



## James Burtram Dort

September 6, 1945 - September 19, 2025

James Burt Dort, age 80, of Philomath, died Friday, September 19, 2025.  
Please share your thoughts and memories for the family.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **12**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
2745 NW Harrison Blvd  
Corvallis, OR 97330

# Tribute Wall



“ *It was an honor to speak at Jim Dort's memorial. This web site will not allow me to publish my comments. To those who requested a copy, just email [wmsplets@dswwebnet.com](mailto:wmsplets@dswwebnet.com) and I will send you a complete copy. Thank you, Wayne Spletstoser*

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**Wayne Spletstoser** - October 13, 2025 at 11:02 AM

“ *Jim Dort's Final Retirement Party*  
*By Wayne Spletstoser...CHS Staff with Jim*

*How do you say goodbye to a hero?*  
*How do you bid farewell to a friend?*  
*How do you willingly open a door, to accomodate the loss of rapport*  
*With a heartbeat that has come to its end?*

*Oh my goodness that was a somber opening*  
*Eulogies should not reek with lugubriousness or contemplatives*  
*This guy was from Ohio, oh me oh myo*  
*Just a four letter word like...Rock, Roll, Hall, Fame and Dort...all native.*

*With a smirky smile of civility*  
*But with a mischievously muzzled comport*  
*If you ever came near this man of good cheer*  
*I suggest you look out for the pest in Jim Dort*

*That man gave rascal its credence*  
*That man gave the smile its ear*  
*So your dour might hear...should this man wish to come near*  
*Facial glum or shy...both must say goodbye...your lost smile must soor*

*I first met Jim at a CHS lunch table*  
*This stranger attacked me ala Don Rickles*  
*He called me boring and dull, and subject to cull*  
*But later, I learned the sweetness found in sour dill pickles!*

*But he too was a victim*  
*Of his own gift for zingers*  
*"Hey Dort, I can't see the TV screen, your ears are in the way"*  
*His students now also gifted with stingers*

*Did you know Dort wrestled Olympian Danny Gable?*  
*He did it without fear and did it without able*  
*He claimed he did not take a fall, he claimed an escaped with his all*

*Yes, proud fleeing was part of his fable!*

*This man lived 80 full years*

*93 of which he taught government at CHS*

*With both love and skill, which he bequeaths in his will*

*To past students whose soul he's still reaching...just stay tuned!*

*Jim Dort...a husband, a father, a brother, a teacher, a coach, a mentor,  
I could speak here the rest of the day, and not touch on each way*

*This dedicated, talented, proficient, loving-faithful man...with the pomp*

*Made my life and your life happier and better...this deviously delightful*

*I believe I speak for us all when I say...I was proud to be his prey!*

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*And speaking of pray...you are in your fourth quarter, but you are*

*in the red zone, you have received your two-minute warning...*

*here is gift of faith from Coach Dort...so you don't fumble the ball...*

*The Path To Heaven*

*As I walk down this path called life*

*Through all the turmoil and strife*

*I do not walk alone*

*I know I am heading home*

*For God so loved this world he gave his son*

*It is through him the battle is won*

*I sing praise for the one who died for me*

*It is his face I long to see*

*Lord Jesus, I come to you on bended knee*

*For it is you who has set me free*

*Through your word I overcame my denial*

*And on your face I see a smile*

*I'll sing praise to you oh my Lord  
You paid the price I could not afford  
Through out this life I ran the race  
I know I am saved by your gift of grace*

*Along this path I hope to do no wrong  
For you have said, "Satan be gone!"  
I pray that you continue with me  
For I always want to be with thee*

*When this life comes to an end!*

*James Dort  
Circa 2022*

*Touchdown!*

*So, how do you say goodbye to a hero?  
How do you bid farewell to a friend?  
Who had the heart of a lion but was adored like a puppy  
You just listen and remember...("Lion Sleeps Tonight" played)*

*Alternate Lyrics*

*We Have Lost Our Guy Who Was Corvallis High: A Lion Sleeps Tonigh*

*From our high school, Corvallis high school  
A Spartan sleeps tonight  
In his classroom His fiesty classroom  
His students were his delight*

*You're the village, the peaceful village  
Where this lion shone so bright  
His dear village, his quiet village  
His heart rests here tonight*

*Hush, dear students, don't fear dear students  
This lion sleeps all right*

*Hold those memories, don't lose those memories  
Of that Spartan/Lion we all loved tonight*

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**Wayne Spletstoser** - October 13, 2025 at 02:41 AM

