

## Gene Thomas Spathas

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1932-April 7<sup>th</sup> 2009



Gene Spathas passed away peacefully April 7, 2009 in Cannon Beach, OR at the age of 76. He was born December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1932 in Portland, OR, the son of Greek immigrant parents, Thomas and Mary Spathas.

A lifelong Portland resident, Gene went to Richmond Grade School and graduated from Washington High School in 1950. Gene attended Oregon State University and was an avid Beaver fan, and although he would never admit it publicly, he actually graduated from the University of Oregon in 1958.

In 1957, Gene married Claudia Mickelson and together they opened Claudia's Tavern the following year. Claudia's quickly became a popular hot spot and was well known for sponsoring many successful sports teams, from bowling and softball, to state championship AAU basketball teams. A savvy businessman, Gene also founded and owned the Kitchen Kettle, Steak & Skewer and Beef & Brew restaurants.

Gene and Claudia reared three sons in their Mt. Tabor home until Claudia's death from cancer at the age of 36 in 1971. Gene later married Elaine Nadeau in 1974, who took on the task of raising three active (and often overactive) boys.

Gene was an active member of the Multnomah Athletic Club, where he enjoyed playing handball and the camaraderie of the close knit group of handball players. Even after knee replacement surgery ended his playing days, he still kept active at the MAC and could often be seen working out in the weight room up until his death.

Gene's charm and charisma made him a natural leader. He served as president of both the Restaurant Association of Oregon and the Portland Beaver Huddle in the 1970's. He was a lifelong member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church where he served the parish through various activities. Gene was also a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and of the Cannon Beach American Legion.

Gene loved spending time at his home in Cannon Beach with Elaine and their basset hound, Georgia. He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Gene is survived by his wife Elaine, his sons and daughters-in-law; Matt and Kris Spathas of San Diego, CA, Jeff and Kim Spathas of Portland and Martin and Debbie Spathas of Portland and nine grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother John Spathas of Portland and sister Dianne Schweitzer of La Jolla, CA.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in remembrance to the Kids and Cancer Program at Camp Angelos or the Oregon Humane Society. Trisagion service will be held Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm with funeral service on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Both services will be held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 3131 NE Glisan, Portland.

