

## David Matthew Zagel

1965-2013



**AORTA** has lost a very dear friend and strong ally. David Zagel became active in **AORTA**, shortly after graduating from his beloved University of Oregon. Bright, articulate, compassionate, intelligent and dedicated-- just a few of the words that describe the young man who joined **AORTA** in the 1990s.

David was born July 24, 1965 in Sydney, Montana to Ronald “Pete” and Ruth Zagel. He left, after making the world a better place, on May 8, 2013. He graduated Valedictorian at Newport High School in 1983. He attended Willamette University in Salem, University of Stuttgart in Germany and graduated from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Architecture (second in his class) in 1988.

David served on the **AORTA** Board of Directors in the 1990s, and as Vice-President and President in 1994-96. David’s involvement with **AORTA** caught the attention of people at TriMet, and in 1997 he was hired as Project Planner. In 2006 his accomplishments were recognized by URS Corporation, which employed him as Senior Transportation Planner. He continued that position until his death.

In addition to his passion for rail and transit, David was passionate about equal rights for all people and Duck football. He was active with Basic Rights Oregon and a member of the University of Oregon Alumni Association.

David loved to travel around the United States and also visited Germany, France, Spain and other European countries, as well as Japan. David is survived by his mother, Ruth Zagel of Newport; brothers, Jim and his wife, Paula of Brighton, Colorado and Jon and his wife, Darla of Newport; as well as a large community of friends.



David was preceded in death by father, Pete; and brother, Mark. A Celebration of David's life was held May 25, at Mississippi Studios in Portland. Funeral services were held May 18, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport.

A memorial Facebook page has been created for David under the heading "David Matthew Zigel Memorial Page." Memorial donations may be made to Basic Rights Oregon at [www.basicrights.org](http://www.basicrights.org) or Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates at [www.aortarail.org](http://www.aortarail.org)

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### Correction

The caption for the picture on page 4 of the May 2013 Bulletin is incorrect. Below is a picture of Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio receiving the NARP Golden Spike award from NARP Chairman Robert Stewart.



### **AORTA** Board Meeting: Saturday, June 22

Noon to 3 pm @ Cafe du Hall, Eugene, OR

Cafe du Hall is one block south of the Amtrak Station, on the northwest corner of 5th and Willamette Street.

All **AORTA** members are encouraged to attend!

The southbound bus arrives in EUG at 11:40a, with returns at 2:30p or 4:50p

