

EULOGY FOR THOMAS LESLIE WILLIAMS - At Home by Paul Williams

Thank you Ray and Uncle Bill for your work. As they have told you some aspects of the man as a youth and as a contributor to his community. He was a very loyal man. He didn't swap clubs and he didn't swap friends. Naturally, as a family we see the full spectrum of emotions and behaviors of the man, and as he would of anybody else we overlook his misgivings and laud his attributes. As kids we were so well cared for and there were many sacrifices that he and mum made to educate us, and if this meant extra work, or late hours, it was never a problem. However, I must tell you, if it came to fixing something around the house he was absolutely terrible. He tackled everything, but only ever used a hammer and a screwdriver, not a hammer or a screwdriver; you had to use both. The only exception he ever gave was to send you next door to borrow a bigger screwdriver. He would stubbornly persist with his project, and the pleas from mum to give it up and call in a tradesman were only fuel to the fire. This sense of loyalty I mentioned earlier must have been connected to his stubbornness. And this led to many confrontations with mum, who was just as stubborn.

FOR EXAMPLE – GOUT PILLS STORY
CRACKER NIGHT
DRIVE TO QLD
THE TEETH STORY

Affectionately known as Tom to everybody including his grandchildren and great grand child, he was a great source of love for all of them.

When I worked with Tom for a few years, I couldn't help but notice that every time a particular song would come on the radio he would come up and stand next to the radio and listen very intently. I never realized until I was selecting some music for the service how significant it was to his life. One of his most admirable qualities was his desire to protect others from his own personal pain and sadness. He never talked to us about his time in the service during WW2 apart from snippets and he told us very little about his childhood, which forced him to adult responsibilities at too early an age. He spent no time ruing the facts that his family had been ravaged by cancer leaving him fatherless at an early age and taking 2 brothers and 2 sisters at early times in their lives. He hid from us his true grief when mum died a short time ago. But I knew he was at a loss to comprehend how he was still here when so many of those close to him had been chosen sooner. This was his long and winding road, this was his source of grief and the door that it leads to at the end of the road is his source of comfort that soon the reuniting would be complete.

STORY – THE NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

In conclusion I would like to thank all of you here who supported him so well in the years since mum died.

Those who transported him fed him stayed with him laughed with him socialized with him and visited him.

Although he was a fiercely independent man I know he would want me to thank you sincerely today.

He was a man who touched many lives and each one of us is the richer for him.

God bless you TOM