



John David Tinsley

November 21, 2014

John David Tinsley was introduced into this world on September 27, 1938 in Three Rivers, TX. David unexpectedly left our presence on November 21st in Falls County, TX, the place that he called home. He was the first of three children to John Bunyan and Mildred Elizabeth Jones Tinsley.

David cherished his family, friends, all airplanes and his beautiful Texas river ranch properties. His passion in life was meeting new friends, helping anyone that required it and visiting all of them when he could.

David loved Texas so much that one of his greatest accomplishments, unknown to most, was organizing, funding and documenting on video a personal 3,816 mile adventure around the border of Texas. David and his team spent over 2 years traveling by boat, motorcycle, jeep, horseback, helicopter and airboat around the great state of Texas.

David had many callings in life but first and foremost he was an entrepreneur in the restaurant business. He was an early pioneer in the fast food industry where he began Tinsley's Chicken n' Rolls in Huntsville, TX. with his parents and brother Talmadge Tinsley. David and family excelled from the beginning and in 15 years the company grew to over 45 units throughout East Texas, from Dallas to Houston to Kerrville. Other successful restaurants that were under the Tinsley name were the Historic Elite Café and The Health Camp in

Waco TX, and Steak N' Spirits in Huntsville, Tyler, and Shenandoah.

David was the ultimate "Free Spirit" and was known to many as a true "Giant of a Man". David's wealth of life was measured by the people he touched, who he could help and who he could call a friend; these were the ideals and beliefs that drove him.

Mr. Tinsley is survived by daughter, Deborah Humphreys and husband, Stephen of Huntsville TX; son, Scott Tinsley and Hedaya of Dallas TX; son, Jeff Tinsley and wife, Veronique of The Woodlands TX, grandchildren Taylor, Preston, Mason, Morgan, Hayden and Marshall; brother Talmadge Tinsley and wife Bonnie; sister Kathy Wilson and husband Craig; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; long-time companion Tina Barrett.

Mr. Tinsley was preceded in death by his wife, Diane Donohoo Tinsley and parents, John and Mildred Tinsley.

The families will receive friends on Tuesday, November 25, 2014, from 5:00 until 7:30 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, Huntsville, Texas.

A celebration of his life will begin at 11:00 on Wednesday, November 26, Northside Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to: Boys & Girls Club of Walker County, P.O. Box 8600, Huntsville, Texas 77340 or Boys & Girls Club of Marlin, Texas 76661.

Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Service

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *John David Tinsley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *From everything I remember we had tremendous respect for each other . He sent me a message one time saying he liked my old truck, beautiful blue 1956 Ford P U . Maybe some of you remember it . I saw Boss Bird flying north one afternoon as I passed the Diagnostic unit . Pretended I was racing him . You know , it seemed like I passed him but couldn't keep going . If you know how fast a DC3's cruising speed is then you know some of why he had a appreciation for the truck and all the work I did myself . Being just a kid money was always tight . He sent word to stop by right at closing for sacks of free rolls . Best anywhere not just in town . Lunch from Tinsley's was a real value and the best chicken I ever ate . Those messages he sent were so well received that when I finally had a chance to send a message to him I made absolutely certain it got there in plenty of time . It came from a friend who thought a lot him too and I made certain David new from where . There were some really great people in Huntsville back then . And some not so great ones . He was absolutely one of the good ones . His moral support and feedback helped give me the strength and courage to stand up to the people who were not so good . Long live the H H . And while most of you think Huntsville High or Huntsville Hornets , that's not what I am referring to . My best wishes go out to all his family . Any mutual friends don't need it to be explained . I will always remember you David and the positive self image you helped strengthen . Thank you so much . Here is my last salute . Thumb , index and middle finger. Like the old farmers wave when driving.*



Cleveland Rix III - May 26, 2016 at 02:45 PM

TB

“David Tinsley was the Love of my life for 26 years. He was a man of many names, but to me, he was the Man of my Dreams. He was my Pilot in Command, (PIC), flying me around every holiday, Big Bend, Canada, Mexico; Mentor, Pretty Boy, DT, Restaurateur, Rancher, Boss Bird, Gallo to the Mexicans, The Chicken Man at the Car Auction with my Dad, Buddy, in 2000, buying 20+ cars and driving all of them; Dad to his 3 loving children Deborah, Scott and Jeff, and Big Dave to his beloved grandkids, Taylor, Preston, Morgan, Mason, Hayden & Marshall. My 2 brothers William and Basye both called him their brother-in-law, and last but not least, accepted by my sister, Tammy. She said when she first met him, she tried to give him the cold shoulder, but he would not allow it, he kept coming back with more compliments. She is now President of the Bank in Madisonville. My nephew Lance just soloed because of David's aviation influence. My niece Dana just graduated from A&M, is working at St Joseph, and made a donation of a Christmas ornament on the tree in David's name. My 7 year old niece Brynna grew up on "David" rolls, and asked her parents if she could borrow some money to donate a poinsettia at Christmas in David's name. My brother Basye and wife Laura just made a donation to our Methodist Church in David's name. This is the impact David had on just my family. I recently told David he was High Maintenance, and his response was he was High Performance, and Strong like a Mule. He was larger than life to many. He had the strongest life force of any person I ever knew, and also the most charismatic person I ever have encountered. He truly loved all people, and said everyone had a story, and he wanted to hear it. He lived each and every day to the fullest, never worrying at all, because things always fell into place for him. A friend of mine once said it was luck, and as we all know, luck plays a big part in all of our success. Indeed he was successful, building his Tinsley's Chicken 'n Rolls chain to 50+, selling in 1985, and retiring at age 47. His Dad, John, he told me, came up with the secret Tinsley Roll recipe. His Mother, Mildred, was his mentor. His parents lead him to make decisions at a very early age, 14, when they asked him to pick out the family car. His brother, Talmadge "Swish", and sister Kathy, he loved, and would

