

James Ernest Jackson, Jr. '73

James E. Jackson, Jr. died on October 10, 2018, in Portland, Oregon, after a courageous battle against cancer. He was 67 years old. Jim bore the burden of cancer, and complicating factors, like the larger than life figure we knew him to be.

He was born in Caledonia, New York, the son of Dorothy L. Reed and James E. Jackson, Sr. He graduated as an honor student from Caledonia-Mumford Central High School after a distinguished prep career as a champion wrestler and football player.

Jim entered the Naval Academy as a member of 9th Company, Class of 1973, transferring to 31st Company after plebe year. He was a varsity wrestler under legendary coach Ed Peery. Upon graduation with a degree in Operations Research on June 6, 1973, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Marines. During his career, he served in various leadership positions in the U.S. and overseas as a civil engineer. He made significant athletic contributions to the U.S. Marine Corps and the nation by distinguished service for five years as the U.S. Marine Corps and Inter-service Wrestling Coach.

After leaving active duty, Jim earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa in 1982 and Master's degree in Exercise Science from Portland State University in 1989. He taught and coached wrestling at Clear Creek High School in Tiffin, Iowa. Moving west, he joined the athletic department at Clackamas Community College where he served with distinction for six years as wrestling coach and for seventeen years as Athletic Director.

On May 2, 2015, Jim was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is a member of the Clackamas Community College and Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) Halls of Fame and supported wrestling for years as an official. The Oregon Chapter honored him with a National Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award. During his tenure at Clackamas, the college's athletic programs won 40 conference championships. Upon retiring in 2009, he worked for the NWAC as Compliance Manager and for two years on the Executive Board.

During his illustrious career, Jim coached, among others, Lloyd Keaser (Olympic Silver Medalist, 1976, and World Champion, 1973), Greg Gibson (Olympic Silver Medalist, 1984), Matt Lindland, (Olympic Silver Medalist, 2000) and Dan Mello, (World Champion Runner-Up 2001, five-time U.S. Open Greco-Roman Champion and Olympian).

As his classmates and friends knew, Jim loved Russia and Russian history. He studied the language, learned to send semaphore in Russian and toured Russia in 2004 with a student group, traveling from Moscow to Siberia on the historic Trans-Siberian Railroad. In addition, he deeply enjoyed Shakespeare and treasured the education he received from his excellent teachers and professors.

As he battled his illness, he never uttered a complaint, always remaining positive and firmly believing he would lick his ailments. Several classmates were able to visit him during his treatment. Over 300 friends, family and former student-athletes attended a celebration of Jim's life on Friday, November 2, 2018, at Clackamas Community College. The USNA Class of 1973 was honorably represented by Mike Seiwald who reported that it was evident from the tributes that Jim touched many lives in the most positive way during his years at the college.

Jim is survived by his sister, Beverly Jackson of Portland, Oregon as well as by his longtime partner, Mary Dykes, and her family.

In lieu of flowers or other donations, the family asks that donations in Jim's name be made to: Clackamas Community College Foundation
Attention: Athletic Fund for Excellence, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon 97045