

ROB MULLENS*

Jim O'Fallon

On behalf of Rob Mullens and everyone in the Athletic Department, we appreciate the opportunity to share a few words about Jim and celebrate the impact he had on all of us. Jim's passing hit us hard and we join you all in grieving his loss. At the same time, we have spent the last several days reflecting on Jim's legacy and his lasting impact on Oregon Athletic, Oregon student-athletes, the Pac-12 and the NCAA.

As most of you know, Jim served actively as the University of Oregon's faculty athletic representative from 1990 to 2015 and his contributions are many. Jim was passionate about both the role of intercollegiate athletics in higher education and, more importantly, about ensuring a positive student-athlete experience. Jim was a driving force behind many of the reforms which have advanced the student-athlete experience and student-athlete welfare. Jim was always ready and willing to serve in leadership role to guide various groups. During his distinguished tenure, he served as President of the Pac-12 Council three different times and represented the Pac-12 on the NCAA Committee on Infractions—one of the toughest assignments in college athletics. And as everyone who worked with Jim knows, he always represented himself, Oregon, and the Pac-12 in his advocacy of our mission.

Jim was a great leader, and, like most great leaders, he pushed all of us with his thoughtful approach. With his intellect, strong moral compass, and quick wit, he was a collaborator who challenged us to consider all perspectives in seeking the best way forward. His experience and balance often put him at the center of important debates, and he was masterful at spurring this debate to ensure all

* Athletic Director, University of Oregon. These words were prepared by Rob Mullens and delivered by Lisa Peterson at Jim O'Fallon's memorial service on August 4, 2017, in Eugene, Oregon.

points of view were heard. As Commissioner Scott shared with our Pac-12 colleagues, Jim's "thoughtfulness and balance is his true legacy."

Personally for me (Rob), Jim was a great mentor as I became a first time Athletic Director in 2010. He was always available and willing to share his wisdom. His historical knowledge and experience of the UO and the Pac-12 made him the perfect go-to for a candid perspective on sensitive issues. Jim was a straight shooter, no sugar coating, and I appreciated his patience, guidance and investment in my personal growth. I enjoyed Jim's passion for competition and his love for the Ducks, and I could always count on a good laugh or two at every game when I would receive text messages from Jim providing his humorous perspective on officials/referees. He was very funny—although, on occasion, his intellect sent his humor way over my head.

We will all miss Jim, but his legacy will last forever. Thanks again for allowing us to share a few words; and we in the Athletic Department have all of you, his family, and former colleagues and friends, in our thoughts.