always remember to call on their birthday, even when we were in Bogata, Columbia visiting my brother William 4 days before the accident. David loved all of his planes, especially his DC3, which he was proud to tell the history of being built for one of our 5 Five Star Generals, General Hap Arnold. He told me he wished he had kept all of the planes, and still had 6 planes this year. The Trip Around Texas that his close friend, Bob Garrett, filmed, 3816 miles, was one of his most exciting adventures. I was told he was already one of God's angels, who came to earth to help those in need. He was always happy, never judgmental, and loved everyone. I feel like I had my personal trainer for 26 years. How truly blessed I was and did not know it until now. When his daughter Deborah kindly returned his watch to me that was found at the accident scene, the strap was broken and it was not running. I held it in my hand, and it has been running every since. It is losing a little time, but those of you who knew him knew he never kept time well anyway. He wanted everyone to have a piece of him. His ashes are being spread on his ranches in Marlin and Lajitas in the Big Bend. "David, when we met, you asked did I want to build a fire? " I said yes, and it is still burning 26 years later. When I look at the beauty around me, as you would say, the blue skies, the green grass, the yellow airplanes, I think of you. I see you everywhere. I truly thought you would live forever, and you will, in my HEART. I love you Pretty Boy, John David Tinsley, 9-27-1938/11-21-2014. Tina Barrett, 1988-2014. 26 years of Life, 26 years old.

Tina Barrett - January 09, 2015 at 04:51 PM



Tina, It's Trooper just found out he passed. I have been calling his voice mail. Had a feeling he was gone. I miss him he was a great person. Tk

Grover Keeton - May 12, 2020 at 03:30 PM

JJ

“ I am so sorry for your loss. David was a friend for many years. He will be missed.

Jeannine Jacoby - December 05, 2014 at 08:04 AM

KL

“ I was so saddened to hear of David's untimely departure from this earth. He was a mentor to me at a time when I was in the restaurant business, for which I will be ever grateful. I always loved to visit with him and always left with him giving an encouraging word. Rest in peace, dear friend. You were loved and are already missed.

Kent Lucas - December 03, 2014 at 05:01 PM

PH

“ Dear family, so sorry for your loss. We only knew David thru a mutual friend but always loved his company. Last time I saw David I was sitting in his Tinsley parking lot waiting to meet someone, Suzanne Holland who he actually knew very well. He keep looking my way & finally walked over & asked me if I needed help thinking I had car trouble then realizing we had met before & shared a friendship, Johnny, Suzanne & Harley Holland as well as Ms. Ikie. I know he was bigger than life & a very very kind man. Blessed to know him through our mutual friendship. Vicki Hogan & Patrick

Patrick & Vicki Hogan - December 03, 2014 at 01:07 PM

LK

“ I was so saddened to hear of David's passing. David agreed to be interviewed for the Tomlinson Hill documentary and we spent a couple of afternoons out at his property in Marlin. I enjoyed his company tremendously and had hoped to run into him again. His openness and kindness and generosity of spirit just made you feel like you were an old friend, even if you'd just met him. Just a lovely, lovely person. My heartfelt condolences to the Tinsley family for your loss.

Lisa Kaselak - December 01, 2014 at 10:50 PM

RB

“ On behalf of the remaining DeLong family, I wish to pass on our condolences. David Tinsley was a larger than life, great man and will be missed!

Risa Benedict - December 01, 2014 at 08:15 AM

TL

“ Our family is praying for your family's sudden loss. We enjoyed eating at Tinsley's. Be strong, pray long and the Lord will carry you on. Jeff, I enjoyed you as a classmate and friend !!(Tenessa)

Tenessa Lewis, Kerrin "Big Lou" Lewis, Freddie and Fannie Lewis - November 28, 2014 at 02:13 PM

DM

“ May the family and friends of David find some comfort and peace knowing that when I had coffee with him on the morning he left Huntsville he was in a great and joyful mood, very happy with his just completed trip to Colombia with Tina and full of enthusiasm and anticipation of good times to come. He had just graduated physical therapy and said he was feeling the best he had in years. What a full and joyous life for such a kind and compassionate true Texas individual. Our lives are better because he touched us. God bless the family and friends who will miss him greatly.

