

OBITUARIES

Dr. James A. Wood, M.D.

Portland

November 15, 1926 - October 15, 2017

Dr. James A. Wood passed away Oct. 15, 2017, at St. Vincent Hospital in Portland. He was 90 years old.

James, known as Jim, was born Nov. 15, 1926, in Newtown, Mo., the youngest child of Alfred and Lulu (Newton) Wood. His father died when he was 12 years old and he and his mother moved to Oregon to live with his older sister.

On his 17th birthday, Jim joined the Marine Corps, leaving school to enlist. When his service was complete, he returned to Oregon and graduated from Union High School in Hillsboro. After high school, Jim lived in student housing and attended college at Vanport, and he often spoke of the devastation from the 1948 flood and the effect on the community.

In 1950, Jim married Joann Thordorson. Jim transferred to Reed College and graduated in 1953. He attended the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU) and completed his studies in 1957. Joann supported Jim while he studied to become a doctor and together they raised their growing family. He became an assistant professor at the medical school and a significant contributor to the early pioneering days of heart surgery.

It was at the University of Oregon Medical School during his residency that Jim became interested in cardiac surgery. At this point in time, research on the artificial heart valve was being conducted by Dr. Albert Starr and colleagues. Dr. Wood joined the team that perfected the surgical techniques needed for the valve to be successful in human patients. Dr. Starr and Dr. Wood established the open heart surgery program at St. Vincent's Hospital in 1964. Subsequently, Starr-Wood Cardiac Group was established in 1968.

Jim's success as a surgeon was evident in the many patients who credit him with saving their life or the life of a loved one, as well as

the admiration he received from surgeons he trained or mentored over the years. He often recounted the time when he was 9 years old and he told his father he wanted to be a jockey. His father remarked he might be better suited to be a doctor. That inspired Jim to pursue medicine and many lives were changed because of it.

Jim enjoyed the outdoors and loved to fish, hunt and spend time at his ranch in Central Oregon. He loved his horses and his dogs and quiet time in the high desert landscape. He was an accomplished polo player and played well into his 60s. Jim was a curious, intelligent man and traveled the world sharing his professional knowledge and talent.

He lived by his philosophy to "leave the world a better place than you found it," and he most assuredly did. He left a mark on many lives and will be dearly missed.

Jim was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Joann, as well as his son-in-law David Stief. He is survived by his four children, Diane Stief, James Wood Jr. (Margaret), Jeff Wood and Carol Wood. Also surviving are his five grandchildren, Jamie Stief, Kelly O'Meara (Craig), Katie Wood, Nikki Wood and Lachlan Wood; one great-grandchild, Flynn Parrish; and a niece and two nephews.

The family would like to thank the physicians, friends and caregivers who were so supportive in Jim's final months.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Dr. James A. Wood's name may be made to The Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center in Mission, Ore., or DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital in Portland, Ore.

A public memorial will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017, at the Jesuit High School auditorium. A reception will follow.

Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits



Wood



Winters

Colin James Winters

Troutdale

September 29, 1952 - November 21, 2017

Colin James Winters died on November 21, 2017, in Troutdale, Oregon, at the age of 65. He was born on September 29, 1952, in Portland, Oregon.

Colin graduated from Gresham High School in 1970.

He then earned his college degree in heating and air conditioning at Clackamas Community College. Colin served his country as a crew chief in the U.S. Army during Viet Nam.

On September 20, 1975, Colin married Colleen Sheehan in Portland, Oregon.

Colin enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles, watching Yankee baseball games and reading.

Colin is survived by his loving wife Colleen Winters, Umatilla, Ore.; son Andrew (Sabrina) Winters, Gresham, Ore.; daughter Maegan (Rudd) Skoubo, Raymond, Wash.; his 10 siblings: sister Pam Rutenber, Hermiston, Ore., sister Cassandra (Don) Carey, Gresham, Ore., brother Herb Winters, Condon, Ore., brother Randall (Marilyn) Winters, Troutdale, Ore., sister Beverly Lucky, Idaho,

sister Darlene (Tom) McCarthy, Gresham, Ore., sister Sharon (Angelo) Caminiti, Troutdale, Ore., and brothers John Winters, Gresham, Ore., Jay Winters, Umatilla, Ore., and Jeff (Cathy) Winters, The Dalles, Ore.; plus four grandchildren, Chelsea, Andrew and Alyssa Winters, and Reid Skoubo.

