



John "Jack" Hugh Murphy

MAR 29, 1940 - JAN 1, 2022



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John "Jack" Hugh Murphy, of Pleasant Hills, PA, passed away peacefully just after midnight on January 1, 2022 at the age of 81.

Survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Jean (Galardi) Murphy; two of his three children, Joe (Debbie) Murphy and Suzi (Larry) Zampogna; grandchildren, John and Justin Murphy, Steven and Amanda Murphy, Bailey and Tyler Sims; step-grandchildren, Matt and Josh Zampogna; brother, Tom (Cecie) Murphy; sisters, Peggy (Ron) Weiers and Pat (Ed) Kelley, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hugh and Margaret (Rohalley) Murphy, and his beloved son, Mike Murphy, who is dearly missed after his untimely passing two years ago.

Known for his brilliance, Jack was awarded a full scholarship to Carnegie Tech (CMU), after achieving a near perfect score on his SAT Math Test. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and scoring 40 points above the 99th percentile on his graduate record exam, CMU offered him a full paid assistantship through the National Science Foundation, and subsequently, he earned his Masters Degree and PhD in Engineering with a focus on Magnetohydrodynamics.

Soon after obtaining his doctoral degree, Jack was hired at Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, where he was awarded the Benjamin Garver Lamme Scholarship in 1973, and as a result, spent a year in Boston at the MIT Sloan School of Management completing a post-doctoral fellowship. During his career, he worked on nuclear reactors and submarines, and two main highlights of his time working for Bettis for him were his three-day ride on the USS Spadefish and his week-long trip on the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier. He retired from Bettis in 2005, the same year he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

As a boy, Jack built and raced his own Soap Box Derby car, and as an adult became director of the local Soap Box Derby, after which he joined the Control Board of the All American Soap Box



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Derby, where he designed and manufactured derby timers for other local directors across the country. He shared his love for the Derby with all three of his children and one of his grandchildren, who all built and raced their cars under his expert supervision.

Jack loved building and fixing things, was the MVP of Trivial Pursuit, and dominated every Hearts game, where he regularly slammed his opponents with 26 points. But his family will best remember him for the epic annual trips to Walt Disney World that he meticulously planned for everyone to enjoy.

Due to rising covid cases, a private service will be held for family only.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.



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AF

Andy Foulke posted:

So sorry to hear of this! Jack was a great influence on me in my childhood, helping me to see the magic of electricity and engineering. He's the father of my best friends from high school and he and Jean often hosted me for sleepovers. So glad for his life and sad for his passing.

October 29 at 7:14 AM

TC

Thomas Corbett posted:

To all. I offer my sympathy on the death of Jack. May his soul rest in peace. I attended st. Justin's and was in jack's graduating class. My memory of jack was how quiet jack was and extremely intelligent. Peace to all of u. Tom corbett, class of 1958.

January 11 at 7:34 AM

BI

Baky Ibrahim posted:

May God comfort you during this difficult time. Baky Ibrahim (worked for and with Jack)

January 6 at 2:06 PM

CW

Cathy Krizner, Wilmington Nc posted:

Jean and family, I m am so sorry for your loss. You were the best neighbors to have to share in our lives. I always loved having conversations with Jack, he was the best.

January 4 at 2:27 PM

MP

Mike Panczyk posted:

I met and worked with many nice and brilliant people at Bettis , Jack was the best of the best. He was my direct supervisor on a special task force and it was my great honor to share that week long at sea ride on the Enterprise carrier with him. Jean please accept my condolences on his passing and my gratitude for having know and work with him so many years . The world is a better place because Jack Murphy lived on it. Mike Panczyk.

January 3 at 6:37 AM



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JS

Jay Smith posted:

I had the great pleasure to have known Jack for many years at the Bettis Laboratory. We first met when we were both assigned to a special task established at the request of Admiral Rickover. We shared an office area while working on that project and I was always impressed by his great intelligence and easy going attitude. I wish his family great peace in the knowledge that he was well thought-of by all.

January 2 at 6:36 PM

TS

Tribute Store posted:

I am so sorry to have heard of Johns passing. I genuinely hope you all find solace in knowing he is at peace. I will miss all of you, so very much.

January 2 at 5:10 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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