Darrel Wells MD - November 28, 2014 at 08:04 AM

BJ

“ To Tina and the Tinsley family , I was so saddened to hear about David, I new him as one of our customers at the phone company in Marlin, he really was a good man, my condolences and prayers are with you.

Bulmaro Medina Jr. - November 27, 2014 at 11:25 PM

JT

“ David Tinsley was a man of kindness. He was an angel who helped me in a great time of personal need.

Joycelyn Tully - November 27, 2014 at 08:38 PM

BS

“ Jeff, I was sad to hear about the passing of your Dad. I'm praying that God will comfort you and your family. Thank you for thinking of other at this difficult time.

Bridgette Sandles, HHS 1984

Bridgette Sandles - November 27, 2014 at 01:21 PM

CS

“ I am still in shock of David's passing. I had just talked to him and am happy that we caught up on our life's events. I am sorry we could not catch up on lunch in person or go flying.

Condolences and prayers to family, he was a very special person ,who was a Texas Icon and a very good friend.
He will be missed.

Conway Shaw - November 27, 2014 at 09:54 AM

P(

“ Jeffrey and family, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. He was such a nice man and will be dearly missed. Jeffrey, you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Take care and God bless you all.

Patti Cook (Gaither) - November 26, 2014 at 11:07 PM

PW

“ David was a courageous man. He was not afraid to take the road less traveled and not afraid of popular opinion. That is why his life was (is) unique. That is why he succeeded where many have failed. There are very few men I know who have a golden light around them. He was one. He was an artist and his art was all around him. His whole life was his art and his influence went out from him like the rays of a late afternoon sun.

He was a good and kind man and fiercely protective of those he befriended, going to great lengths to defend the defenseless even at great expense to himself or what others may think of him. I will not forget his strength of character, kindness, comfort and the times our lives intersected. I offer my condolences to all of us who must now preside over a world without him.

Peter Waii - November 26, 2014 at 11:00 PM

MH

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with Tina and the Tinsley family today and the days ahead. It is a great loss for all of us who knew David. It has been a few years since we last saw and talked to David but know he lived every day of his life the way he wanted.

Michael & Jill Hall - November 26, 2014 at 07:58 PM

CJ

“ To the Tinsley family my heart and prayers go to you for the great loss. He surely made and impression on all of us through the years. May God bless and keep you all strong in what life has has to offer in the future. Charles M. Lee Jr.
Groveton, Texas 75845

Charles M. Lee Jr. - November 26, 2014 at 07:16 PM

JC

“ I am so sorry for your loss.
David shaped my life. In 1968 I went to work at the King Kettle. A year later I transferred to the Chicken Shack. I worked there until I graduated from Huntsville high school. One night David made a comment that he wished he had gone to Del Mar College. I asked him about Del Mar, he said it was a culinary school. I never knew that there were culinary schools. To make a long story short, I attended Del Mar. I spent many years working in the culinary field. Later I returned to College at Sam Houston to get my teachers certificate. I was a culinary arts teacher for 20 years, working for Windham School System .
So David Tinsley influenced my life. I owe him my gratitude , my friendship, and everything in my life. He was my mentor.

Jeff Coker - November 26, 2014 at 05:02 PM

WD

“ I am so sorry to hear about the sudden loss of David. Practicing law right across the road from his most recent chicken restaurant in Huntsville, I had the pleasure of seeing and talking with David over the past few years when he was there. We talked about the old days of Huntsville when Chicken Shack and Steak N Spirits were the places for dinner. He even had a few of the old entrees on the menu at his new place, including the killer rolls. You couldn't meet a more friendly person to everyone! He truly cared about people and will be missed by this community. May God Bless your family!

Will Durham - November 26, 2014 at 04:15 PM

RP

“ Our condolences to the family and special friends of David Tinsley. We will miss David's cheerful demeanor, helpful nature and enthusiastic outlook on life. He will be greatly missed by so many people in Huntsville and beyond. May God's comfort be a special blessing to all of you.
Ralph and Linda Pease

Ralph and Linda Peasr - November 26, 2014 at 03:48 PM

JA

“ The Marlin High School class '59 will miss David. What a great spirit.

