

## Eulogy Delivered by Aaron Claxton on behalf of Roy's grandchildren

3 November 09

Roy Claxton was many things to many people. He was an intuitive businessman, a creative developer, and a self made success, but to my brothers, cousins and I, he was our caring and supportive Grandpa Roy.

One of the fondest memories I have of my grandfather took place at a second home he had along the Desuchutes River. This house sat at the edge of steep red cliffs in the high desert country. There was a coyote skin above the fireplace, trout in the river below, hammocks strung between trees and as a young kid this retreat was incredible. Grandpa Roy's second homes were always a place where our extended family would gather and spend time together.

One night, it was just my little brother Stefan and I staying with Grandpa Roy and Mariel when a violent Thunderstorm erupted. Bolts of lightning ripped through the sky and thunder crashed down before my brother and I could count a full one Mississippi. Stefan and I were nervous. (Well, he was scared.. I was fine) Grandpa Roy sat down with the two of us to play a game. After a few minutes Grandpa Roy had us completely absorbed in Jenga, a building game where 54 wooden blocks are stacked in a square formation. It requires each person to take out one block per turn and move it to the top of the increasingly unstable structure. It is a game perfectly suited for an architect or builder. Soon the storm became an afterthought. Grandpa Roy and I continued the game into the night while Stefan became too tired to continue. Grandpa Roy and I persisted until the tower came tumbling down. In hindsight it is clear that Grandpa Roy let me win, but at the time I was really excited. He told me that he had never lost to anyone and that I must be an exceptional talent to have beaten him. It made me feel very confident in myself.

Confidence, I believe, played a large role in Grandpa Roy's life. Not simply his own personal confidence which he earned from his many successes, but the confidence he procured in his family. Grandpa Roy believed that all of his grandchildren are capable of great achievements. He supported these beliefs by helping all of us to reach and aim for higher goals. Along with these goals, Grandpa Roy provided an example and an inspirational model of how dedication and focus can lead to success and accomplishment.

Over the last few years I have been fortunate to have spent time with my grandfather and to discuss with him some of the trials and triumphs of his life. We would often meet for lunch and these exchanges provided an opportunity to gain Grandpa Roy's perspectives on many subjects. Even though my Grandpa Roy had a lifetime of success in business, family, and philanthropy, at the end of our meetings, he would always surprise me by saying how proud he was of **me**... This always meant a lot to me because he was someone I looked up to and want to emulate. I believe this was his way of inspiring confidence within me and to help guide me to higher goals.

For all of us grandchildren and great grandchildren, the best way we can preserve our grandfather's legacy is through our future achievements. We will all miss our Grandpa Roy dearly and we will keep his memory alive by always striving for greater ideals and raising our families to higher goals and greater accomplishments.