



## Jodea A. Foster

July 15, 1962 - January 4, 2020

Jodea Foster, 57 of Chico, passed away peacefully surrounded by a few close friends on January 4, 2020 at Enloe Hospital. Jodea had battled cancer for the last year.

Jodea was raised in Fort Bragg and is survived by two brothers and a sister. Jodea initially moved to Chico and attended Chico State. In college, he excelled as a Political Science major, working as an intern and director in the Community Legal Information Center (CLIC), being a finalist in the Moot Court Competition, and graduating with Honors in 1988. All the while, he worked to put himself through school while raising a daughter. Jodea went on to earn his Juris Doctorate at McGeorge Law School in 1992. Jodea moved back to Chico and passed the California Bar Exam that same year. He worked for a few years at a firm before opening his own law office.

Jodea worked tirelessly to defend the rights of the underprivileged. All of Jodea's professional career, and much of his personal time, was dedicated to assisting those who needed it the most or taking up causes he believed deeply in. Despite having a thriving private criminal defense practice, Jodea decided he wanted to make a difference by becoming a member of the Butte County Public Defender Consortium, of which he was a guiding member since 2001. Jodea was awarded the President's Pro Bono Service Award from the California State Bar for much of the work he did while on the Board at Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC).

Additionally, he was on the Board of Governors for the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice (CACJ), a member of California Public Defenders Association, a member of the Chico Community Shelter Partnership, and volunteered on the Butte Environmental Council. Jodea had recently earned his designation from the State Bar as a Criminal Law Specialist. Jodea was a fierce advocate for his clients, while still maintaining a respectful relationship with his adversaries. Jodea mentored countless young attorneys in California. Jodea was extremely intelligent, thoughtful and truly cared about people regardless of their background.

In addition to having a wildly successful career as an attorney, Jodea was the anchor of a

huge community of friends and touched the lives of countless people. He was passionate about music and the outdoors. Jodea travelled the world, attending hundreds of music festivals and concerts, scuba diving, sailing, whitewater rafting, climbing, and biking. Always on an adventure – from rafting the Grand Canyon to climbing Machu Picchu to touring with the Grateful Dead – he lived life to its fullest.

He leaves behind his beloved dog Roxie, a huge void in our community, and in our hearts.

His ashes were laid to rest with his daughter Jonice at the Chico Cemetery.

A memorial celebrating his life will be held on February 23rd at the Chico Elks Lodge.

# Cemetery

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## Chico Cemetery

881 Mangrove

Chico, CA, 95926

# Events

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**FEB** **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

**23**

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Chico Elks Lodge

1705 Manzanita Ave., Chico, CA, US

# Comments

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“ Jodea not only gave me a second chance at life as my attorney but he inspired my drive to be a better person and now give back to our community. Jodea impacted the lives on countless people in a positive way and cared more than most. You will be missed by our entire community. Rest In Peace Jodea will make that fishing trip together we talked about in heaven. Missing you today buddy.. your friend, Nathan Barbour

**Nathan Barbour** - February 23, 2020 at 02:13 PM

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“ My condolences to Jodea's family and his dear friends. When I was a deputy district attorney, I respected and liked him. When I became a criminal defense attorney, I respected and liked him. Jodea was effective on behalf of his clients because people respected him and liked him, and because he was smart, dedicated and cared about people. I have learned important lessons from him because of his example. He made the world a better place. Which helps the rest of us make the world a better place. That's a gift of a life to the world. And a grand legacy.

Daniel L. Ledford  
Oroville, California

**Daniel L. Ledford** - January 19, 2020 at 03:38 PM

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“ Please know that Jodea is remembered!!!! I worked with him and against him, as I was a prosecutor. I always thought he was an excellent lawyer and a very good person.

**Jos Van Hout** - January 18, 2020 at 10:29 AM

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“ Joann Holden lit a candle in memory of Jodea A. Foster



**Joann Holden** - January 10, 2020 at 03:13 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time. Jodea was a good man who helped many people during his time as a public defender. He will be greatly missed.

**Joann Holden** - January 10, 2020 at 03:11 AM