Jana(Hammonds)Schriever - November 26, 2014 at 10:59 AM

TF

“ Deborah, Scott, and. Jeff-Our hearts are saddened with you. Your dad was a unique individual to say the least. But he cared about others in a strong, compassionate way. He demonstrated this love to the Freeman family in good timed and in sad times. we're going to miss you, David . Love Tom and Patsy

Tom and Patsy Freeman - November 26, 2014 at 10:39 AM

LP

“ Deborah, Jeff, Scott and Tina, There are no words to say to ya'll, that can relay how sorry we are about your Dad and partner. He was one of GOD'S greatest gifts. We are unable to get to Huntsville, but know that our thoughts and prayers are with each of you today. Please know that your Dad will always be remembered, respected and loved, he has left each of you the best part of him. We feel so blessed to have been able to call him a true friend, and double blessed that he called us friends! In His Love, Libby and Steve Price

Libby Price - November 26, 2014 at 09:36 AM

AA

“ What a great man, what a life! Scott, I will never forget your Dad coming out to watch our baseball games up in Dallas...after the game we went over to a friends house and jumped in the 'cement pond' as he called it. He always lived in the moment. I am sorry for your loss. My prayer is that God will give you, Deborah and Jeff, and your families strength in this time. A life lived well...your friend, Andy

Andy Allen - November 26, 2014 at 08:15 AM

KP

“ Scott and family...I'm so sorry to hear about your Dad. We are thinking of you and your family!! Kenda (Koch) Primeaux

Kenda (Koch) Primeaux - November 25, 2014 at 09:25 PM

LG

“ Such a great loss of a great man. David would brighten your day whenever your paths would meet. As spoken earlier the time at his farm for the memorial service for Dan Gafford was way beyond a memorable event. How many times can you share such memories of a loved one with friends inside a real Tee Pee.....now Dan and David can share moments together again. A good man will be missed here in Falls County. Tina and the family---thanks for sharing your David with us. A note to sister (Kathy): I attended school in Marlin with you-Susan Jund Gafford. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless

Lynn and Susan Gafford - November 25, 2014 at 09:24 PM

MH

“ To Jeffrey and all your family. I heard of the passing of your Dad today. I was saddened for you. My prayers and love will be with you and your family.
I know you will miss him.

Mary Hunter - November 25, 2014 at 09:23 PM

NZ

“ Mrs. Humphrey, I am so, sorry for you lost. God will help you and your family to go thought all this. God will stay by your side always. With all my respect and sympathy, sincerely Norma.7

Norma Zuniga - November 25, 2014 at 07:10 PM

CB

“ We are so sorry for your loss and we are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers, The Clyde Burns Family

clyde burns - November 25, 2014 at 06:29 PM

TW

“ *Talmadge, Kathy, Deborah, Scott and Jeff and all of your respective families, our deepest condolences for your loss of David. Wish there were many more like Him. He and John & Mildred were so nice to Porter and Aggie! I`m sure that He will be riding in style on the `` BOSS BIRD '' to his final resting place. A neat man from Falls County , Texas.---* Tom & Patricia Woliver

Tom Woliver - November 25, 2014 at 06:09 PM

TA

“ *Tina and family, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I was fortunate to meet David many years ago and during our toughest time when Randy was killed in his accident David and Tina saved Christmas for my two girls. I could never thank them enough. It will not be the same in Tomlinson hill without David on his motorcycle or flying over the house.*

Tedda Aleman - November 25, 2014 at 04:06 PM

TK

“ *Jeff and family,
With great sadness we mourn the passing of Mr. Tinsley. Our family will pray for your family's healing at this time of loss. May the Lord be with you all.*

*With Love,
Carla, Billy, Will and Madeline Kretschmer*

The Kretschmer's - November 25, 2014 at 03:23 PM

CG

“ I am saddened by David's passing so unexpectedly. David recruited me to be the Director of Real Estate for Tinsley's in 1981. I served three years and we developed Chicken N Rolls in Houston and surrounding areas. David was always straight forward and gracious to me. I appreciated the time & opportunity to work with him and had occasion to visit with him several times since. He made a major contribution to the industry. He send me to buy the Brazos River Farm for him. I've heard many stories of his enjoyment of it.

Cecil Ghormley - November 25, 2014 at 12:03 PM

RK

“ David was a very special person to me. About 25 years ago, my wife and our 2 boys and I went to the brazos river so that we could roast hot dogs and swim. It was getting dark so we deecided it was time to go home. We got stuck. There was no one else around so we deecided to walk home. David came by and asked if we needed a ride. We told him about our ordeal and asked him if would take us home. I would get the pickup the next morning. David insisted that we see what he can do to get us out. He did get us out, but he got stuck. We then took him to his house and he got more help. We finally were all out. How many people would do that for someone they did not know. This world needs more David Tinsley's.

Rodney Krumnow - November 25, 2014 at 11:31 AM

MH

“ David and I encountered each other over 20 years ago. We met on a horseback trip into the Del Carmen Mountains of Mexico arranged by our mutual friend Glen Perkins (Alpine, Tx). From that time on the adventures ensued. Horse back pack trips in the Big Bend and Mexico, canoe trips in Canada, get togethers in Austin, Aspen, Houston, Huntsville. More trips to Canada, weddings, birthday celebrations, funerals.

I learned much from David, his love of people and life, the value of the moment, his enthusiasm exploring a cave, in finding a twisted piece of wood, a geode on the desert floor, a desert flower.

