



## Dr. Thomas B. Pinson

May 14, 1920 - January 29, 2015

Thomas Benton Pinson of Miami passed away January 29 at the age of 94. He was born May 20, 1920, in Carthage, Missouri to J. Wallace Pinson and Alma Carpenter Pinson. At age two he moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from Tulsa Central High School in 1938. He worked in Oil Field Supply in Texas until World War II when he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. From 1943 until 1945 he served as a Navy Corpsman in Samar, Philippines. In 1946 he married Florence Krueger. She preceded him in death. After his discharge he attended school in Chicago to become a Podiatrist. He practiced Podiatry in Chicago, and Vinita, Oklahoma, before moving to Miami in 1960. He was a Podiatrist in Miami until his retirement. Tom loved walking, sports of all kinds and FOOD !

Tom was predeceased by his sister, Mrs. H. L. Pullen of Tulsa. Tom is survived by his nephew, Robert W. Pullen and his wife, Anne Wise Pullen, of Houston, Texas. Mr. Pinson is also survived by Mr. and Mrs. Pullen's three sons and one daughter, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A celebration of his life will be held at 4:00 pm, February 19 at the First Presbyterian Church in Miami, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers , mourners are welcome to make a donation in Mr. Pinson's memory to the First Presbyterian Church in Miami, Oklahoma.

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 19. 4:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church-Miami  
1410 NE Veterans BLVD  
Miami, OK 74354

# Tribute Wall

TR

“ You will be missed Sir. Love you and God bless.  
Tammy Russell

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**Tammy Russell** - February 19, 2015 at 09:25 AM

MR

“ Rob and I have many years of memories with Tom. He was our neighbor and friend. Tom spent many Thanksgiving dinners with us and yes he really did love food! Rob and Tom shared a special bond and were very close. It was sad when Tom moved from his home on B Street as we didn't see him as often. Many great memories of our friend!

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**melanie rollins** - February 18, 2015 at 10:02 PM

DJ

“ We are saddened to hear about the passing of my Uncle Tom and will miss our visits to see him in Miami. My husband and I, as well as our daughters and their husbands, tried to plan our travels to stop and see him along the way. He always enjoyed life and loved to take us to the casinos. He was fun to be with, sharing his knowledge of the the places he had been as well as stories of his friends and family. He really enjoyed us driving him to various places in the area that held special meaning from his past. Several years ago, we drove him down to Grand Lake of the Cherokees. Uncle Tom was so delighted to be there with us just walking around Monkey Island on that beautiful, sunny day talking to folks passing by. He loved to talk to everyone! I spent part of my summers when I was young staying with him and my Aunt Florence at their home on B Street. I have so many fond memories of my Aunt and Uncle, along with the places they took me in the Miami area during my visits. They also spent Christmas and other holidays at our house in Chicago while I was growing up, so we did spend time with them even though we lived so far apart.

I know my Uncle has many friends who will miss him and his enthusiasm for life. His Church family from the First Presbyterian Church, were so good to him and he so enjoyed their fellowship. His casino friends made a plaque for him on his 93rd Birthday. He was so excited and had to show it to us when we arrived for a visit! It said: Presented to Tom Pinson

93 Years Young

The Casino and

Free Food Guru

Best Wishes and

A Very Happy Birthday

May 15, 2013

When Uncle Tom neared 90 and every year after, he would be so excited about his name and picture being in the paper. He would send us a video of it. We would tell him to aim for the Smucker's 100 year old honor on the Today Show with Willard Scott. He got a big kick out of that!

We remember him telling us he never expected to live as long as he

*had, but was prepared to go whenever God called him.  
We Love You and Miss You, Uncle Tom.*

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**Dave and Linda (Lipp) Jones** - February 18, 2015 at 11:36 AM

RF

*Tom was our neighbor for many years and we saw him on nearly a daily basis. He often ate with our family and never tired of the constant questions about the history of people and buildings around this area. He shared lots of stories about his childhood days living around the corner from "Pretty Boy" Floyd in Tulsa and all the history of those days. Love the story of him playing with Dempsey Floyd (Pretty Boy's son) and his father helping Pretty Boy change a flat tire. He told me the police were pretty scarce around the neighborhood when the suspected Pretty Boy was home visiting his wife Ruby and Dempsey. Another was him going to watch a Floyd Patterson fight with the infamous Kansas City gangster Gus Gargotta after Mr. Gargotta had moved to Tulsa and went into the grocery business. He was full of stories and always loved to share a story or hear a new story. We always had wonderful visits when I would take him to the VA hospital in Fayetteville for his appointments. He will be missed by my family. We loved Tom and cherish our time with him. Ate a lot of dinners at our house. Will miss him.*

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**Rob and Melanie Rollins and family** - February 18, 2015 at 09:09 PM

SB

“*Tom, you will be missed by so many! What a sweet man. Sad to hear this*

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**Sarah Beckwith** - February 02, 2015 at 09:18 AM

PK

*I met Dr. Pinson more than 50 years ago. He was a very good man and I will miss our phone visits very much.*

*Perry Knight*

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**Perry Knight** - February 02, 2015 at 05:48 PM

