

Opinion Column - Statesman Journal - Published on May 1, 2007
Willamette Valley Hospice a Blessing to Many

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The Statesman Journal article on April 14, "Hospice Harmony," brings back powerful emotions. My father, David "Punch" Worthington of Keizer, taught me nature and music are foods for the soul. He embraced all musicals flavors.

As the door was slowly closing to his incredible life, my father treasured Jessica's calming, impassioned house calls and her therapy via harmonic sounds and music.

Based on my experience, Willamette Valley Hospice provides amazing tranquility services to the terminally ill.

Another example: My father embraced the spirituality of Native American Indians. Through Hospice we were able to contact an Indian Spiritualist/Shaman, Bob-Tom, who on a one-day notice arrived at my father's home. He burned sage, sang Indian songs about nature and the cycle of Life and our collective ancestry. This brought a sense of final serenity to my father and readied him for the Next Great Adventure. Twenty-four hours after this ceremony, my father passed, peacefully.

Thank you Jessica and Shaman Bob-Tom. Thank you, Willamette Valley Hospice. You bring a smile to the souls you escort including the friends and families of the departed. Our society has a difficult time dealing with death. Your work enriches the inevitable process which every single one of us shall one day face.

~~~ David A. Worthington, Costa Mesa, Calif.