David joined me on business trips to Mexico. We even took a run at buying the Lajitas Resort from Walter Micher.

Our friendship was of great significance to me. We laughed together, cried together, adventured together.

Tina, David's significant other became a dear friend, she was his rock. She kept him focused and grounded, he was her life, and he adored her.

I miss him and will for the rest of my life.

Mi Amigo

Mark

Mark Harris - November 25, 2014 at 11:16 AM

SH

“ On behalf of the Hiatt Family we wish to extend our hearts to you all. I am a friend to the “Tinsley Boys” and am blessed to be a fraternal brother to Jeffrey. Our friendship began in college and I’m truly appreciative to have so many amazing memories with Jeff’s family.

For myself and many of the “Greatly OU Phi Delts,” Dave was referred to as “Big Dave.” His friendly spirit and genuine caring personality are just a few qualities I’ll never forget. The “larger than life” adventures and accomplishments were a highlight to my fraternity brothers and me. He inspired us in ways we will always cherish. His love and appreciation of the simple pleasures, flying, high aspirations, outdoors and gifts life offers were always apparent. Dave was a great Dad, friend and he shared his life with everyone.

The times spent on the ranch, Rio Grande in Lajitas, sitting on the porch petting “Papa Jack” and Dad’s Day at OU will always be some of my fondest memories. I thank him for sharing with us.

Dave had a way of making everyone feel special, myself included.

My family extends the deepest sympathies, condolences and prayers to Dave’s family.

*Yours In the Bond
Stephen Hiatt – “Uncle Hime”*

Steve Hiatt - November 25, 2014 at 11:14 AM

TS

“ Deborah, Scott, and Jeff - I was deeply saddened to hear of your dad's passing. I have great memories of our ski trip to Utah and our many weekends at the lake house. Though David's departure will leave a void, I pray you will fill it with fond memories. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you during this time of sorrow.

Terri Parker Spruiell - November 25, 2014 at 10:30 AM

DD

“ Deborah and Family,
Very sorry for your loss. May your faith and memories bring you comfort and peace in the days to follow. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Deborah Dutton - November 25, 2014 at 09:57 AM

MC

“ Deborah and Family, I pray the Lord gives you Peace and Comfort..
God Bless. Hold your Memories Close!!!! Always and forever!!

Mike and Margo Chandler - November 24, 2014 at 11:33 PM

DE

“ There are so many memories with David Tinsley in them. Great times at all his restaurants, especially Steak n Spirits and Chicken Shack....but just running into him on the street could be a good experience! His smile and charisma were contagious. Deborah has the same beautiful charm, and he was so proud of his sons. Tina you have been so important to him as well. We hope all of you feel the hugs and prayers of all of us who were blessed to cross his path on this earth. Peace and comfort to so many who hurt from this awful loss.
Hugs and prayers,
Dee and Steve Everett

Dee & Steve Everett - November 24, 2014 at 08:45 PM

RS

“ Dear Deborah, Scott, and Jeff. I was saddened to hear of your father's passing. I have fond memories of your father as a child - riding motorcycles in the national forest, shooting hoops at the office, etc. Your dad was always kind and engaging with us neighborhood kids. I was fortunate to see him again a few years ago at the restaurant in Huntsville. I hope you will find comfort in the condolences of the many lives he touched.

R. Scott Shearer - November 24, 2014 at 08:42 PM

LS

“ Deborah, Scott, and Jeffrey,

*Bob and I were so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Also, I did not know that your mother was deceased. We will never forget the good times we enjoyed being your neighbors on Avenue S. Jeffrey, I can still see you and my Scott walking to Gibbs Elementary. What fun you two had!!!! (We live in College Station now).
Our love to you.*

Linda Shearer - November 24, 2014 at 07:59 PM

NO

“ May God give you all the strenght. The Lord be with you all today amd always. My sincerly symphaty. God is always there with you all.

Norma - November 24, 2014 at 07:13 PM

CT

“ David was extremely generous with his time and stories while I was working on the book and film Tomlinson Hill, as well as the NFL Films documentary about LaDainian Tomlinson. He taught me so much about the Hill, and I appreciate how he cared for the land and the people.

I enjoyed spending time with him on the Hill and will never forget his stories. He lived an amazing life that will always be an example to me.

Chris Tomlinson - November 24, 2014 at 07:07 PM

AJ

“ Deborah, Scott & Jeffrey:

I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was a wonderful man and cousin. I have some great memories of him. He will be missed.

Autumn Jones - November 24, 2014 at 06:57 PM

VD

“ Deborah, I am so sorry. Hope to see you again sometime soon. Hugs.

Vergie Dotson - November 24, 2014 at 05:47 PM

DB

“ Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of David Tinsley. David was a wonderful person whose departure from this earth will leave a significant void.