Colin was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Lenore Lampert Winters, and granddaughter Maeva Kaye Skoubo.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to the Patriot Guard Rider organization. Recitation of the rosary will be on Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at 7 p.m. at Bateman Carroll Funeral Home in Gresham, Oregon. Funeral mass will be on Thursday, November 30, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Henry Catholic Church, 346 N.W. First St. in Gresham, followed by a concluding committal service with military honors at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.



UPCOMING SERVICES

SATURDAY, NOV. 25

BASTIEN, STAN — Celebration of life at 2 p.m. at Pendleton Church of the Nazarene, 2801 S.W. Hailey Ave. Casual dress requested.

BECK, JEANA — Funeral service at 1 p.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

GEDNEY, IRMA — Memorial services at 1 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

JONES, RANDY — Celebration of life with military honors at 3 p.m. in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

TARTER, JESSIE — Funeral service at 10 a.m. in the chapel at Burns Mortuary, 685 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Burial will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery.

WIKE, JANELL — Memorial services at 2 p.m. at the Ingle Chapel Congregational Church, 85372 Highway 339, Milton-Freewater.

MONDAY, NOV. 27

HARRAL, LAVELLE — Graveside service at 1 p.m. at Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City.

MAGNUSON, LANORA — Graveside funeral service at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

COMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of regional events, visit eastoregonian.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 25

IMAC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER, 7:30-10:30 a.m., Stokes Landing Senior Center, 150 Columbia Lane, Irrigon. Benefits the Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center project. Costs \$4.50. (Peggy Price 541-567-3806)

LIL BUCKS OPEN GYM, 8:30 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For students in first-third grades.

FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS, 10 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 850 S.W. 11th St., Hermiston. Workshops, photo scanning and more. (Stephanie Blackburn 541-567-6251)

YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. (541-567-2882)

WILDHORSE HOLIDAY BAZAAR, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 46510 Wildhorse Blvd., Pendleton. Vendors will sell homemade crafts, food, artwork and more. Santa will be

on hand from 1-3 p.m. for photos. Free admission. (800-654-9453)

IT'S MAGIC/CHRISTMAS IN ECHO, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., downtown, Main Street, Echo. Holiday shopping opportunities and festive refreshments. Free.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY MOVIES, 10:30 a.m., Stadium 8 Cinema, 355 W. Theater Lane, Hermiston. Enjoy "Thor Ragnarok" and "The Star" with the lights up a little and the volume lowered for sensory-friendly viewing. Tickets are \$5. (541-567-7615)

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

SUNDAY, NOV. 26 FAMILY BREAKFAST, 8:30-9:15 a.m., First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Donations accepted. (541-938-3854)

KIDS KLUB, 9:30 a.m., First Christian Church, 518 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. For children of all ages. Includes arts, crafts, music and more. Free. (Janet Collins 541-938-3854)

SPECIAL NEEDS OPEN GYM, 12-1:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Free for special needs children and families. (541-276-8100)

COMMUNITY POTLUCK, 12 p.m., Tutuilla Presbyterian Church Lowry Hall, 45682 Tutuilla Church Road, Pendleton. Ev-

eryone welcome to bring a dish to share. Donations requested but not required. (Bonnie Burke 541-969-6173)

ADULT OPEN GYM, 6:30 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Half-court basketball. Adults only.

FIDDLER'S NIGHT, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Brookdale Assisted Living, 980 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. Join the jam session, or just listen. Light refreshments included. (Laura Mechem 541-567-3141)

MONDAY, NOV. 27 TOT TIME, 10 a.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For children ages 0-5.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30 a.m., Athena Public Library, 418 E. Main St., Athena. For ages birth to 6. (541-566-2470)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

ART STUDIO, 4-5:30 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free class for ages 7-12 to develop skills and encourage art exploration. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

DECK THE HALLS, 6 p.m.,

First Baptist Church, 200 S.W. Willow Fork Drive, Boardman. Help decorate the church for the holidays, and bring cookies or treats to share. Free. (541-481-9437)

TUESDAY, NOV. 28 PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, 10:30-11 a.m., Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave., Stanfield. (541-449-1254)

BOARDMAN SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Boardman Senior Center, 100 Tatone St., Boardman. Cost is \$4 for seniors 55 and over or \$5 for adults. (541-481-3257)

HERMISTON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church parish hall, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston. Cost is \$4 for adults, \$4 for children 10 and under, \$4 for Meals on Wheels. Extra 50 cents for utensils/dishes. Bus service to parish hall by donation. (541-567-3582)

PENDLETON SENIOR MEAL SERVICE, 12-1 p.m., Pendleton Senior Center, 510 S.W. 10th St., Pendleton. Costs \$3.50 or \$6 for those under 60. Pool, puzzles, crafts, snacks, Second Time Around thrift store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For Meals On Wheels, call 541-276-1926. (541-276-7101)

CRAFTERNOONS, 4:15 p.m., Pendleton Public Library, 502 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Drop in for a group or individual craft project. All ages. (541-966-0380)

James Thomas 'Jim' Nerdin

College Place, Wash.

