



## Jon Curtis Wood

February 1, 1952 - February 6, 2023

Jon Curtis Wood passed away on Monday, February 6, 2023 in Vallejo, California. Jon was born on February 1, 1952 in Vallejo, California to Frank and Atha Wood. He and his brother, Scott, were raised by their mother in Vallejo. Jon had an enthusiasm for sports growing up, participating in football, track, and wrestling, but he always had a special love for all things baseball. He fondly and proudly recalled hitting his one and only home run in his final year of Vallejo Little League as a child in 1963, and remembered the field (Callen Field at 505 Amador in Vallejo, CA), where it went over the outfield fence (center field), and even the name of the pitcher when it happened.

After graduating Vallejo High School in 1970, Jon began his university studies at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where he created many wonderful memories and forged friendships that would last a lifetime.

Jon made the decision to interrupt his university studies to serve as a full-time missionary from 1972-1974 for the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was called to serve in the Canada Montreal (Québec) Mission. He served the people of Montreal by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, learning French, and how to put his own spin on crepes in the process.

Upon his return from his mission, he resumed his studies at BYU where he earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting.

After a stint with a major accounting firm (Arthur Andersen), Jon eventually decided to start his own CPA business. He passionately ran his business to the end of his life. He served many people through his work and loved every minute of it. He always recalled how much he actually disliked his initial tax class at BYU, and yet he found great satisfaction in helping people and building relationships in the process.

Jon was married to Cheryl Lynn Wood (née Cabral) in the Oakland, California Temple on July 7, 1983. They started their honeymoon in Sausalito, CA, but, in typical Jon fashion, Jon decided to fly to Maui on a whim to “upgrade” their experience and found a hotel after landing.

One of Jon’s passions was Little League baseball. He was very active in his children’s Little League Baseball and softball careers, and continued serving in various capacities, including as president and board member, throughout his life. He was an early (unofficial) pioneer in advanced baseball analytics long before it became mainstream in Major League Baseball. He loved applying his analytical mind to baseball, and carefully tracked statistics, hitting patterns, and fielder’s positions to give his teams an edge. He was an early pioneer in instituting a defensive shift. Jon also always made it a point to draft his teams based on character and a focus on having fun with analytics as a guide. He managed the first undefeated season on record in Benicia Little League history in 2001.

Jon grew up learning to play the piano and organ in a more traditional style, first from his mother, Atha, and then moved on to more advanced instruction. While he appreciated the traditional style, that didn’t stop him from incorporating musical influence from the likes of Tower of Power into his weekly church accompaniment serving as the pianist for the children’s group (Primary) for his local congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints. He always had an incredible ability to serve the children in this capacity, instilling in them a love of music using a flair for the dramatic on the piano. Jon would often say one of the greatest feelings in the world was hearing the Primary children hum along to the piano prelude each Sunday.

Jon is survived by his wife Cheryl, brother Scott (K'Lynn), 6 children: Ryan, Todd (Alaina), Kelsey (Dayvisson) Da Silva, Jill (Jeff) Olson, Kevin, David (Emily), and 11 grandchildren. He loved being surrounded by his family and friends, and always knew how to light up a room with his charm and charisma.

The following services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse located at 1125 Southampton Road, Benicia, CA, 94510:

Viewing on Friday, February 10th, 2023 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Viewing on Saturday, February 11th, 2023 from 9:00am to 10:00am

Funeral on Saturday, February 11th, 2023 starting at 10:00am

Interment will be at the Benicia Cemetery following the services on Saturday, February 11th, 2023.

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, Jon's family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society ([donate3.cancer.org](https://donate3.cancer.org))."

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

FEB 11. 10:00 AM (PT)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
1125 Southampton Road  
Benicia, CA 94510

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jon Curtis Wood.*



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February 11, 2023 at 11:49 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jon Curtis Wood.*



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February 10, 2023 at 11:00 PM



“ *Jon was such a wonderful man and a true legend. Jon was always there with all the answers throughout the years at every board meeting and the countless teams he coached. Jon touched all of the hearts of the baseball players that were in his presence. He has always supported Benicia little league in so many ways for so many years at so many different levels. I look forward to the day that Jon and I meet again may god bless you and your family through these difficult times. I will miss his happy birthday texts he would send me every year too. I purpse that the city rename a field in his honor (Fitzgerald) or any of baseball fields he graced. We all loved you Jon*

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**Ray Martin** - February 10, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jon Curtis Wood.*



February 09, 2023 at 10:56 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jon Curtis Wood.*



February 09, 2023 at 07:17 PM



“ *Visiting Atha and family in Vallejo for Thanksgiving or Christmas was always a highlight of my childhood. The biggest drawback of moving to the Philippines (we stopped to visit Atha and her boys on the way) was being so far away from our cousins.*

**Doug Bowen** - February 08, 2023 at 11:53 PM



“ *Dear Cheryl,  
We are devastated to learn about this. We loved Jon more than you can know, and he was another son to my father, who thought the world of him. I remember how he came to my father's memorial service 11 years ago. We send all our love to you and the children.  
Ellen Leiby Franzen and Glenn Franzen*

**Ellen Franzen** - February 08, 2023 at 11:37 PM



“ I had the honor of having Jon as my little league coach for a handful of years. Jon was the true definition of a “players coach.” Jon always put an emphasis on fun which resulted in memories and friendships that will last me a lifetime. The story that sums up Jon to me was my final year that I played Benicia Little League. As baseball season was approaching my dad informed me that there would be no season because my age group at the time did not get approved to play that year. After this discovery a handful of my former teammates and I gave Jon a call to ask if there was going to be a team for us to play for in the coming season. His answer was no, but when Jon heard the disappointment in our voices, he took powers into his own hands and ensured that we would have a team to play for. We did in fact play baseball for Jon that season. I will always be thankful for having Jon as a coach and all of the great memories that came along through his beloved Benicia Little League.

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**Chris Core** - February 08, 2023 at 09:11 PM

KE

“ Love you Dad



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**Kelsi** - February 08, 2023 at 09:05 AM

JC

*Jon was one of the finest residents in Benicia's storybook narrative, a local professional who wanted kids to know the joy of baseball. He was a big man with a kind heart, soft-spoken, articulate and smart. Our sons are two of the many adults who carry the warm childhood memories that he bestowed through the passionate commitment of his time. My wife and I extend our heartfelt thanks to his family for sharing this good man with our small town.*

*John Cosmides*

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**John Cosmides** - February 11, 2023 at 03:40 PM

JV

“*Jon was a good friend to me. I've known him since before he and your mom were married. He helped me a lot of things. He was my accountant and very generous with his time. He set up my very first computer, and old DOS operated XT in the early 90s. Our kids grew up together and spent a lot of years at church in Benicia and with our boys at scout camp. The only thing I didn't like about Jon, is taking throws from him when I played first base on the ward softball team. He and Howard Manwaring threw with a lot of heat and killed my hand. I love Jon and Cheryl as if they were my brother and sister. My love and condolences to the whole Wood family.*

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**John A. Valentine** - February 07, 2023 at 11:38 PM

TW

“*Love you dad!*



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**Todd Wood** - February 07, 2023 at 07:42 PM

MM

“ I was lucky enough to work and coach with Jon. He was a great guy and solid family man. He participated in Benicia Little League as a coach, umpire, and board member even after his kids had grown out of the program. He always put the kids first and will sorely be missed by the Community.

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**Mike Maggart** - February 07, 2023 at 07:19 PM