Dan Beto - November 24, 2014 at 04:58 PM

HF

“ *Tinsley/Wilson family, I was so sad to hear about David! He touched so many people's lives and was such a huge part of the community. I am so glad our paths crossed in this life, he will so missed!! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all! We love you! RIP David!!*

Herb & Donna Jordan & Family - November 24, 2014 at 03:33 PM

RN

“ *Tina. We are truly sorry for your loss. I spent the weekend going over pictures and memories of our many horseback and canoe trips. A larger than life friend ... I'll miss him.*

Ron & Joyce Near - November 24, 2014 at 03:10 PM

AR

“ *What a great guy. I hope I can be half as cool as Big Dave when I grow up. He will be missed.*

Allan Rushing - November 24, 2014 at 02:48 PM

EK

“ *My prayers are with the family. This world has gained an angel. He was a great honest man.*

Elsie Knecht - November 24, 2014 at 02:30 PM

DB

“ *Tina, I know how hard it is to lose the love of your life. Hang in there and lean on your friends.*

Dena Byrd - November 24, 2014 at 02:26 PM

MO

“ I just got back into town and was shocked to hear such sad news. My prayers are with Scott, Jeff, Deborah and Tina. Please know that David and his extended family will be in my thoughts. He was a gracious and supportive person in his every endeavor. I feel privileged to have known him.

Mike O'Bannon - November 24, 2014 at 01:58 PM

ED

“ To Tina and the Tinsley family. I am so very sorry for the loss of David. What a wonderful, wonderful man, and he will be greatly missed by his friends here in Falls County. He never met a stranger, was warm and caring, and always had a hug for me to brighten my day. My fondest memory is of him landing his plane in my pasture and taking me up for ride! My prayers and thoughts are with the family.

Eileen DuJardin - November 24, 2014 at 01:22 PM

RP

“ Tina, we were shocked and saddened when William told us about David's passing. Although we just met y'all last week, we knew you and David were people with whom we'd love to spend a lot more time. David was so intelligent, creative, funny, adventurous, and obviously kind and caring. We're so sorry for your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

Robert & Jamie Palmer - November 24, 2014 at 01:14 PM

SD

“ To Deborah and the entire Tinsley family:
Just know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time. May God give each of you comfort. I never met your father, but he will never, ever be forgotten in the Huntsville community.

Shirlette Rolling Deveraux - November 24, 2014 at 12:50 PM

KL

“ We are both so sadden by the news of David's passing. What a great, fun, loving man. We have fond memories of many wonderful times spent with David. Our thoughts are with his family.

Kenny&Terri Luce - November 24, 2014 at 12:42 PM

DB

“ Dear Tina and family, please accept my most sincere condolences for your loss.

I had been blessed and privileged to have shared a number of horseback trips and other adventures with David. David was a highly intelligent, caring, generous, joyful and creative man. He will be sadly missed here on earth, but he no doubt already is bringing laughter and joy in his new heavenly surroundings (likely telling his tall tales and cooking up some chicken and chili).

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Dick Bibart - November 24, 2014 at 11:56 AM

MR

“ *My condolence to the family.
Matthew 6:9,10 Our father in the heavens, let your name be
sanctified. Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in
heaven, also on earth.*

Ms Ruby - November 24, 2014 at 11:19 AM

SB

“ *Tina and The Tinsley Family: David was a bright light in our lives
and had a special place in our hearts. Please know he will be in
heaven to reunite with us. I've seen Steve cry twice in 9 years and
David's passing had us both with tears flowing. Our prayers are with
you and we share your grief and sorrow.
Steve and Dixie Boatman*

Steve and Dixie Boatman - November 24, 2014 at 11:14 AM

MP

“ *The first time I met David was in 1967, He always had the greatest
smile and personality. He never met a stranger and made everyone
feel at home in his presence. A true Huntsville Icon & he will truly be
missed. My condolences to his family for this great loss. R.I.P dear
David! You were one of a kind!*

Margaret Miller Paulsel - November 24, 2014 at 11:13 AM

JM

“ *When David was opening the Chicken Shack..I was 17 and the first
he hired..He was a remarkable and fair person..sorry to hear of his
loss..sympathy and prayers to the family..*

Janet McGehee - November 24, 2014 at 11:10 AM

RM

“ When my friend Dan Gafford passed away in VA, David decided that a funeral here was not enough, so he threw a beautiful celebration on his ranch. David and Dan were college buds. My son and I flew from VA to be there. David pitched an indian tee pee and made the best pot of chili a crew has ever eaten. His warmth and hospitality were amazing. he was sure we were well cared for during our time there in Texas. It's a memory so etched in my heart. I am so very sorry for your loss. In love and sympathy, Robin and Matthew in Richmond, VA

Robin (Wilson) Mamunes - November 24, 2014 at 09:47 AM

DP

“ Dear Tinsley family...although Dick, Maudie, and Steve Robinson are already in heaven...those of us left here for now send our love and prayers. We wish you the Lord's comfort and peace. David was a great friend to our brother. Carol and Richard Byrd, Jan and Tom Rogers, Donna and Walter Paschall, Mary and Nathan Roe

Donna Robinson Paschall - November 24, 2014 at 09:45 AM

SO

“ Deborah, Scott and Jeffery, I am very sorry for your loss. Your father was a great man, a legend to all that knew him. The fond memories of knowing him will never be forgotten. I was fortunate to visit with him several times in the past year. And each time I always left with a smile. He will be dearly missed. David lived a full and adventurous life, and the BOSS BIRD is flying. Know in your hearts that he is bringing joy to angels. You are in our thoughts and prayers. The Oates Family

Scott Oates - November 24, 2014 at 09:18 AM

GR

“ David was a Deacon in The Universal Ethician Church for many years.

