



## James Edward Torpey

September 30, 1926 - August 20, 2013

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James Edward Torpey was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, on September 30, 1926. Early in life, Jim felt the positive influence of the Catholic Church, serving as an Alter Boy at Saint Andrew's, where he had several excellent mentors who imparted many valuable life lessons. When he was just seventeen, with World War II in full swing, Jim enlisted in the Navy, serving from 1943–1946 as a Seabee in New Guinea. Upon his honorable discharge, Jim enrolled at Springfield College, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in health and physical education. In 1950, he married the love of his life, Dorothy Rita Olivieri. Jim and Dot soon found themselves on the move, crisscrossing the continent several times.

While earning his Doctorate from the U of O, Jim fell in love with the Beaver State. He taught at the University of Minnesota for five years, but longed to return to the Willamette Valley. In 1971, now with a family of six children, Jim accepted a professorship at OSU and moved to Corvallis, where he would spend the rest of a very active life. Jim was a loving father and devoted husband; family meant everything to him, and there was never anything too

small he wouldn't do for his loved ones.

Jim was a voracious reader, wrote beautiful poetry, and also enjoyed fishing, gardening, and nature. He had a great sense of humor, always a quick wit, right until his final day on earth. Jim is survived by his wife, Dorothy; six children, Mary, James, Jennifer, Bridget, John, and Eileen; two grand children, Stephen and Tyler; and two great grandchildren, Jackson and Preston. A devote Catholic, Jim's funeral mass will be held at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Corvallis on Saturday, August 24, at 11:00 am. He will be interred at Willamette National Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

**Willamette National Cemetery**

# Tribute Wall

JT

“ *This amazing man is my great grandpa. I got to meet him twice and the two times i met him he was the nicest guy. One thing I will never forget about him was the time on my 4 year old birthday he bought me a Hot Wheels set. I still have the set he gave me and i will probably never get rid of it.*

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**Jackson James Torpey** - April 17, 2025 at 11:35 AM

TH

“ *Dottie: You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Tom and Dianne Hart*

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**tom hart** - August 23, 2013 at 11:28 AM