



John Crook Watkins

December 16, 1943 - August 9, 2010

Dr. John Crook Watkins died August 9, 2010, in Corvallis, Oregon, at Good Samaritan Hospital after a sudden, short illness. He was born on December 16, 1943, in Tyler, Texas, resided in Lindale and Tyler, Texas, for most of his life, and recently moved to Corvallis, Oregon, to be near his two daughters. He was the son of Arline Crook Guild and John Chapin Watkins and, later, Frank Guild, Jr. He married Linda Griffin Watkins of Tyler on July 16, 1964, at First Presbyterian Church in Tyler. They proudly celebrated their 46th anniversary a few weeks ago.

John Watkins graduated from Baylor College of Dentistry in 1968. He practiced dentistry in Lindale between 1970 and 2009. He achieved high standing in his profession and took pride in his development and continuing education, building a large practice and earning a fellowship, a master's, and the highest honor of diplomate from the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He was recognized as one of the outstanding dentists of Texas repeatedly by his peers, and as his career advanced he became a mentor to many of his colleagues. John viewed dentistry as both a profession and as a service to the wider community. He was well known as someone who used his skills to generously help hundreds of people in Smith county, across Texas, and abroad. More than simply a profession, John felt that dentistry was a strong emotional bond between himself and his patients. Dentistry was his chosen life's path to service, which became a model for his friends and his

children.

John enjoyed gardening and landscaping, home improvement projects at his homes in east Texas and Corvallis, boating and fishing along the Texas Intracoastal Canal, traveling with his family across the US in their RV, and making objects of beauty in precious metals for his family and friends. Some of his most important moments involved sharing meals, holidays, celebrations, and music with his family. For most of his life, John was closely connected to First Presbyterian Church in Tyler.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Griffin Watkins, of Corvallis; his mother-in-law, Betty Dease, of Tyler; his daughter, Kerry Watkins, and her husband, John Holley Matthews, of Corvallis; his daughter, Candice Watkins, and her husband, Chris Fox, and their son, Jackson Fox, of Astoria, Oregon. John was anticipating his new grandson, Abebo John Matthews.

John loved his brief time living in Oregon and was looking forward to spending time in his yard and around his home with Linda and their dogs Zeus and Bingo, fishing with his sons-in-law, getting better at golf, and enjoying as much time as he could with his grandsons, Jackson and Abebo.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Tyler on Monday, August 16, 2010. The service will begin at 10 am, followed by a reception at the church. The burial will take place at 1 pm on the same day at Lindale Cemetery, with arrangements handled by Caudle-Rutledge Funeral Home. Officiating clergy will be the Reverend Tom Loden. Memorial donations to one of John's favorite charities - Children's Village of Texas (childrensvillageoftexas.org) - are most welcome.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Crook Watkins*

October 05, 2023 at 02:48 AM



“ *John Crook Watkins*

October 05, 2023 at 12:01 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies for the family of Dr. John Watkins. May you be blessed with peace and comfort.
Michael and Regina Douglas##imported-begin##Regina Douglas##imported-end##*

August 18, 2010 at 08:33 AM



“ *John was the epitome of professionalism and integrity. I had the opportunity and privilege of taking many continuing education courses with him. He was a mentor and a friend. May your family be blessed and comforted at this difficult time.##imported-begin##Dr. Randel Spoonemore##imported-end##*

August 16, 2010 at 09:26 AM



“ *Linda and Family,*

Peggy and I extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of John Crook. The good times we had during the early 60's in the Lindale and Tyler area were special, cherished, and fondly remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. God bless you.

Henry and Peggy
Henry and Peggy
Bowdoin

August 15, 2010 at 03:16 PM



“ *I have been a patient of Dr. Watkins' since 1980. He was such a caring and dedicated professional. I will miss him dearly and I will keep his family in my prayers. He has left his family a priceless legacy.*
George K. Crenshaw

August 15, 2010 at 12:27 PM



“ *We remember Dr. Watkins with his kind and caring ways and his great talents in dentistry. Most of all, we remember him as our son Glenn's partner in dentistry, his mentor and his admired friend. He was a great inspiration to Glenn for performing outstanding work with the highest integrity.*
We are so sorry for your deep loss. He loved his family dearly.
Don and Alma Payne

August 12, 2010 at 10:07 PM



“ Although I have only known John a short time, I got to know him through his loving wife Linda. I have great memories of stories shared about our husbands during our trips. I am blessed to have met John and to have seen firsthand that he was the great man that Linda described. I know that he will be missed by many. God bless Linda and the family.

Luzelma##imported-begin##Luzelma G. Canales##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 11:27 AM



“ We are shocked and so saddened. John was such a kind man who genuinely cared about people and especially his girls and grandson. God bless you all.##imported-begin##Joe and Donna Roach##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 10:43 AM



“ Thinking of you all at this time of great loss. I thought so much of Dr. Watkins. He was a wonderful employer and taught me so much in the short time I worked for him. May God bring you comfort at this very difficult time.##imported-begin##Lisa Kennedy Crowe##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 09:10 AM



“ So very sorry for the loss of a dear friend and classmate. Will miss the laughs we had at being able to tease John about being older than me. His birthday was 4 days before mine. He will be missed at our class gatherings. May the Lord bless you at this time of loss.##imported-begin##Pam Neeley Kennedy##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 08:18 AM



“ I was a patient of Dr. Watkins for 35 years. He was like a family member to me. What a proud grandpa he was! Love and prayers to all of you.##imported-begin##Linda Thomas##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 07:50 AM



“ ##imported-begin##Linda Thomas##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 07:44 AM



“ Please know of my sincere sympathy in the homegoing of your loved one. Memories of growing up in Lindale include those of John as a very kind, serious, and sincere friend to each of us. His generosity in sharing his dental skills provided brighter smiles for many.
Blessings,
Sandy Hathcox##imported-begin##Sandra Nelson
Hathcox##imported-end##

August 11, 2010 at 10:57 PM



“ Dr Watkins was a wonderful dentist.I had a bad experience onc but never with him. He was wonderful and will be missed very much.##imported-begin##rhonda whatley##imported-end##

August 11, 2010 at 08:33 PM