



# U.S. OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS ASSOCIATION

## *Jack Elder, OLY - Luge (1972) - Oregon Chapter*

Jack Elder, a 1972 Olympian in luge, is a lifelong champion of these values. Known for his optimism, vision, and deep understanding of the Olympic and Paralympic movement, Jack has dedicated decades to advancing sport and strengthening community connections both in Oregon and nationally. His leadership reflects a unique ability to combine history, relationships, and action to create lasting impact.

As the longtime leader of Oregon Sports Action, Jack has played a critical role in expanding support for athletes at every level—from grassroots participants to elite Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls. Through his stewardship, the organization has generated vital funding for scholarships, programs, and facilities, benefiting athletes, families, and communities across the state. His influence has also strengthened partnerships with key organizations, including the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame, Adaptive Sports Northwest, and Sport Oregon.

Jack has consistently advocated for inclusion and equal recognition of Olympic and Paralympic athletes, helping elevate awareness and opportunity for all. He has worked tirelessly to promote the positive impact of sport—educating business and civic leaders on its value, while encouraging current and former athletes to stay engaged and give back.

A respected leader within the Olympic and Paralympic community, Jack has represented Oregon athletes at numerous national events and continues to mentor and connect generations of Team USA athletes. His contributions have been recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, including receiving the prestigious DFL Ambassador Award.

Through his lifelong dedication, humility, and commitment to service, Jack Elder serves as a model of how athletes can continue to shape sport and community long after competition. His legacy is defined by leadership, inclusion, and an enduring passion for empowering others.

The Oregon Chapter of the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association is proud to present the USOPA Award of Excellence to Jack Elder.