Ln

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**Pat Doser** - January 18, 2020 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ *George Orland Watts*

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**Funeral Home Owner** - January 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ *Good memories of George and time in his home. George was an example of what it means to be kind and gentle in his relations with others. He was easy to visit with, showed interest in what others were doing, and always had a good sense of humor. I greatly appreciate the memory of his hospitality and generosity and I'm very thankful for his service to our country in placing himself in harms way over and over. With thankfulness, Curtis Jacobsen*

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**Curtis Jacobsen** - January 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *We are glad to have known your Father Steve. He was a kind gentle man. We're glad we had that last meal with he and you after your Mothers passing. He had his favorite at Cracker Barrel--catfish.*

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**Larry and Sue** - January 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM