



Thomas "Tom" Atkins Sr.

August 3, 1946 - January 13, 2020

Thomas "Tom" Melvin Atkins Sr. was born August 3, 1946, and entered into his eternal home with his Savior on January 13, 2020, at Good Samaritan Village, in Hastings, NE surrounded by his family.

Funeral services will be 1:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at Abundant Life Christian Center in Grand Island, NE with Pastor Gene Arnold officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to service. Burial will follow in the Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Tom was born to Melvin (Moe) and JoAnn (Evans) Atkins of Hyannis, NE. As Tom grew, many of the small towns in the Sandhills were stopping places for Moe's small family. In May of 1950, Tom became a big brother to Jerry Dwain. Road construction worker Moe, his true love, JoAnn, and the boys moved from town to town. At the end of the work season, they would visit the boys' grandparents in Stratton, CO or return to Grand Island, NE. In May of 1964, Tom graduated from Grand Island Northwest High School.

1965 was a big year for Tom; he married the love of his life, Linda J (Gibson) Atkins, and enlisted in the Army Reserves. In January of 1966, Tom left for boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Tom and Linda welcomed their first child, Jeanne, into their family in February of 1967. In October of 1968, Tom would deploy to South Vietnam with the 295th Ordinance Company. Tom returned home to "his girls" in July of 1969 and was honorably discharged from the Army Reserves in 1971. Tom Jr. was born in April of 1972, expanding their family again and once more in November of 1980, welcoming Josephine (Josie) to family.

Tom worked road construction for Missouri Valley and Gilbert Central before starting J.I.L. Asphalt Paving Company with his brother Jerry and their cousin Ron Baldwin. Tom retired from JIL asphalt in 1995 at the age of 49. Outside of the asphalt business, Tom enjoyed spending time with his family, welcoming his grandchildren to the family, raising horses on their 30 acre spread south of Grand Island , and owning/sponsoring race cars at many local dirt tracks. Tom loved fine tuning with his race cars. Many racers would call to pick

his brain on how to become faster on the track or to bend his ear about the latest news around the track. Tom also loved working around the farm, whether he was on his trusty old tractor cleaning horse pens or putting hay bales in the feeders for the mares. Outside of racing and horses, Tom enjoyed playing Tuesday night poker games at the Schimmer Shop with “the gang.”

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 54 years, Linda J. (Gibson) Atkins of Hastings, NE; children and their spouses Jeanne and Carl Mettenbrink of Grand Island, NE, Tom Jr. and June (Spiehs) Atkins of Alda, NE, and Josephine “Josie” Atkins of Omaha, NE. He will also be lovingly remembered by his 11 grandchildren, Derek and Kadee (Korgel) Mettenbrink of Omaha, NE, Sasha and Casey Miller of Grand Island, NE, Madeline “Maddie” Atkins of Alda, NE, Rachel Atkins of Lincoln, NE, Hayden Atkins of Alda, NE, Hadley Atkins of Alda, NE, Kody Whitmarsh of Bellevue, NE, Carter Whitmarsh of Bellevue, NE, Kiya Whitmarsh of Bellevue, NE; one great-grandson, Brayden Whitmarsh of Bellevue, NE; his brother and sister-in-law Jerry D. and Ann F. Atkins of Grand Island, NE, and their children.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents Melvin F. and JoAnn M. (Evans) Atkins, grandparents Joseph F. and Anna M. (Day) Evans, Ezra B. and Josephine C. (Jeppe) Atkins, as well as numerous other family members.

In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Start Over Rover. Online sharing and condolences may be directed to <http://www.livson.com>. Livingston-Sondermann Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Comments



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Linda Atkins - February 16, 2020 at 08:25 AM



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Dear. Linda and the family, We are so sorry to hear of Tom Sr. passing. He was too young to leave his earthly home. We have many memories from the past that we will always remember . Our condolences to you all, So sincerely , Harlon and Kathy Hasselmann

Kathy Hasselmann - January 29, 2020 at 04:12 PM



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Our sympathy to you and your family for your loss.
Blessings,
Jason and Annette (Wilhelmi) Harb

Annette Harb - January 20, 2020 at 07:14 PM



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Our deepest sympathies in the passing of Tom. Hold onto the good memories and times you all had together. He's now watching over you all. God Bless. Jack and Karen Beckmann

Karen Beckmann - January 19, 2020 at 07:55 PM