



James Rossas Class of 2010

James Anthony Rossas was an exemplary public educator who served in the Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) district for 36 years. He dedicated his life to educating students and making Oroville a better community. Jim taught physics, advanced mathematics, and computer science at Oroville High School during the majority of his career. He also served as the Child Welfare and Attendance Officer, Assistant to the Principal, the OUHSD Adult School Principal and the Director of Special, Compensatory, and Vocation Education. Jim also advised many student organizations and was key player in developing the Brain Brawl, where for many years his team was unbeatable. He was chairman of the scholarship committee for 25 years and was responsible for the installation of the District's first computer system. In the community, Jim served on the Oroville Council 15 years as the Vice Mayor and Chair of the Development Agency. He also served on Butte County Commissions, the Local Sewer Commission, the League of California Cities, the Sacramento Valley Division Council as vice president, the Butte County Association of Cities as president, the Butte County Association for Governments Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Saint Thomas School Board, and Knights of Columbus.

Jim was born on May 5, 1928 in Oakland, California. He attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Master of Arts in Education Administration. He was a National Science Foundation recipient with three fellowships and did additional course work at California State University, Chico.

While in his final year of college at Berkley, Jim's advisor asked him to interview for a teaching position in a little foothill town called Oroville. He interviewed with the OUHSD's superintendent, Chester Nisbet, who had been building a talented, young and energetic staff over the past few years. Jim was impressed by Mr. Nisbet and loved the small community of Oroville. He accepted employment and began his teaching career. In addition to teaching advanced mathematics and physics, Jim operated, programmed, maintained and repaired computers during the early days of the science. He also developed a computer science curriculum and taught it.

Jim was highly involved in extra-curricular activities. He was the California Scholastic Federation (CSF) advisor, helped stage some 30 plays and musicals, and compiled statistics for basketball tournaments. Jim was extremely interested in helping disadvantaged students and was in charge of federal and state programs, including the Native American Program. He was extremely proud of his participation in the Scholarship Program that assisted many students to achieve their college and career goals.