



## Jared Paul Nelson

September 24, 1983 - May 26, 2026

Jared Nelson of Woodburn, Oregon, passed away peacefully at home on May 23, 2026, at the age of 42.

Jared's life was marked by faith, love, resilience, and the devoted service of both himself and those who cared for him throughout his life. From an early age, he was known for his warm, outgoing personality and his ability to make every situation fun and exciting. He had a remarkable gift for helping others feel welcome and included, and he connected easily with people of all ages and backgrounds.

He was also known for his strong work ethic and willingness to tackle any challenge. Growing up, he spent countless hours working on his family's farm, where he developed a love for all things mechanical. He enjoyed operating and repairing heavy equipment and was happiest when working with his hands. This passion led him to attend Utah State University, where he studied diesel mechanics with plans to one day return to the family farm.

A talented athlete, Jared excelled in football during high school. His dedication, leadership, and competitive spirit made him a standout player, earning him Conference Player of the Year honors. Teammates remember him as a fierce competitor whose strength, determination, and encouragement inspired those around him.

At age 19, Jared served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. There, he devoted himself to serving others and sharing his faith. He became fluent in Spanish and developed a deep love for the people of Honduras. One cherished family memory from his return home was that he arrived with only a few souvenirs and the clothes on his back, having given away everything else he owned to those in need.

Before and after his missionary service, Jared dated Amy Dance. Before leaving for college, he famously told her that if he did not find someone else to marry, he would come back the following summer and marry her. It was a controversial thing to say, but somehow, coming from Jared, it seemed okay. Years later we get a good laugh about it. Thankfully he never found anyone else. Jared and Amy were married in the Portland Oregon Temple on August 18, 2005.

Soon afterward, they moved to Logan, Utah, where they began their life together while attending Utah State University. Just weeks after their wedding, on September 26, 2005, Jared was involved in a tragic van accident during a university field trip. The crash claimed the lives of nine people, and only two survived. Jared sustained severe injuries, including a traumatic brain injury.

Jared's life can be remembered in two distinct chapters: before and after the accident. The years that followed brought challenges that few could imagine. There were months of hospitalization and rehabilitation, followed by years of medical appointments, therapies, and ongoing care. Those who loved him remained steadfast in their efforts to provide him with the best possible quality of life.

Jared and Amy's story touched the hearts of people across the country. Their

journey was shared by local and national media outlets and has inspired countless individuals. Amy's unwavering devotion, sacrifice, and love have been a powerful example to all who have come to know their story.

While much of Jared's life after the accident looked different than anyone could have anticipated, it was no less meaningful. He continued to bring people together, strengthen the faith of those around him, and remind others of the power of love, service, and perseverance.

Jared is survived by his beloved and devoted wife, Amy; his parents, Brent and Cheryl Nelson; and his siblings, Blake, Carissa, Brock, and Kyle.

The family expresses heartfelt gratitude to the countless individuals who cared for, served, and supported Jared over the years. Your kindness, compassion, and generosity blessed his life and the lives of those who loved him.

Jared will be laid to rest at Belle Passi Cemetery in Woodburn, Oregon—the same cemetery he helped restore as part of his Eagle Scout service project as a young man. It is a fitting final resting place for a man whose life was defined by faith, service, resilience, and love.

# Cemetery Details

## **Belle Passi Cemetery**

997 Belle Passi Rd. NE  
Woodburn, OR 97071