His love and respect for God's Holy Creation, if accepted by others could keep our dying planet alive a while longer.

He will be sorely missed by all, most especially his Ethician Church family.

www.dontcryforme.org is our funeral liturgy that he had told me fit his spiritual beliefs.

George H. Russell

George H. Russell - November 24, 2014 at 09:15 AM

JB

“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. He was truly a great man. He will be missed by all.

Jane & Chris Baggett - November 23, 2014 at 11:45 PM

TK

“ Always my favorite person to get to see at Lajitas and the annual Pee Off new years day! We will dearly miss you our friend! Our hearts go out to you Tina and your family! We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom and Claudia Kelly.

tom kelly - November 23, 2014 at 11:23 PM

JW

“ Rarely is one privileged to have in one’s life a man of so many facets of character, and who caused the corners of our mouths to lift in smiles at the mere prospect of hearing him on the phone or seeing him coming up the drive. David moved in a halo of joy, laughter, energy, motion, and good feelings. All of us who knew David have experienced his wry and mischievous twinkle of the eye. David danced through life and all its adventures and challenges. We are not likely to experience another like him. Fly high, my friend on those new wings of silver and gold and wait for us to arrive later, so we can all enjoy your friendship once again. In the meantime, you will be remembered.

Our deepest condolences to Tina, Deborah, Scott and Jeff and the entire family.

Jim Knox and Lee-Ann Walden

Jim Knox/Lee-Ann Walden - November 23, 2014 at 11:09 PM

NW

“ To the Family of David Tinsley at this time you'll have my prayer's love Noah Williams and family.

Noah Williams - November 23, 2014 at 10:16 PM

CF

“ Deborah, Scott and Jeffery, I'm so sorry for your loss. Your Dad was a great man and will be missed. I'll always have fond memories of him from little league baseball and hanging out at your house growing up. I remember how he'd come up with a recipe he'd want to try out so he'd whip up a batch of chicken and use us as guinea pigs...he should've know better...teenage boys will eat any food you give them. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Craig Remeny & Family - November 23, 2014 at 10:07 PM

BM

“ *David, may you fly with the wings of an angel and once again touch the face of God. May your family know peace in your passing and until we meet again, HAPPY TRAILS.*

Braxton Morton - November 23, 2014 at 09:51 PM

CM

“ *Dear Deborah and family: We are saddened to hear of the passing of your Dad. Our Dads are our first loves and are irreplaceable. Please keep the memories close to your heart. Your family will be in our prayers.*

Our love, Carolyn, Gary, Brittany and Spencer.

Carolyn McClure - November 23, 2014 at 07:30 PM

MA

“ *You lived life everyday . Never met a stranger or failed a friend. Am so glad I came by a few weeks ago and sat on the porch and sang my new song about Terlingua. We are kindred spirits and will meet again. When I go to the starlight lounge and play the Terlingua song, I will dedicate it to you. Make sure you are listening and not talking to someone about your airplane. Will miss seeing you at Norma Dale's gig at the Old Rock Gym. Love and miss you ! Mack Abernathy*

Mack Abernathy - November 23, 2014 at 06:38 PM

PE

“ Deborah,
I haven't seen you in so long but my heart breaks
For you. Keep your faith and I know you will
Have the peace and comfort that you will need.
To take one day at a time.
Penny

Penny - November 23, 2014 at 05:44 PM

DG

“ Deepest sympathy Deborah for your loss. Your father was a legend
to Huntsville. Praying for God's peace and presence to you and
your family.

Debbie Coker Gorden - November 23, 2014 at 05:16 PM

AL

“ Deborah , so sorry to hear about your Dad. My deepest sympathies
to you , your brothers and all the family.

Adrienne Cooley Lambeth - November 23, 2014 at 03:58 PM

BG

“ No words can express my grief over the tragic death of my long time
friend. David was (and is) an inspiration for all of us that knew him.
Deborah, Scott, Jeff and Tina my deepest condolences to you and
your families. My God bless and keep you.
Bruce

Bruce Green - November 23, 2014 at 01:58 PM

SF

“ Extending deepest condolences for the loss of a wonderful man. He
will be missed by many. You will be in our prayers.

