

James "Jim" Luster

Jan. 12, 1930 - March 15, 2009



James "Jim" Luster, 79, of Albany died Sunday at his home.

Jim was born in Gloucester, Mass., to Joseph and Elizabeth (Wahby) Luster. He was raised in Gloucester, and graduated from Gloucester High School.

Jim came to Oregon State University on a football scholarship. He played football at Oregon State from 1952 to 1954, and graduated in 1955. While at OSU he met Karleen Markussen.

Jim and Karleen were married in 1955 at St. Andrews in Portland and moved to Albany.

Jim got a job at Albany Union High School, which later became West Albany High School, where he taught for 33 years and coached track, football and cross country. He was always so proud of everyone of his athletes and what they went on to become in life.

Jim was a member of St. Mary's Parish as well as a member of the Pastoral Council. He belonged to the Elks Lodge, and belonged to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He also belonged to the OSAA Coaches Association.

Jim is survived by his wife, Karleen of Albany; children Diana O'Bryan and husband Bill of Albany, Donna Young and husband Don of Albany, Darlene Lewis and husband Osia of El Paso, Texas, and Debbie Luster of Corvallis; grandchildren Zac, Karsen and Elliott O'Bryan, Marvin and Kiana Lewis, and Brady Young; brother Donald Luster of San Diego, Calif.; and sisters Yvonne Gonsalves of Rockport, Mass., and Beverly Luster of Plantation, Fla.

Jim was preceded in death by both of his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth Luster; six brothers; and one sister.

A funeral Mass will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albany. A reception will follow at 5 p.m. in the West Albany High School Cafeteria.

Memorial contributions may be made to the West Albany Sports Foundation or Evergreen Hospice and sent in care of

Fisher Funeral Home
306 Washington St. S.W., Albany, OR 97321
(www.fisherfuneralhome.com).