



WT Walking Tall

Southern Oregon

3/16/25

LIFE COACHING

FAITH-BASED
MENTORSHIP

HANDS-ON
EXPERIENCES
FOR JOB
READINESS

AUTOMOTIVE WOODWORKING FABRICATING & WELDING SMALL ENGINE COMPUTER DESIGN CONSTRUCTION AND MORE

Tom's Health Journey

Tom is courageously facing the challenges of liver and kidney failure, and it's truly an emotional rollercoaster for him and all his loved ones. There are moments filled with hope and optimism, but also times of deep despair and frustration. The uncertainty can be really hard to bear. His daughters, brother, sister, and sister-in-law have come together to share their love and support, reflecting on Tom's strength and expressing their heartfelt hope for brighter days ahead.

Daughter Monica reflects on her experiences growing up with her dad, Tom.

I cherish the memories of snowmobiling with my family and recall how my dad supported my passion for modeling and beauty school by buying me the biggest makeup kit. He taught me to choose a respectful husband with Christian morals and to appreciate men who can fix things in and around the house, like Damon, the man I fell in love with. During my struggles with mental illness, my dad was always there for me. When I told him I was proud of him, he questioned why. I explained that his commitment to our family and community, as well as his dedication to supporting our boys in school and church, makes a significant difference in their lives. I vividly remember when our son, Jackson, suffered a traumatic brain injury, and my parents came to CA and stood by our sides for two and a half weeks, even after my dad had just lost his own father.

Now that Dad is in the hospital, my sister and I are there to support him. We are able to ask questions alongside Mom, ensuring he has what he needs, and giving Mom a much-needed break. Despite his discomfort, Dad maintains a positive attitude, often saying, "It's okay, I'm fine. This is life; let's stay positive."

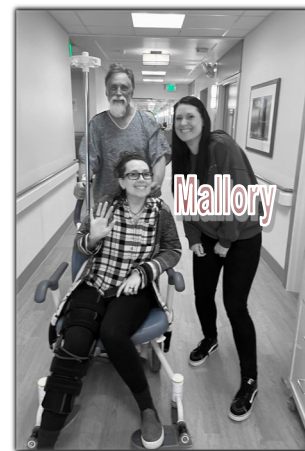


Daughter Mallory reminisces about her experiences with her dad while growing up.

All our friends looked up to him; he was our basketball coach. I started racing go-karts because of him—it kept me out of trouble—and I continued racing in automobiles. Now, he is sick and racing through the hospital halls when he feels good, and we can hardly keep up with him. I'm proud of my parents, especially because I love talking about Walking Tall and how they started it. He supported me through tough times, like when I broke my collarbone and then the time I to undergo gamma knife surgery for bleeding in my brain. After I lost my license, he bought me a three-wheeled bicycle because he knew that was the hardest part for me. I definitely married someone just like my dad. My husband has a shop and often calls my dad for help and advice. I remember one time when we were stranded on the side of the road in the middle of the night with our baby. My parents not only came to help, but my dad had the parts in his shop to fix our vehicle. Another time my dad was sick, my mom was out of town helping my grandma. He called me, saying, "I can't function. Will you come pick me up?"

We ended up going to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with a large kidney stone. I almost feel like he was in more pain during that short period than he is right now.

Even though his current illness is scary for the rest of us, he is handling it really well.



Tom's brother Chet: It's difficult to see Tom in his current condition, especially knowing how hard he works. Our parents instilled the value of hard work in us. When I look at him now, I can't help but think about how I would feel if I were in his situation; it feels like looking into a mirror. Tom has worked for my company several times over the years, and he is a dedicated worker both in his personal life and in business. However, he is also a devoted family man. During his time with us, he always prioritized his family over work. The hardest part is seeing him laid up like this. Both Tom and I are positive thinkers, and I truly believe he will get better. It's just a matter of time and keeping our eyes on the light at the end of the tunnel. We wish him and his family all the best. We are here as a family to support Tom, Judy, and their daughters in any way we can.

Tom's sister Sandy: As the oldest sister among three younger brothers, including our sweet baby brother Tom, it's difficult to see him struggling. When we visit family in Oregon, it's funny, because he usually immerses himself in Walking Tall, but during our cherished family time, he often falls asleep. When they come to visit us and their daughter, Monica and family, he finds peace in a recliner with licorice and treats. Chet and I often reflect on how hard it is to recall him ever being unwell; witnessing his current situation is truly heart-wrenching. However, we hold onto hope, knowing he will recover because God is watching over him. He has poured his heart into his work and recognized, even during Thanksgiving, the need to slow down. Together, we stand by Judy, the girls, and Tom, supporting one another through this tough chapter. He has always been a remarkable family man, and I love him deeply.

As Tom and Judy's sister-in-law, I've seen their struggles, but their commitment to making a difference is inspiring. The Walking Tall program is truly remarkable in helping young men.

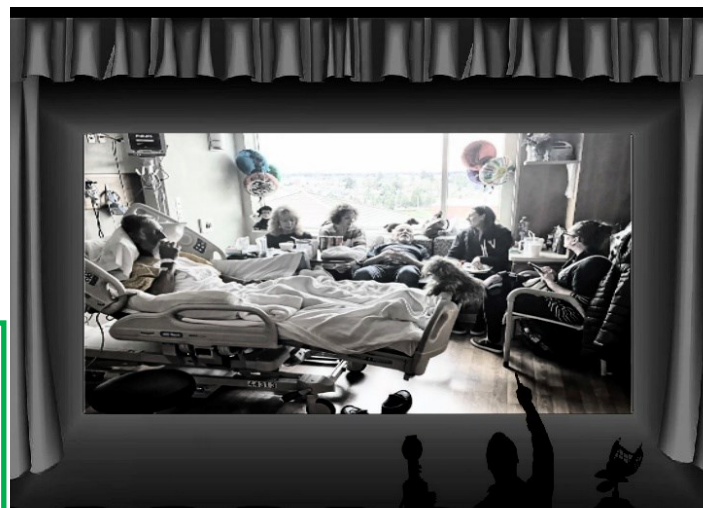
Tom's collaboration with Chet has shown me how dedicated he is, and it's heartbreaking to see what he's going through. I know this is tough for you, Judy, and the girls, but our family is here for you. I fondly remember the fun times we had during Thanksgiving. So many people care for Tom because he brightens our lives, and I believe he'll be okay. Chet mentioned Tom was in good spirits this morning, and his team of doctors is committed to his care and won't let anything happen to him. We just have to stay together as a family, believe in him, and keep him in our prayers, because we all love him.

Throughout this journey of unexpected health challenges, Tom and I have forged deep connections with remarkable individuals in a hospital north of our area. One of these was Noa, (No-A) a young nurse who cared for Tom during several nights in the hospital. He resonated with our story, and we shared our experiences from "Walking Tall" with him. On his final night with us, he expressed, "You have become like family to me, and I love you."

We believe that God is writing this story, and we must trust His incredible plan!

The smallest family will become a thousand people,
and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation.
At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen."

Isaiah 60:22



*If you haven't ever supported Walking Tall, please consider a one time donation or regular monthly donations to support and continue offering many skills to these young men. Thank you so much!
Walking Tall: PO Box 3789 Central Point, OR 97502 or walkingtallso.org for online donations.*