Susan Stem & Family - November 23, 2014 at 01:52 PM

GW

“ Dear Tinsley/Wilson Families: We were shocked at hearing about David's passing. Know that you all have been in and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Gary, Kari & Brett Wilson - November 23, 2014 at 12:24 PM

RH

“ We are so sorry to learn of David's passing. He was a special person in our lives and will be missed. We wish we could be in town to help celebrate his life but we will not be - we will hold his spirit with us.

Rich and Connie Heiland - November 23, 2014 at 11:40 AM

SJ

“ Deborah, I am so sorry on the loss of your dad. If there is anything at all I can do, please do not hesitate in letting me know. Many prayers to you and the family.

Sherri Jackson - November 23, 2014 at 08:59 AM

EC

“ Our deepest sympathies and extended prayers for your family.

Earl and Sherry Carter - November 23, 2014 at 08:59 AM

NJ

“ Deborah and family! What a loss! David was larger than life! He would help anyone. I'll never forget how generous he was to us all at the SHSU Alumni Office. You were working with us there at the time and we were doing an alumni reception at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston. He said, Norma Dell, tell Deborah to go get my car. Yours is not large enough to take all those girls and supplies in it. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him! Love you!

Norma Dell Jones` - November 22, 2014 at 11:59 PM

TC

“ Deborah and Scott,
I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my prayers.

Terri Cox - November 22, 2014 at 11:56 PM

SM

“ The brief few times we talked with your Dad, we could tell that he was a good and generous man. We miss seeing you, Scott, at Health Camp, but are still regular customers. Hope this tragic event doesn't limit you and your aspirations. So sorry for your loss.
Sammy and Karan McLarty
Waco, TX. 76710

Sammy & Karan McLarty - November 22, 2014 at 11:47 PM

NS

“ Ourthoughts and prayers are with each of you durning this difficult time. May God watch over you and bring you peace and comfort.I worked for David in the Tinsley Corp office many years go, he was a very kind and generous man. He will be missed y many.

Noma & Allen Sylveter - November 22, 2014 at 10:29 PM

RS

“ Sorry sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Richard & Deborah Sledge - November 22, 2014 at 09:51 PM

GD

“ *Tina and the Tinsley Family*
There are no words that can erase the pain you are all feeling right now...David was definitely a one of a kind man..a legend of his own ways. I will always remember his great outgoing personality, his better than anyone ever dinner rolls, and his visit to the hospital last time I was in. He will be missed by so many people..Know you are all in our prayers.

Glenda & Jim Daniel - November 22, 2014 at 09:01 PM

GD

“ *Tina and the Tinsley Family*
There are no words that can erase the pain you are all feeling right now...David was definitely was a one of a kind man..a legend of his own ways. I will always remember his great outgoing personality, his better than anyone ever dinner rolls, and his visit to the hospital last time I was in. He will be missed by so many people..Know you are all in our prayers.

Glenda & Jim Daniel - November 22, 2014 at 08:54 PM

LS

“ There are not many who, after they are gone, will be remembered so kindly and so well, by so many...
A life well lived, sir!

Les Stewart - November 22, 2014 at 08:33 PM

MH

“ *My prayers for peace during this time of loss.*

M Hyvl - November 22, 2014 at 08:04 PM

DD

“ *Deborah,
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. He was a great man and will be missed by all. Thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family during this sad time. Love, Debbie Durkin*

Debbie Morgan Durkin - November 22, 2014 at 06:50 PM

RF

“ *Tina,*

I am so sorry to hear about David. I can't say I know how you feel, but I do know about loss. Just know that you have friends and family who are here for you through these challenging days and many struggles you will face. Let me know if I can do anything for you. I miss you and will be here for you. Rest your heart and soul in Gods loving arms and he will see you through.

Love, Rhonda

Rhonda Flanagin - November 22, 2014 at 06:20 PM

JA

“ *Deborah and Scott. I'm so sorry for your loss. Your dad was larger than life and will be missed. Hugs and prayers. Love you, Jacel*

Jacel Ang - November 22, 2014 at 06:02 PM

GB

“ We are so sorry to hear about David! He was a good nan who brought lots of smiles to all. We were glad to have known him! Prayers and hugs! Harry and Grace.

Grace and Harry Bohan - November 22, 2014 at 05:45 PM

LR

“ so sorry to hear the terrible news,DAVID WAS SUCH A STRAIGHT FORWARD MAN.A TRUE PEOPLE PERSON.DAVID WILL BE MISSED BY MANY IN HIS LARGE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS,REST IN PEACE DAVID,WWE LOVE YOU. LARRY AND FAMILY

LARRY ROBERSON - November 22, 2014 at 05:01 PM

KS

“ Tina...so sorry for your loss. May you be cradled in His loving arms as you go through this time. You are not truly alone. We love you!

Kathy Smith - November 22, 2014 at 04:47 PM

MF

“ We are so sorry for your loss. David was always so nice to be around and he had a great smile. We are praying for your family.

Mellicent Wiley & Family - November 22, 2014 at 04:07 PM