April 30, 1939 - November 22, 2017

The world lost a master teacher on November 22, 2017, when James Thomas (Jim) Nerdin died after a valiantly fought battle with brain disease.

Jim is remembered fondly by his children and countless other students for his uncanny knack for teaching. From youth to adults, Jim loved to share the knowledge he gained through study, work, and by simply having a willingness and desire to try new things. It's impossible to list all the ways he taught or the number of lives he influenced through his teaching. Jim was a math teacher at school but his teachings extended far beyond math to things such as wood-working and furniture building, basketball, camping, tennis, construction, yard work, chopping wood, public speaking, fulfilling priesthood duties, how to make dinner from random leftovers and above all, hard work.

Jim had a witty sense of humor and was a big jokester even through his last months struggling with his health. He passed this quality on to his sons while always making sure they didn't do anything to disrespect his wife and their mother. Friends and fellow church members remember Jim for his strong handshake, ready smile, and eagerness to serve others.

Jim is survived by his wife Connie; his children Eric (Kari) Nerdin, Julie (Doug) Hill, Laurie Nerdin, Jeff (Michelle) Nerdin, Robb (Stacey) Nerdin, Matt (Karen) Nerdin, Keith (Carley) Nerdin and Jamee (David) Shipp; his sister Garthia (Neil) Anderson; his brother Ray (Kathy) Nerdin; 32 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Jim was preceded in death by his parents Garth and Violet Nerdin, his sister Nancy Ferrel, and his grandson Riley J. Nerdin.

Jim was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 30, 1939, and grew up in Port Orchard, Washington. He attended Frank Gibbons Elementary School and graduated from South Kitsap High School in 1957. Jim received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from University of Washington, a teaching certificate from Brigham Young University (1969) and a master's degree in computer science from University of Oregon (1976).

Jim married his childhood friend Connie Dewey on December 28, 1963, and they raised their eight children together in Washington, North Dakota, Utah and Oregon.

Jim was a dedicated teacher and school administrator. He began his career in education at Crane Union High School (1971-1978) where he taught math and chemistry and served as

vice principal. He served as superintendent-principal at Wheeler County High School (1978-1979) and as principal at Sherman County High School (1979-1985), where he also taught math. Jim served as superintendent-principal at Helix High School (1985-1992), as superintendent at Harrisburg High School (1992-1999) and as superintendent at Sheridan High School (1999-2001). Jim coached volleyball and was the first-ever girls' basketball coach at Crane Union High School. He also coached boys' basketball at Sherman County High School and girls' basketball at Helix High School and College Place High School. After retiring from education, Jim founded JimCo Mortgage Field Service, which he ran until his full retirement in 2003.

Jim was a dedicated member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served multiple full-time missions for the church. He served as a young man in the Finland Helsinki Mission (1960-1962) and later served with his wife Connie in the Nigeria Ibaden Mission (2003-2004), in the Arizona Tucson Mission (2004-2005), doing genealogical work as part of the Norwegian Project (2007-2008), and as temple missionaries in the New York Palmyra Mission (2011-2013). Most recently Jim served as a member of the High Priest Group leadership in the Walla Walla Second Ward of the LDS church.

In addition to his career and church service, Jim worked a variety of hands-on jobs including construction, roofing, hanging drywall, thinning forest trees and working at a grain elevator. Jim was also an accomplished woodworker and furniture maker and enjoyed hiking, reading, camping, canoeing and writing. He authored a book of family history entitled "They Will Not Depart From It" (a reference to Proverbs 22:6) and a modern western novel entitled "Frozen in Time," as well as other essays and articles. Many of these pursuits are pursued by Jim's children and grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at the LDS church located at 1821 South Second Avenue in Walla Walla, Wash., on Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. A graveside service will immediately follow at Blue Mountain Memorial Gardens at 300 S.E. Myra Road in College Place, Wash.

Funeral and graveside services are being coordinated by Colonial Dewitt Funeral Home.

As Jim was fond of saying, we now say to him, "Have fun storming the castle, Dad!"



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