

Contact Information:

National Speakers Association
Brittany Pepper
(480) 968-2552
marketing@nsaspeaker.org

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For Immediate Release

National Speakers Association Mourns the Passing of Former President Jim Tunney, CPAE, Cavett Award Recipient



Minneapolis, MN – December 19, 2024—The National Speakers Association (NSA) is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Dr. Jim Tunney, CPAE, Cavett Award Recipient, former NSA President, and cherished member of our community. Jim passed away at the age of 95, surrounded by his beloved wife, Linda, and family in Pebble Beach, California.

Widely known as "The Dean of NFL Referees," Jim was a trailblazer in sports officiating, education, and motivational speaking. A revered figure in the NFL, Jim officiated three Super Bowls and countless postseason games during his 30+ year career. Beyond the field, he inspired audiences worldwide with his profound message of teamwork and achievement through his signature motto, "T.E.A.M. – Together Everyone Achieves More."

As a longtime NSA member, Jim was a role model for excellence and generosity. He received the NSA Philanthropist of the Year Award in 2007 for his enduring contributions as a teacher, speaker, and advocate for positive change. His wisdom, humor, and dedication touched countless lives within and beyond our speaking community.

Jim's legacy is also immortalized through his authorship, including nine books and his long-running Monterey Herald column, *On the TunneySide of Sports*. His thoughtful and motivational writing exemplified his unwavering commitment to helping others live with purpose, courage, and commitment.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Linda, Jim's children, and his extended family during this difficult time. Jim Tunney's contributions to NSA and his profound impact on countless lives will not be forgotten.

You can read his full tribute [here](#). Donations in Jim's honor may be made to the Jim Tunney Foundation or the Southern California Special Olympics.

About the National Speakers Association:

The National Speakers Association® (NSA) is the leading organization for professional speakers. NSA's thousands of members include experts in a variety of industries and disciplines, who reach audiences as trainers, educators, humorists, motivators, consultants, authors, and more. Since 1973, NSA has provided resources and education designed to help anyone become a better speaker and build a better speaking business. Visit NSA's website at NSAspeaker.org.

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