NM

“ *Mr. Dort was my high school sociology teacher. But not just any teacher. He was that one teacher who made the biggest difference in my future - both personally and professionally. He introduced me to the social sciences, which led me to my career in law. And on a personal note, he went out of his way to give me unsolicited (but good) advice about my dating situation in high school. It was comforting to know he cared, and more than he was required to. He was that teacher that made a difference. Rest in peace, Mr. Dort. You will not be forgotten, and your legacy lives on.*

**Niki Mendoza** - October 06, 2025 at 11:26 PM

JK

“ *I was incredibly fortunate to know Jim as a colleague and friend. I can't count the number of times he saved my bacon, substituting for me when I was a new teacher and a new father: responding to my four AM messages, stepping in to take over my classes with my woefully inadequate lesson plans, teaching fearlessly and with heart. He was of a generation that believed in creating and maintaining a community and we are all better for his efforts. My family's thoughts are with the Dort family. Thanks for sharing him with us.*

**Josh Keady** - October 04, 2025 at 12:28 AM

AD

“ *Mr dort introduced me to political thought, as well as other concepts i still wrestle with today. My intractions with him as an adult demonstrated his superb character. He was a great teacher, great man.*

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**Admirer** - October 02, 2025 at 02:18 AM

SQ

“ *I read Montesquieu with Jim "Mr. Dort" in the early 70's. It was my introduction to reading philosophy primary sources. It was really hard. But he was patient and supportive. I have been reading the history of ideas and philosophy ever since.*

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**Stephen Quatrano** - September 30, 2025 at 12:55 PM

JW

“ Jim “Mr. Dort” was that one amazing teacher that touched me, inspired me, and helped guide me to a successful life beyond high school. I was part of his leadership class starting in the fall of 1974 until graduation in 1975. So many things that we did that year, but my favorite was when he guided us to campaign for a bond measure to ask the Corvallis voters to renovate a pretty tired CHS that was so in need of repair. We promised the voters that we would clean up the school if they voted for the bond. The bond passed. Our leadership class organized a 1/2 day event where every student rolled up their sleeves to do the hard work to clean up the campus. That same afternoon we organized a fun day for the whole school to celebrate with games, music and parties! One of the events was a Big Mac eating contest. Mr. Dort gave me the keys to his little red VW to drive to McDonald’s to get the burgers. A teacher loaning his car to a student? That’s how he rolled. Here’s what he wrote in my yearbook: “Janet, I hope that you succeed in everything you try. It was nice having you as a student and a friend. I hope you will become a teacher in the future and be as open with your students as you were this year. We are going to miss you in class and I will always remember our talks together. Best wishes, May God Bless You, JD”.

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janet wheeler - September 28, 2025 at 12:34 AM

KO

“ I first met coach Dort in junior high. I was introduced to him and thought he said his name was coach Dork. I called him that for a few days until he gently and comically corrected me. I got his name right all through school after that. He holds a special place in my heart.

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kim olson - September 23, 2025 at 07:19 PM

MC

“ I met Jim when I was a freshman in highschool at CHS when he was a substitute teacher for basic shop class and had him for Sociology as a senior. Over the years, I have known him and his family in Oregon Special Olympics and at CAPS group at Suburban Church. In SOOR, I met his daughter Kari and been friends for a long time. Jim was really nice and was a really good friend, even as one of my teachers at CHS.



*May Jim be at Peace and be safe in the Mansions Of The Lord and heaven, too*

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**Matt Conklin** - September 23, 2025 at 06:58 PM

SW

“ Mr. Dort was one of the most interesting and memorable teachers at CHS! I will always remember our trip to the State Penitentiary. I enjoyed running into him years later. He was a good man. My condolences.  
Stephen Whitener, student (1989-90)

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**Stephen Whitener** - September 22, 2025 at 10:29 PM

SD

*Mr. Dort was one of my favorite teachers at CHS. I graduated in 1982. He had a way of engaging everyone in his classroom. An excellent teacher and mentor to many for many reasons for many years.*

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**Susan Douglas** - September 23, 2025 at 11:42 AM

JC

*Ditto to what others are writing. Absolutely amazing teacher who could make every class exciting. I have mentioned his name to my grandkids and have shared with them some of the wild facts he shared with us. Judy Waymire class of 1973.*

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**Judy Clark** - September 23, 2025 at 03:31 PM

PP

*I feel fortunate to have had Jim as a teacher and even more grateful that I was able to reconnect with him this past year. His guidance left an imprint on my life that has lasted far beyond the classroom. Jim had a way of challenging you to think bigger, to step into leadership, and to carry yourself with purpose — lessons that I still draw on today.*

*His legacy lives on in all of us who were lucky enough to learn from him.*

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**Peggy Paarmann** - September 23, 2025 at 04:51 PM

JB

*Jim and his family have been our neighbors for 35 years. Jim was an outstanding teacher and a man of faith that lived his values as a kind, gentle and caring member of his community.*

