OTTAWA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL (OTHS)
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTHS Educational Foundation Mourns Dr. Tom Jobst

The OTHS Educational Foundation mourns the loss of Dr. Thomas E. "Tom" Jobst, who passed away on November 1, 2026, at the age of 75. Dr. Jobst was a 1969 Ottawa Township High School (OTHS) graduate, former OTHS superintendent, and Ottawa High School Hall of Fame inductee.

Few people shaped OTHS like Dr. Jobst, who walked its halls as a student, coached on its sidelines, and led it first as assistant principal, then principal, and, from 2002 to 2007, as superintendent. During his tenure as superintendent, the OTHS Educational Foundation established the Ottawa High School Hall of Fame in 2006. Dr. Jobst was one of its founders, with a vision to create a lasting tradition of celebrating the alumni, educators, teams, and friends who brought honor to OTHS. "The Hall of Fame exists because Dr. Jobst believed every deserving Pirate should have their legacy honored, and that today's students needed to hear their stories," said Kane Farabaugh, President of the OTHS Educational Foundation and 2020 inductee to the Ottawa Hall of Fame. "He helped build the Hall of Fame, and then earned his own place on its wall, twice. Every class we induct carries forth his own legacy."

As a student at OTHS, Jobst was junior class president, a battalion commander in the OTHS military program, a member of the student council, and a state qualifier in track and field. He was an all-conference football player on Pirate varsity teams that went 17-1 over his two seasons, including the undefeated 1967 squad that won the NCIC Northeast title. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English education from Iowa Wesleyan College, where he also played football, a master’s degree in human development counseling from Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois Springfield), and a Certificate of Advanced Studies and a Doctorate in Education from Illinois State University.

Coach Jobst built winning football programs wherever he went, including Fort Dodge, Iowa; Hall High School; New Berlin; Morrison; Ottawa High School, where he was head coach in the early 1990s; and Marquette Academy, where he turned a struggling program into a perennial playoff team, reaching the IHSA playoffs in 12 of his 15 seasons. He was named Three Rivers Conference Coach of the Year in 1986 and 1987 and was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2016, along with the Morrison and New Berlin high school halls of fame. He will be inducted into the Marquette Academy Hall of Fame in December 2026.

In 2019, Dr. Jobst was inducted into the Ottawa High School Hall of Fame as an individual, alongside his late twin brother, Tim. In his induction speech, he credited the people around him with his success, summing it up as "teachers and students make you." In 2020, he returned to the Hall as a member of the 1967-68 Pirate varsity football team.

Beyond the school, Dr. Jobst served his community and his church. He was a board member of the United Way and the Ottawa Scouting and History Museum, a lector at St. Francis Church for more than 25 years, and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He handmade thousands of cord rosaries to give away, and he wrote several books on his family's genealogy.

Dr. Jobst is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ellen. A complete obituary is available through Gladfelter-Roetker Funeral Home.

About the OTHS Educational Foundation

The OTHS Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports students and teachers at Ottawa Township High School through teacher and club grants, Pirate Pride Scholarships, Student of the Month awards, the Ottawa High School Hall of Fame and the Spangler & Scherer Courtyard. Learn more at othseducationalfoundation.org.