



Thomas Ralph Pheasant

April 13, 1933 - May 4, 2020

On Monday, May 4th Thomas R. Pheasant , 87, was freed from his battle with Alzheimer's and has gone to be with his Lord and Savior.

Thomas Pheasant was born to Ed and Eleanor Pheasant in Tonasket, WA. He grew up on an orchard working with 3 brothers, George, Allen, and Ralph. He graduated from Tonasket High School where he played basketball, football, ping pong and badminton. He went to WSU before joining the Air Force and served 4 years. In 1954 he married his high school sweetheart Dolores and they moved to Soap Lake, Washington. He began farming the fall of 1957. He formed a partnership (Basin View Orchards) in 1958 with his brother George that lasted over four decades until George's passing. He then formed a new partnership with his son Jeff and they farmed together well into his 80's until Alzheimer's no longer allowed it. He loved the orchard and longed to be out there until the end. His very last outing a few weeks ago was to be driven around the orchard looking at apple blossoms.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Eleanor; his three siblings: George, Allen, and Ralph Pheasant and sister-in-law Jackie Pheasant. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dolores Pheasant, his four children; Darryl Pheasant, Darla (Rick) Grubb, Jenni (Louis) Bunkelman, and Jeff (Carla) Pheasant. He made many memories with his 13 grandchildren; Justin (Liz) Grubb, Chris (Caitlyn) Wash, Jared (Emilie) Grubb, Jared (Kelsey) Wash,

Nathan (Emili) Wash, Jennifer L. Bunkelman, Walker Maddalozzo, Thomas Pheasant, Allison Pheasant, Sarah Pheasant, Riley Pheasant, Conner Maddalozzo and Megan Pheasant. He loved his great grandkids: Audrey (d.) Grubb, Aubrey Nearing, Zoie Grubb, Kolby Nearing, Richard Grubb, Brynlee Wash, Everly Wash, Brooklyn Wash. Also surviving is his sister-in-law Jody Pheasant.

He was a loyal member of the Ephrata United Methodist Church and served on trustees, loved singing in the church choir and was the choir director for over 20 years. He also went on five mission trips with his church family.

Loving music, he was the director for the Barbershop Chorus for over 20 years and was in four Barbershop quartets.

Tom loved serving the Ephrata/Soap Lake community. He served as a passionate member of Kiwanis along with being president. He was chairman of the Grant County Fair Kiwanis Booth for many years. He was also the President of the Grant County Horticulture Society. Tom served on the Grant County Pest Control Board. He was involved in the Community Concert Board. Following his brother George, he was chairman of the Ephrata Food Bank Board and organized the Christmas basket giveaways for many years. Throughout the years, the community honored Tom for his contributions. In 1966, he received the Good Neighbor Award. In 1969, he shared with his brother George the Conservation Farmer of the year. In 2002, he shared with his brother George the chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. In 2003, the Tom and George Pheasant Families shared the Ephrata Chamber of Commerce Good Neighbor Award. In 2014, Tom and Dolores received the Outstanding Farmer honors.

He and his wife Dolores loved to travel and went to over 50 countries together. They went by planes, trains, automobiles, ships, riverboats, and rickshaws!

They laughed through many adventures.

His family will remember him by his Saturday breakfasts of campcakes and the Grandpa sleepovers with the homemade chocolate milkshakes. Tom was never one to miss any of his children's or grandchildren's sports activities, musical concerts or theatrical shows. He always had a warm smile and chuckle and made everyone feel loved. He lived his life not by words, but by example.

People will always remember Tom as being a generous, caring man who put others' needs ahead of his own. He cherished his family and loved the Lord. Those who worked with him, remember him as fair, honest and having a tenacious work-ethic. No matter what life threw at him, you would hear him say "we are so blessed."

The family wants to acknowledge and give thanks to all the caregivers who spent countless hours providing loving care for Tom.

If desired, memorials may be given to the Ephrata Food Bank at P.O.Box 804, Ephrata, WA 98823 . Due to state social distancing guidelines, the memorial will be private.

Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at www.nicolesfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are under the care of Nicoles Funeral Home of Ephrata

Cemetery Details

Valley View Memorial Park

20174 Rd A N.E.
Soap Lake, WA 98851
(509) 754-4150
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

SV

“ *Delores and family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Tom was a good and honorable man and we were proud to know him. May your multitude of memories sustain you during the days ahead.
Sincerely, Shiraz and Sigrid Vira*

Sigrid Vira - May 13, 2020 at 06:52 PM

DP

“ *In Tom's passing, I have lost a good and trusted friend. I have all good memories of Tom as we worked together through the years on many projects together, such as The Kiwanis Food Booth at the fairs, cooking hamburgers at the Ray Cross Meets, Methodist Church Maintenance and Remodeling Projects, and the Ephrata Food Bank and Christmas Baskets. If you needed any help, Tom would drop the things he was doing to help you out. As busy as he was with the orchards, I don't think he missed a Kiwanis Club activity.*

I will always be indebted to him for giving his permission to use the pit for dumping everything from cement to grass trimmings. I will always be grateful for that.

I have never seen Tom so joyous as when we took a couple of trips to see the Mariners play at SafeCo Field. He was a completely different person. It was like he left his apple world behind and joined another era.

I will certainly miss his companionship and confidence in life.

Denis Plew

Denis Plew - May 13, 2020 at 04:44 PM

BB

“ To all of you in the Pheasant family, I'd like to share my condolences at Tom's passing. George and Tom were just wonderful men. I'm not sure how I ever even learned about it but to this day...i know my first official paycheck EVER was from Basin View Orchards. Kevin Hoyt used to drive myself, Kenny Slinninger and I'm sure there were a few more, Chuck Berry and maybe even Gary Donabauer (rest his soul) (Kevin terrorized Kenny the brute ;-)) but all in good fun, to get to our thinning and picking responsibilities at I think 6:00am. Pretty cool that the grown men were ok to enlist the help of 12 or 13 year olds...some might today think ahhh...that's bad labor...I on the other hand looked at it as the opportunity to earn money, help understand what happens with fruit...learn the value of how important our migrant community is (still to this day) important to farmers, growers and what ends up on the table of humanity. I know that Tom and George treated their employees fairly (as best I can recall) all I know is that if you messed up enough, you were sent packing. To many spurs in the Cherry bin and someone came asking how you're doing but the foreman taught us to do it the right way...too many cherry stains on your shirt meant too many cherry fights and you learned what to do and what not to do. I had the worst dreams about thinning green apples and my fingers were so sore, but I did it and i was appreciative of that help even to this day and the work ethic they inspired in all of us even at such a young age. I wish you all health and happiness in these crazy times and my sympathy goes out to all of you. Wishing you all the best.

Bob Bracht
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Bob Bracht - May 12, 2020 at 09:19 PM