LJ

*We are saddened to hear about the passing of my Uncle Tom and will miss our visits to see him in Miami. My husband and I, as well as our daughters and their husbands, tried to plan our travels to stop and see him along the way. He always enjoyed life and loved to take us to the casinos. He was fun to be with, sharing his knowledge of the the places he had been as well as stories of his friends and family. He really enjoyed us driving him to various places in the area that held special meaning from his past. Several years ago, we drove him down to Grand Lake of the Cherokees. Uncle Tom was so delighted to be there with us just walking around Monkey Island on that beautiful, sunny day talking to folks passing by. He loved to talk to everyone! I spent part of my summers when I was young staying with him and my Aunt Florence at their home on B Street. I have so many fond memories of my Aunt and Uncle, along with the places they took me in the Miami area during my visits. They also spent Christmas and other holidays at our house in Chicago while I was growing up, so we did spend time with them even though we lived so far apart. I know my Uncle has many friends who will miss him and his enthusiasm for life. His Church family from the First Presbyterian Church, were so good to him and he so enjoyed their fellowship. His Casino friends made up a plaque for him on his birthday. He was so excited to show it to us. It read:*

*Presented to Tom Pinson  
93 Years Young  
The Casino and  
Free Food Guru  
Best Wishes and  
a Very Happy Birthday  
May 15, 2013*

*When Uncle Tom neared 90 and every year after, he would be so excited about his name and picture being in the paper. He would send us a video of it. We would tell him to aim for the Smucker's 100 year old honor on the Today Show with Willard Scott. He got a big kick out of that!*

*Uncle Tom told Dave and I that he had never expected to live as long as he had and that he was ready whenever God called him. We Love and miss Uncle Tom.*

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**Linda Jones** - February 18, 2015 at 11:58 AM

RF

*Tom was our neighbor for many years and we saw him on nearly a daily basis. He often ate with our family and never tired of the constant questions about the history of people and buildings around this area. He shared lots of stories about his childhood days and all the history of those days. I particularly liked the stories of his childhood days in Tulsa as a neighbor of "Pretty Boy" Floyd and playing with Dempsey Floyd (Pretty Boy's son) and his father helping Pretty Boy change a flat tire. He always laughed about how scared the police were when they knew Pretty Boy was in town visiting his wife (Ruby) and Dempsey. This is mentioned in the Michael Wallis book entitled "Pretty Boy." Also his story of going to watch a Floyd Patterson boxing match with the infamous Kansas City gangster Gus Gargotta after Mr. Gargotta had moved to Tulsa and went into the wholesale grocery business. Florence (Tom's wife and Mr. Gargotta's wife Dixie walked their dogs together) He was full of stories and always loved to share a story or hear a new story. We had many a good visit when I would take him to the VA in Fayetteville. We loved Tom and he will be missed by my family. I miss the days of waking up on Saturday morning to look out and see Tom sitting on my patio waiting for us to bring him some coffee. We loved Tom and will miss him so very much.*

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**Rob and Melanie Rollins and family** - February 18, 2015 at 09:55 PM

TR

*Tom, you were a special friend and I loved our visits as we were driving to church and other fun events....we were blessed to share our great times with you.....loved you.....Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.....Rosemary Russell and the Russell Boys...arf..arf...arf...arf.*

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**Tammy Russell** - February 19, 2015 at 09:46 AM

RR

*Tom was our neighbor for many years and we spent many hours with him...daily for years. He often ate with our family and never tired of the constant questions about the history of people and buildings around the area and elsewhere. We particularly enjoyed hearing about his childhood and growing up around the corner from the infamous Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd in Tulsa, Ok. at 538 East Xylar St. The account is documented in the Michael Wallis book "Pretty Boy" and Tom was interviewed and mentioned in the book. The link is: <http://thislandpress.com/04/21/2011/pretty-boy-floyd-in-tulsa/> Also playing with Pretty Boy's son "Dempsey" Floyd as a child, and how his (Tom's) father was helped by Pretty Boy in changing a flat tire. Tom said that when Pretty Boy was in town to visit his wife Ruby and son Dempsey the police were pretty scarce around the neighborhood. He also shared some stories about another infamous Kanas City gangster (gone good) by the name of Gus Gargotta. Mr. Gargotta had moved to Tulsa and had purportedly removed himself from the mob lifestyle secondary to the murder of his brother in KC, Mo. Tom fondly recalled Mr. Gargotta taking him to a Floyd Patterson boxing match and Florence (Tom's wife) walking her dog with Dixie, who was Mr Gargotta's spouse. We had many of these conversations on my patio, and when I was fortunate enough to drive Tom to Fayetteville, Ark. to the VA hospital. My daughter was overjoyed when Tom accepted her invitation to accompany her to a Miami High School "Grandparent" dance several years ago. Many Saturday mornings (for years) I would awaken to find Tom patiently sitting on my patio waiting for me to get out of bed and bring his coffee. He was a good man and we miss him dearly. RIP Tomas*

*Rob and Melanie Rollins and Family*

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**Rob and Melanie Rollins** - February 19, 2015 at 10:26 AM