

S. LaMont Matthews



Sidney LaMont Matthews, a distinguished engineer, devoted family man, and community volunteer, passed away on November 2, 2024, at the age of 90. Born in 1934 in Ogallala, Nebraska, to Gordon and Lillian (Musil), LaMont's early life was shaped by the Dust Bowl migration, leading his family west to Portland, Oregon, where his father attended mechanics school. The family later moved to Dayton, Oregon. He grew up playing high school sports; working in his father's garage; and

developing a life-long love for fishing, hunting, and learning. LaMont graduated from Dayton High School in 1952, where he was encouraged by a high school teacher, Mr. Wilder, to pursue engineering, a path that defined his career and life.

When he enrolled at Oregon State University, LaMont initially studied Electrical Engineering before finding his calling in Mechanical Engineering. Although he began college on a football scholarship, he soon left sports to fully dedicate himself to his studies. At the suggestion of his mentor, Dick Boubel, LaMont joined a small engineering firm in Corvallis, which eventually became CH2M HILL. LaMont began as a mechanical designer, later advancing to become the firm's first Director of Mechanical Engineering, and ultimately served as Vice President of Industrial and Energy Systems. LaMont's dedication and innovation led him to the CH2M HILL Board of Directors and, in 2000, earned him a place in the OSU College of Engineering Hall of Fame. He retired in 1999 after decades of impactful service.



In retirement, LaMont turned his energy to the Corvallis community, serving on nonprofit boards and volunteering with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for over 10 years. A dedicated member of the local Rotary Club,

LaMont continued to exemplify service and integrity. As a life-long learner and avid reader, LaMont found joy in exploring new ideas and sharing them with those around him. He spent his leisure time golfing, fishing, riding his mountain bike, and traveling.

Beyond his career and community work, LaMont's greatest joy was his family. Known for his generous spirit, he welcomed each new member, spouses, stepchildren, and in-laws alike with open arms, making everyone feel truly part of the family. Whether at his home in Albany or the family's retreat at Eagle Crest in Central Oregon, LaMont created a haven of belonging, warmth, and love. His legacy of kindness, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to others lives on in the many lives he touched.

LaMont is survived by his beloved wife, Ginny, and predeceased by his first wife, Jane, and second wife, Della; his children Kelly (Donovan), Cindy (Ken) and Edward (Andrea); grandchildren Corey (Summer), Caitlin (Andrew), Micah, Christian (Harley), Mason and Saylor; and great-grandchildren Henry, Jack, Elsie, and Coleson; and a sister, Beverly. His welcoming heart and gentle guidance will be missed deeply, but remembered fondly by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

[Editor's Note: For an interesting reflection on LaMont's life with the firm, check out his 1 ½-hour oral history interview with Oregon State University's Oral History Project: "A Hometown Company with a Global Reach."

<https://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oh150/matthews/video-matthews.html>]