*He was a dedicated teacher who loved his profession and all his students. He had a profound and unshakable love of his family.*

*May he rest in peace and may his students carry on his passion for knowledge and caring for others.*

*Our thoughts are with his entire family.*

*Blessings. Trish and John Borowski and family.*

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**John Borowski** - September 23, 2025 at 09:49 PM

JN

*I had the pleasure of watching Jim coach people with disabilities. Over several years he was a Special Olympics coach. He was gentle, deliberate, and respectful. He had a great sense humor and created a fun environment. He allowed the players to fail, which helped his players learn. Then, he showed them the way to improve. I and my family loved him for who he was.*

*The Newby family*

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**Jim Newby** - September 24, 2025 at 06:00 PM

CS

*The Dorts have been part of my consciousness since I had Mrs. Dort for my 4th grade teacher at Adams Elementary School. Later, at CHS Mr. Dort was one of the biggest supporters of girls' sports and was an ever present attendee at our volleyball games (and a cheerleader and commenter the day after!). His fun spirit and sense of humor made him a favorite of many, and I remember recognizing, even then as a teen, he had a cohort of other teachers and coaches with whom he had close relationships. That was a meaningful thing to see as a high school student, that teachers were "real people," supportive of each other and friendly with their colleagues, all while supporting, teaching, and coaching students. Rest in peace, Mr. Dort, knowing that you impacted the lives of many. Our thoughts are with you, Mrs. Dort.*

*Carrie Quatrano Singh, class of 1983*

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**Carrie Singh** - September 24, 2025 at 08:04 PM

MP

*I too had the pleasure of having Mr. Dort as a government teacher in 1991. I was one of the lucky students to take a trip to the State Penitentiary. Eye opening experience. He also was a substitute teacher for all 3 of my kids, so I ran into him often. He will be forever missed by many, but will never be forgotten. Loves to his family.*

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**Mindi Parker** - September 24, 2025 at 09:08 PM

PC

*I taught at CHS for 28 years. There was a camaraderie within the staff that made it a special place and Jim was its beating heart. What joyful times we had in the faculty lunch room where we could safely unwind from whatever might be on our minds.*

*Jim was ever present for students and staff...in the classroom, on the playing field, in the halls, on stage, after school, at times both good and challenging. He leant an ear and gave a thoughtful response to whatever might be on a person's mind. How many thousands of lives did he touch...and how many more have those lives touched? Thank you, Jim, for giving so generously of yourself. You live on in my heart.*

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**Pat Canan** - September 28, 2025 at 09:14 PM

MG

*Jim (or Mr. Dort, or just plain "DORT-DORT-DORT"--which he played along with us) was an outstanding instructor who truly listened to his students and, probed them in a way that prompted their liking his classes, teaching style, and the importance of the topics being presented by him to them. Plus, his family's fruit stand at the Farmer's Market along the river front was a great place to get good food and lively conversation. Miss you dude ----have fun up there in your new home !*

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**Mike Gallagher** - October 01, 2025 at 07:00 PM

JM

*Mr. Dort spoke at my high school graduation (CHS class of 1978). He didn't tell us that we were unique and the best class of students ever. Instead, what I heard him say was that we had accomplished some very nice things up to that point in our lives, but he hoped we would live long lives and accomplish so much more. I heard a challenge to explore the world and to do good works in it. He received considerable criticism for his speech at the time, but his words have never left the recesses of my mind as I have navigated my life. He really was an inspiration.*

*The other thing he did that impressed me so much was how he supported the concert band. I can't remember how many times he showed up in band class just because he "wanted to hear good music played well." And, based on the other memories left here, that was just a small part of the support he was providing elsewhere at school. I wish we all had that kind of energy and desire to spread goodwill. Rest in peace, dear sir, rest in peace.*

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**John S Murdzek** - October 04, 2025 at 07:48 PM

WS

*I spoke at Jim's memorial. Those requesting copies of my comments: [wmsplets@dswebnet.com](mailto:wmsplets@dswebnet.com). I will send. Jim Dort was my dear colleague. Wayne Spletstoser*

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**Wayne Spletstoser** - October 13, 2025 at 12:50 PM

EK

*Coach Dort was my wrestling coach at CHS in the 1979-1980 season while my father was at OSU on sabbatical. In that one short year, he became one of the handful of most influential men in my life. He taught me many lessons on toughness and determination that carried me through many later hardships and were major contributors to many of the successes with which I have been blessed. He knew when to push you, and when to ease off. He was an upright and thoroughly admirable man. He made a huge difference in my life, and his lessons have been passed along to my 2 sons, both wrestlers, now serving as officers the Army. 45 years later I still think of him often. He was a blessing to me.*

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**Ed Krause** - January 21 at 05:08 PM