

Thomas Kinney Worcester

February 12, 1929 - July 3, 2020

Thomas Kinney Worcester, 91, passed away peacefully and surrounded by family on Friday July 3, 2020 in Sisters, Oregon.

Born February 12, 1929 in Boulder, Colorado, Worcester attended Boulder High School. After high school, Tom joined the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and graduated from University of Colorado, Boulder with a degree in Journalism. After college, he fulfilled his duty with ROTC and proudly served in the U.S. Navy. Worcester was an honored member of the Ancient Order of the Deep, having crossed the equator as a Midshipman aboard the U.S.S Theodore E. Chandler on August 12, 1949. Continuing his Naval service, Worcester served in the Korean War. While on leave in 1951, Worcester returned to Boulder to marry Lois E. Nichols whom he met at Boulder High School. Following his active duty, Worcester remained in the U.S. Navy Reserves on the Destroyer Escort U.S.S. McGinty, until his retirement as Lieutenant Commander.

After his military service, Tom and his bride Lois, returned to Colorado Springs, CO where he became an instructor of Journalism at Colorado College. In 1958, Worcester and his family moved to Portland, OR where he joined the faculty of Reed College. In December of 1970, the Worcester family moved to Clackamas, OR to live on a small farm along the Clackamas River. It was here that Worcester continued his career as a freelance writer, editor

and photographer with numerous credits to his name; including coffee table books such as "A Portrait of Oregon" and "A Portrait of Colorado". As well as the biography, "Norjak: An Investigation of D.B. Cooper". Tom and Lois shared a fondness for horses, skiing, camping, fly-fishing and traveling with their kids.

Upon retirement in 1990, it was the love of fly-fishing and all things outdoors, that brought Tom and Lois to Sisters, OR, to be near Tom's, beloved Metolius River. Tom and Lois enjoyed skiing at Mt. Bachelor and Hoodoo Ski Area. Additionally, they traveled annually for skiing, to Idaho, Colorado and Utah for many years. It wasn't until they turned 85, that they hung up their skis. Taking yearly trips to Mazatlán and other locations throughout Mexico, Tom and Lois took great interest in touring and learning about many of the ancient pyramids. In addition, they traveled much of our great country and Europe was a favored destination for The Worcesters.

Worcester proudly served the Sisters community as a Kiwanian working on high-profile events such as the Sisters Jazz Festival and the Sisters Rodeo. Tom's community service was noted by many honors, including Sisters Citizen of the Year in 1995; the Kiwanis Spirit Award for 2006-7 and Kiwanian Of the Year in 2007-8 to name a few. In addition to his community service, Tom broke out his French Horn after many years, to become a proud and dedicated member of the Cascade Horizon Band. He then again "retired" his horn in 2018, at the age of 89.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years Lois Worcester. His children; Ken Worcester, Laura Worcester-Law and Mollie Worcester all of Oregon City. As well as Andy Worcester of Bend, OR. In addition to his children, Tom was the proud grandfather to three granddaughters and a grandson, as well as two great-grandsons. Worcester was preceded in death by son Phillip and daughter Sharon.

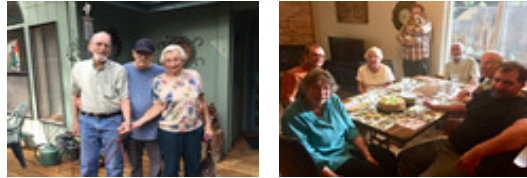
In 2019 the Sisters community held a celebration marking the 90th birthdays of both Tom and Lois. At his request, there will be no service.

In lieu of flowers, Tom requested donations be sent to the Kiwanis Club of Sisters 328 W Main Sisters, Or 97759 and/or Candlelighters for Children with Cancer www.candlelightersoregon.org or 6200 SW 92nd AVE, Suite 160 Portland, Or 97223.

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - May 18, 2023 at 02:47 PM

DE

“ *Larry and I have been life long friends of Tom and Lois'. After we returned to the Northwest we discovered the Metolius River and enjoyed camping there and connecting with Tom and Lois. Tom would fish in the river and come by to see us! After retirement Larry got involved with New Horizons Band and encouraged Tom to play in the Bend group. We connected at Band camps and enjoyed that reunion. At the last band camp we stayed at the same hotel. More lately at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland we met up when we attended during the same week in October. What a life time of memories we have shared. Diane Edison*

Diane Edison - August 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Sent with love and remembrance, from the Cantor Family.x*

J. Cantor - July 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JC

“Lois, sending you our deepest, heartfelt condolences on the passing of Tom. The memories that we have shared with you both will remain in our hearts forever. Much love from across the pond. David and June.xx

June Cantor - July 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RW

“We loved our wonderful Bend family dinners with Uncle Tom & Aunt Lois! It was always so special spending time with Uncle Tom & Aunt Lois during our Bend visits! We Worcesters all loved Uncle Tom so much, & will dearly miss his keen intelligence, warm personality, & witty conversation! Sending much love & our deepest condolences to his loving family. Bill & Roz Worcester

Roslyn Worcester - July 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RH

“Such a wise, distinguished grandpa! We will miss you.

Rachel Hendrie - July 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BF

“I was thrilled when I learned Tom did the interesting little back stories of Oregon for Pacific Power ads on KEX. It was disappointing when they were ended. He and Lois were kind, inclusive people.

Betty Ferren - July 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KB

“I pray the love of God enfolds you during your journey through grief.

Kevin Boyette - July 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ A LETTER FROM HEAVEN "To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say. But first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay. I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above. Here, there's no more tears of sadness; here is just eternal love. Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight. Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon and night. That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through, God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you." "It's good to have you back again, you were missed while you were gone. As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on. I need you here badly, you're part of my plan. There's so much that we have to do, to help our mortal man." God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do, and foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you. And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight, God and I are closest to you... in the middle of the night. When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years, because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears. But do not be afraid to cry; it does relieve the pain. Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain. I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned. But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand. But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er. I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before. There are many rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb; But together we can do it by taking one day at a time. It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too.... That as you give unto the world, the world will give to you. If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain, then you can say to God at night... "My day was not in vain." And now I am contented.... that my life has been worthwhile, Knowing as I passed along the way, I made somebody smile. So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low, Just lend a hand to pick him up, as on your way you go. When you're walking down the street, and you've got me on your mind; I'm walking in you footsteps only half a step behind. And when it's time for you to go.... from that body to be free, remember you're not going.... you're coming here to me.

Kevin Boyette - July 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ I am so sad to hear that your dad is gone. I loved him so much as a 4-H dad! I wish we had kept in touch more after 4-H 😞 . This photo of him is as I will always remember him. Plus your momma and mine getting a little 'crazy' at fair! I love you and your family.

Sandra Wold-Hattan - July 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM