



## James Duncan Fritz

September 5, 1957 - December 26, 2016

Jim would regularly venture into the wilderness in his youth, for days at a time, romping through the woods, climbing rocks and building fires. He was an avid hiker. He had a great appreciation of nature, the sky, the sea, the mountains, and everything that could be explored.

Jim, 59 years old, died peacefully at home in the early morning on Monday December 26th. He had been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer three years earlier.

Born in Porterville, Ca, Jim graduated from Fresno State University with a degree in Marine Biology and a certification in scuba diving. He later enrolled in the US Air Force as a Lieutenant Pilot and moved to Del Rio, TX for flight training. It was there that he met his wife, Linda. Together they moved to California. During his military service he was stationed at several bases throughout the state. After his military service Jim entered the seminary to become a minister with the Missionary Baptist Church. Jim served as a pastor for approximately 15 years. During this time he also worked as a high school and college science teacher. This position allowed him to share his love for science and nature with future generations.

He dedicated his life to educating others and sharing his passions. He amassed an extensive library on a wide variety of subjects and was rarely seen without a book in his hand. He continued working throughout his

treatment as he wanted to help as many students as he could. In his spare time he enjoyed visiting the beach, star gazing, and researching quantum physics.

Jim is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Catherine, and his parents Mary & Bill Fritz.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his honor to the Best Friends Animal Charity or the Marine Mammal Center.

<http://bestfriends.org>

<http://www.marinemammalcenter.org/>

[https://secure3.convio.net/tmmc/site/Donation2?5733.donation=form1&df\\_id=5733](https://secure3.convio.net/tmmc/site/Donation2?5733.donation=form1&df_id=5733)

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ Siento mucho su pérdida se que están pasando por un momento doloroso por eso me gustaría compartir con ustedes un texto de la biblia se encuentra en Juan 5:28,29 donde Jehová Dios promete que volveremos a ver a nuestros seres queridos que han muerto pues serán resucitados. Bonita esperanza para quienes hemos perdido algún familiar en la muerte, espero que el texto les ayude y los acompañe en su dolor.

Jascarina C - January 06, 2017 at 09:15 PM

DA

“ Dana lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



Dana - January 05, 2017 at 08:06 AM

GM

“ Jim was one of the nicest people I've ever worked with and known. His daily positive attitude toward teaching and his students, sense of humor, and general overall happiness will be greatly missed. Another good one gone too soon. RIP

George Morse - January 04, 2017 at 08:21 AM

BW

“ *Mr. Fritz was a coworker of mine at Ocoee HS. I will never forget his smile and perseverance to work even when he was in pain. I will remember his statements in the mornings to me that he always looked forward to my bright smile. I will forever miss him. God bless the family and I am sorry for your loss. Barbara Wright*

---

**Barbara Wright** - January 01, 2017 at 08:24 PM

LF

“ *He was the best mentor and co-worker I ever had in my teaching career. Always trying to help anyone in need, whether student or fellow teacher.*

---

**Luis Fonseca** - December 31, 2016 at 11:49 AM

RL

“ *Ruby De Lira lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Ruby De Lira** - December 31, 2016 at 03:18 AM

MC

“ *I've never met a nicer person in my life. His words of encouragement, corny jokes, interesting stories, and general overall happiness will greatly be missed. RIP*



---

**Marcial Cohen** - December 30, 2016 at 04:23 PM

JL

“ I am really sadden to have to say something about the lost of one of my nicest teacher ever. When I first got to Ocoee, he was really passionate about what he was teaching. He was always smiling and he was always trying to help and make sure everyone understand his materials. My only regret is that i did not know he was still teaching at Ocoee after the year 2011; therefore, I did not get the chance to go back and meet him there to thank him for his kindness and love for teaching. Even though I did not have him for chemistry, I think he is the reason why I love chemistry so much. I did a little bit of chemistry in my physical science course, and I believe that's where my love for chemistry started. By the way, He was my first physical science teacher during my first ever semester at Ocoee. That time was really memorable. so, that's why I still remember him.

My condolence to his family. He was a truly great teacher as far as I knew.

---

Joldo L. - December 30, 2016 at 01:33 AM

AC

“ This man was one of the greatest teachers I've ever had. Because of his crazy antics, always happy demeanor, and the stories he shared about his beloved dogs, I got through chemistry... and also junior year. He talked to me and made me smile when I was too sad to leave his classroom and go to lunch... He was there to help me with every test when I understood NOTHING about the material. Because of him, I didn't have to take chemistry again in nursing school! Im so glad I went back to Ocoee High and hugged him for that. He thought it was the greatest thing in the world. I'm so glad I was able to meet him. He made my world (and chemistry) a lot brighter. Rest In Peace Mr. Fritz and thank you.

---

Amanda Carey - December 29, 2016 at 11:20 PM



“ *Raisa Becker lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Raisa Becker** - December 29, 2016 at 11:00 PM

NO

“ *I've never met a more positive soul than Mr.Fritz. I'm glad to have had him as my science teacher last year. My condolences to his family. We will miss his smile and his kindness.*

---

**Noemy** - December 29, 2016 at 10:11 PM

DY

“ *Just wanted to take a moment and remember my Marine Science teacher from last year, Mr. James Fritz. He had been battling cancer for a long time and it had taken a toll on him, but he would always show up to school with a smile on his face with lots of positive energy. He would always have his 70's and 80's music on while we worked, and it always brought a smile to his face. I would always be the first one in class, and I would always ask him how he's doing, and he had nothing but a bright smile on his face. I can tell you, this guy was one of the happiest and brightest people I've ever met in my life. I remember we would talk about what his favorite baseball team was, and his life in California, or what he had collected from the ocean. I remember the last time we talked, on the last day of school last year, I told him he was one of my favorite teachers that I've ever had, and it's very true, and he had told me that I'm one of his favorite students and that he loved having me in his class and that I have a very bright future ahead of me. It was an honor knowing you Mr. Fritz, fly high above!*

---

**Dylan** - December 29, 2016 at 07:28 PM

RS

“ Mr. Fritz I will miss your smiling face and your wonderful attitude. Your students will never forget you nor will those of us you showed so much kindness.

Renee Skipper - December 29, 2016 at 06:19 PM

MP

“ I only knew him for a short time but he always had a kind word and a smiling face when I saw him or called his room. May you be a peace and god bless all of his family. I know you are a new heavenly angel that will look over all who you care about and love.  
Mary Propes

mary propes - December 29, 2016 at 06:10 PM

CS

“ You were a beautiful person who always thought about others. We will miss you and all of us expect you to watch over us from heaven. Goodbye Fritz.



Carroll Stoner - December 29, 2016 at 04:48 PM

CG

“ Mr. Fritz was a kind hearted individual and genuinely good person. He was filled with knowledge and stories and would light up whenever he spoke about his many adventures. I graduated OHS over 4 years ago but some of my best memories from there were in his class. I will always remember the happiness and joy Mr. Fritz carried with him.



Christine G. - December 29, 2016 at 04:47 PM

AD

“ *An excellent example of a warm and positive man gone too soon. You will be missed Mr. Fritz.*



Alicia DeLuca - December 29, 2016 at 04:45 PM

SS

“ *I have never seen Mr. Fritz without a smile on his face. He always made everyone feel included In conversations and made sure everyone was cheerful as well. RIP Mr. Fitz*



S. Shkoler - December 29, 2016 at 03:36 PM

MN

“ *Mr. Fritz, your warm and welcoming smile has been appreciated every time I was greeted with it. How can a person spread so much caring with just a smile! Thank you for being in my life. Thank you for blessing my life.*

Margaret Nixon - December 29, 2016 at 02:13 PM

RH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rochelle Harris - December 29, 2016 at 01:24 PM

CZ

“ Cheryl Ziegerer lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



Cheryl Ziegerer - December 29, 2016 at 12:24 PM

LT

“ Mr. Fritz was such a wonderful and caring person that I ever came across. I'll miss you a lot!!! Rest In Peace Mr. Fritz

Lara Tran - December 29, 2016 at 12:19 PM

SH

“ He was a kind and considerate man with a Wonderful smile. Rest in Heaven.

Sheryll - December 29, 2016 at 11:43 AM

BU

“ Mr. Fritz was one of the most positive people I've come across. He always had a smile on his face. He definitely made people's lives better.

Burg - December 29, 2016 at 10:55 AM

BF

“ Mr. Fritz was a wonderful human being. We had a lot of fun discussing UFOs, Art Bell and his Coast to Coast radio show,, and just about everything else under the sun. He had a very deep intellect paired with a beautiful soul. I will miss you.

Bill Floyd - December 29, 2016 at 09:34 AM

A.

“ My condolences to the family and friends for your great loss . It's clear he is loved by many. May you find comfort in (Psalm 34:18 ) "Jehovah is close to the brokenhearted. He saves those who are crushed in spirit " . Act 24:15 assures us "There is going to be a resurrection " With Deep Sympathy!

---

**A.S** - December 29, 2016 at 09:22 AM

CH

“ Mr. Fritz was across the hall from me for my first two years at Ocoee HS. He always had a smile on his face and he could always brighten your day. This year I missed our morning conversations because Jim changed classrooms as well as I. But we always talked when we did see each other. Words cannot describe the inspiration you were to the people around you. You will be greatly missed my friend.

---

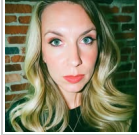
**Coach Howell** - December 29, 2016 at 09:09 AM

DI

“ Mr. Fritz or I called him "Fritz" was a dear friend of mine. I enjoyed spending time talking to him and hearing about all the wonderful places he visited and the awesome adventures he had in his life. I enjoy hearing about his beach adventures and would always tell him I couldn't wait to visit those places. I miss his positive attitude and how when he spoke at used to speak at Biology or Staff meetings he used relate what he was saying to something scientific or completely amazing that no one knew. I love you Fritz as did everyone whose path you crossed! I will always carry your memory with me God Bless you and I am glad you can now rest.

---

**Diana** - December 29, 2016 at 08:37 AM



“ *Mr. Fritz continuously shared love and light to everyone he came in contact with through his genuine care for his friends and students. It was an honor to work with him. Heaven has gained a wonderful soul. He will be greatly missed.*

Sara Crabtree - December 29, 2016 at 08:32 AM

SS

“ *Sharon Siegel lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



Sharon Siegel - December 29, 2016 at 08:17 AM

TP

“ *Mr. Fritz was an awesome science teacher I wish he could have finished out the year.. he is missed more and more everyday 😭*



Taylor Parslow - December 29, 2016 at 07:37 AM



“ *Mr Fritz was always positive in his quiet way. He bent over backwards to encourage his students and give them every opportunity to succeed. He will be sorely missed.*



Karen Petersen-Powell - December 29, 2016 at 05:56 AM

KY

“ I only had Mr.Fritz once while in high school but he was an awesome teacher and mentor. He will be greatly missed.

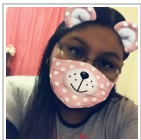
Kyle - December 29, 2016 at 05:20 AM

JB

“ I remember having Mr.Fritz for AP Enviornmental Science back in my senior year, and it was a class I always looked forward to going to. He was always supportive and tried to help each and every one of us with any homework or assignments we were having trouble with. Never once saw him in a foul or crank mood, he was always a bright part at Ocoee. I am truly saddened to hear him pass...



Joseph Bellochi - December 29, 2016 at 12:30 AM



“ I had Mr. Fritz for biology honors and he was such a great teacher! He always appreciated all my hard work even though I thought it was terrible 😞 He would always tell me how I was such a good student and appreciated how mature I acted. He was such a patient man teaching that class I was in. May you in Rest In Peace Mr. Fritz 🙏



Carmen Garcia - December 29, 2016 at 12:14 AM



“ One of the most positive people that I have ever had the pleasure to work with! You were the real example of why all teachers teach. You made a difference, and I am proud to say I taught with you.

Greg Shirley

Greg Shirley - December 29, 2016 at 12:01 AM

JS

“ I had Marine Science with him and he was such a sweet man. He taught me some cool facts about science and we always had fun chats. This absolutely breaks my heart..... you will forever be remembered .

---

**Jennifer Simpson** - December 28, 2016 at 11:58 PM



“ Even tho he wasn't teaching us after only being with us he still cared about us making sure we had our grades in even tho he should've been resting and being with family he truly did care about his students

---

**Geraldine Hernandez** - December 28, 2016 at 11:51 PM

MP

“ Mr. Fritz was probably the best teacher that I happened to come across with. He always encouraged his students to do the best, and fight for their dreams. He would always come in class with such a positive and warming welcoming, despite the rude people that every classroom has, he would always see the positive side of every situation. He always use to encourage me to keep fighting, to never give up no matter the circumstances, that at the end of the road everything I had done will be worth it. He always after every test we took and handed it to him, always use to say "your smart, you did great" with a smile on his face. He always everyday coming into his class, always encouraged us to do the best we could. He was probably the best teacher I had come across with in OHS.

---

**Maria Patlan** - December 28, 2016 at 11:34 PM

MA

“ I had the privilege of working with Jim at Ocoee HS. I wanted to take a minute to share what an impact Jim had on me. There were some pretty tough days at OHS and as the head "cheerleader" it was difficult some days to be as upbeat as I needed to be. But then I would run into this happy, grinning guy while walking across campus or he would come walking past while I was sitting on a bench and he would light up my space. His positivity and encouraging words would lift my spirits and acted like a jolt of caffeine to get me out of my funk and back in the game.

He taught me, by his example, the power one person could have in affecting another. I have been blessed by thousands of good people in my life, but there are some who were more than just good people-there are some who are a part of the man that I am today-Jim is one of those. A part of my smile, the encouraging words I share, the upbeat approach I try to have with everyone comes from Jim and the gifts he shared with me. He was loved and he made a difference to so many, including me. I know that, even now, he is a ray of sunshine to those around him in heaven, because that is the man that he was. I want to thank him for giving me a gift I can never repay to him, but that I promise to pay forward to others everyday. Thank you Jim!

---

**Mike Armbruster** - December 28, 2016 at 11:27 PM

ZO

“ Mr. fritz was probably one of my favorite teachers in high school because he was always encouraging he always had great things to say about people and always knew how to make people smile he was a great man and fought through a lot in his life and he will be greatly missed R.I.P mr fritz

---

**zachary st onge** - December 28, 2016 at 11:18 PM

NH

“ He was such a wonderful teacher and person. I always loved hearing his stories in class, from his flying adventures, his time researching the seaweed forests of California, or how the pool from Easy A was the same place he earned his diving certification. He is part of the reason I am pursuing Environmental Science. I hope I can live even half the life that he did. Rest In Peace.

Niamh Hays - December 28, 2016 at 11:06 PM

PF

“ So sorry to hear this sad news! He touched the lives of so many students!

pat farris - December 28, 2016 at 10:42 PM

MM

“ Hearing about all these deaths happening and I come across this one.. my high school chemistry teacher has passed away. He was the best of the best! I learned so much in his class. He made it so much fun and made me want to learn. You will be missed Mr. Fritz, Rest In Peace Angel ❤️😞

Megan Mason - December 28, 2016 at 10:42 PM

FI

“ Mr. Fritz was an awesome teacher, anyone who had him was lucky to know such a charismatic human being. R.I.P.



filipe - December 28, 2016 at 10:38 PM

TE

“ One of the few teachers who would tell us everyday "you're so smart" "you guys are great" "you're going to make it far one day." EVERY. SINGLE. DAY. Mr. Fritz made sure to tell my class how great we would be in the future and reminded us how special we are despite the few ignorant and rude students that come along with any classroom. Every time I turned in my test he'd go "I know you did great," "you're really smart." Encouraging and kind words go a LONG way. You just never know who may need to hear them, and Mr. Fritz always delivered them. This is so sad to see. My condolences to his family, and may his beautiful soul RIP.

Tiffany Efanayi - December 28, 2016 at 10:32 PM



Pamela Boodram

“ Pamela Boodram lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz




Pamela Boodram - December 28, 2016 at 10:25 PM

TE

“ One of my favorite teachers, may you Rest In Peace.



trina epps - December 28, 2016 at 10:24 PM

  
Pamela  
Boodram

“ *Jim was such a kind man. He always had a smile on his face even when he was in pain from the cancer that would take his life. I will never forget his daily visits to the Columbia office just to stop by and say hello, or see how we were doing. I remember him commenting on how I "glowed" while I was months pregnant and feeling like an umpa loompa. He always was filled with optimism. You will be missed Jim.*



---

**Pamela Boodram** - December 28, 2016 at 10:22 PM

AT

“ *Ana Torres lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Ana Torres** - December 28, 2016 at 10:21 PM

LR

“ *Laura Rutherford lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Laura Rutherford** - December 28, 2016 at 10:19 PM

LR

“ *Fritz always had a smile on his face and radiated sincere warmth and kindness. One could not help but feel happy in his presence. He will be missed and thought of often.*

---

**Laura Rutherford** - December 28, 2016 at 10:19 PM

SR

“ *Susan Ratcliff lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Susan Ratcliff** - December 28, 2016 at 10:18 PM

SR

*You were and always will be such a dear and special friend. You were just like Mr. Rogers, always happy and joyful and bringing positivity to those around you. I'm blessed to have known you. I wish I knew you were leaving us so soon; I would have wanted to have one more hug and one more conversation with you. You will be missed until we meet again. You know I loved you to the moon. Susan*

---

**Susan Ratcliff** - December 28, 2016 at 10:24 PM

CH

“ *Ch lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Ch** - December 28, 2016 at 10:17 PM

DC

“ *Debbie Calderon lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



---

**Debbie Calderon** - December 28, 2016 at 09:59 PM

DC

“ *Mr. Fritz was my daughter's science teacher for 2 years and he was always so welcoming and caring. I had the opportunity to meet him on a few occasions and I immediately knew how much he loved teaching and sharing his love of science. I feel blessed that my daughter had the chance to cross paths with Mr. Fritz. He will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, daughter and family - May God bless you all.*

Debbie Calderon - December 28, 2016 at 09:58 PM

GA

“ *Even during the hard times, he would still dedicate his time to teaching us. He was such a great person and will forever be missed by many.*

gabby - December 28, 2016 at 09:58 PM



Rosemary  
Davis

“ *What a truly genuine caring person. He will be missed by all.*

Rosemary Davis - December 28, 2016 at 09:45 PM

AB

“ *Amy Branom lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz*



Amy Branom - December 28, 2016 at 09:42 PM

JD

“ I remembered taking his science class in high school. I loved that class. Always a fun period to look forward to. I knew he was fighting and he fought long and hard. Many prayers to the family. He will be greatly missed. But wonderfully remembered.



-----  
**Jessica Depaiva** - December 28, 2016 at 09:33 PM

CP

“ Clara Printers lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



-----  
**Clara Printers** - December 28, 2016 at 09:32 PM

DS

“ Debbie Sanderson lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



-----  
**debbie sanderson** - December 28, 2016 at 09:29 PM

CA

“ "Fritz" was a beautiful person who inspired me on my most discouraging days. He always had a positive attitude. He will be missed.

-----  
**Candace** - December 28, 2016 at 09:28 PM

DS

“ Jim always had a smile and an encouraging word - such a sweet soul - rest in peace, dear friend.

debbie sanderson - December 28, 2016 at 09:27 PM

Judith Chery

“ Mr. Fritz was a science teacher of mine for two years back in high school. He was one of the nicest teachers I've met on my journey. Prayers go out to the family.

Judith Chery - December 28, 2016 at 09:25 PM



“ Fritz always had a hug and smile for me brightened my day evrytime



Lori Nelson Johnson - December 28, 2016 at 09:24 PM



“ Jim was one of the first teachers to welcome me to Ocoee High. Just seeing him and his smile would brighten my day.

K Paige McLemore - December 28, 2016 at 09:19 PM

BG

“ Jim was always one of the nicest guys at Ocoee High School. One of my favorite memories will always be of him encouraging me when I was down!



Beth Gillam - December 28, 2016 at 08:58 PM

SC

“ Susie Couture lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



Susie Couture - December 28, 2016 at 08:32 PM

NW

“ Noreen Wilkins lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



Noreen Wilkins - December 28, 2016 at 08:14 PM

Patricia De Noon

“ Patricia De Noon lit a candle in memory of James Duncan Fritz



Patricia De Noon - December 28, 2016 at 06:58 PM

LL

“ Jim always wanted to share the ocean with us. He loved the ocean and we always had so much fun. We will miss you.  
Love Laura & family



Laura Lynde - December 27, 2016 at 03:51 PM