



Jacob "Jack" Sarowatz

August 16, 1931 - December 9, 2007

Jacob Sarowatz -- Kankakee Jacob "Jack" R. Sarowatz, 76, a lifelong Kankakee resident, passed away at his home in Bourbonnais on Sunday (Dec. 9, 2007). He was born Aug. 16, 1931, in Buckingham, the son of Albert R. and Anita M. Sarowatz. He fell in love and married the former Joan LaGesse of Kankakee on Aug. 14, 1954. They remain in love today. He is survived by his loving wife, Joan; their six children and eight grandchildren: Tony Sarowatz and his fiancée, Carol Cerami of Bourbonnais; Stephany Bina and her husband, Tim Bina, their daughter Sydney of Washington, Ill.; Debbie Eilts and her daughter Nikki Eilts of Kankakee; Jack Sarowatz and his wife, Diana "Dee" Sarowatz, their children Reid Savoie, Jacquelyn and Cecily Sarowatz, all of Bourbonnais; Lesa O'Connor and her husband, Scotty O'Connor, their children Curtis, Cory and Colton O'Connor of Kankakee; Vince Sarowatz and his partner, John Klein of Sagamore Hills, Ohio; one brother, Leroy Sarowatz and his wife, Anita K. Sarowatz of Martinton; and one sister, Jeanette Dubois of Bourbonnais; along with a former daughter-in-law, Kathleen Cassidy of Georgia; former son-in-law, Dean Eilts of Kankakee; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; one brother-in-law, Maurice Dubois; and his wife's sister and brother-in-law, Leona and Jerry Gibson. He attended Kankakee area schools, graduating from Kankakee High in 1949. He also attended Olivet Nazarene University for 3 1/2 years. He served the country that he loved in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953 in the Army Anti-Aircraft Intelligence Section known as AAAIS. He

received an honorable disabled discharge in 1955 and also served in the Illinois National Guard. He held several jobs in the Kankakee area before becoming permanently disabled. After becoming disabled he devoted his life to the Disabled American Veterans of Kankakee County Chapter 34. As a lifelong member he served in many different capacities: junior vice commander, senior vice commander, adjutant, treasurer, service officer for over 20 years, and state executive committeeman for over 20 years. He served with the Disabled American Veterans of Illinois as a chairman of the Time and Place Committee for the state convention for five years. He sat on the board of directors for the DAV Thrift Stores in Chicago, as its chairman. He was chief of staff for the Illinois DAV from 1983-84, where he successfully organized Illinois' 14 veterans organizations in a unified move to convince the Illinois Legislature and Gov. James Thompson that the Illinois veterans wanted and needed the 300-bed Manteno Veterans Home completed. He served on the Manteno Veterans Home task force. He was DAV National Deputy Chief of Staff from 1981-82 and 1984-85. He sat on the Americanism Resolutions Committee in 1983 and on the General Resolutions Committee in 1984. He was a delegate to the Kankakee Veterans Council for 15 years. He was active as a Cub Scout leader in Kankakee Trails District, Rainbow Council for 16 years. He served as Cub Scoutmaster, committee member, district committee member, Round Table staff, leader training staff and other positions. He earned scouting's Key and Leader's Training awards. In 1977, he was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, the highest council award given to a volunteer for service. He served as city clerk for the city of Kankakee and was a member of the Kankakee City Police pension board for 19 years. He did this while volunteering his work as an advocate of veterans' rights assuring that all veterans and their families understood what was available to them and helped them obtain their benefits. He was instrumental in the forming of the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery for veterans in Will County. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Kankakee. He was also a member of Kankakee County Chapter 34 of the Disabled American Veterans,

Kankakee American Legion Post 85, AMVETS Post 85 of Beecher, Moose Lodge 802, the Citizens Utility Board, 4th Ward Republican Organization, and the 4th Ward Republican Booster Club. You will always be loved and missed. Rest in peace. We love you. Your family. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bradley. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Kankakee. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:40 PM



“ *My condolences to Stephany, and the entire Sarowitz family. i ½ Your childhood friend and neighbor, Sincerely, Phil*
Link##imported-begin##phil Link##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ *My family and I would like to send our sincere sympathy to you Nikki and your family. I know this is a hard time for you, but you are one of the strongest and dear friends I have. This sad time i ½ makes me think about the Sundays I would go sit with Grandpa Jack. At first, he was leary of me, he watched every move I made, but after a while I knew he let his guard down when he would tell me all about his family and them being "moonshiners." He said they made the best moonshine in town. I am grateful that I had the chance to be in his company. And to Grandma Joann she is in my prayers.##imported-begin##Colleen Suprenant##imported-end##*

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ I would like to extend my sincere condolences in the Sarowatz family on the passing of Jack.

Rejoice in the promise of eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dan###imported-begin##Dan Micha###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Please know that I feel your pain. It is still quite difficult for me to attend any funeral services and I apologize for that.

Our families have known each other for a very long time and I want you to know that my prayers are with you.###imported-begin##Ray Satterwhite###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Joanne and family,

Kim and I are very sorry at you loss and also sorry that we were unable to attend. ĩ½My uncle passed away last Saturday and his arrangements were exactly the same time as Jack's. ĩ½He was such a dedicated volunteer, father, and neighbor that he will be missed. ĩ½It's good to know that he is finally at rest after a long period of struggles. ĩ½God's blessings to you all.

In Christ,

Bill and Kim Balgeman###imported-begin##Bill and Kim Balgeman###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Jack's passing. There were so many great memories of Jack with the family, I am positive those are the ones that will stay with you for ever and get you through this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Tom Quigley##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Sorry to hear about Jack's passing. I will always remember the good days in Scouting. We had some good times at camp & meetings. God Bless!!##imported-begin##Jim Kirk##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I'm sure he will be sorely missed. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Sheryl Mitchell Kupferer##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ He was a man who always had his children's interests at heart, and the faculty at Westview knew this. My heartfelt sympathy goes to the family and friends he leaves behind. May he now rest in peace.##imported-begin##Richard (Ric) Edwards##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Dear Stephany, We are very sorry to hear of your father's passing. Our prayers are with you and your family in this sad time. God Bless you, Scott and Mary Seaton###imported-begin##Scott Seaton Family###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ May the Lord bless you and yours in your time of loss.
i¿½###imported-begin##Michael T. Dionne###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Please remember all the "good" times you shared with your Dad. I will keep you in my prayers during this difficult time.###imported-begin##Chiquitia Love Sargent###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ I'm very sorry for your loss during this Holiday Season, your family is in our prayers. God bless you all now and thru the new year.

from a school friend

Janet Hackney Martin###imported-begin##Janet Hackney/Martin###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ NULL###imported-begin##Donald & Sheri Jackson###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ *Stephany,

Please know that we are praying for you and your family. I was so moved by the beautiful words in the tribute to your Father. What a wonderful honor for you to have him as your Dad.

God bless you and your family Stephany. Always remember the times you laughed together.*
I & Shelley Gallagher
Lexington, Kentucky##imported-begin##*Shelley Gallagher*##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ *We were so sorry to hear about Jack.

He was a loyal friend and we are grateful for his many contributions to his community and for his country. Our deepest sympathy and blessings.*##imported-begin##*Rory & Sue Serafini*##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ *I would like to extend my sympathy to your family during this hard time. Your family is in our prayers.*##imported-begin##*Scott Pepin*##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ *To the Family:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We play euchre with Lesa.

Our deepest sympathy.*##imported-begin##*Ralph & Natalene Ferrari*##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Jack and family,

I would like to extend my condolences to you and your family. *½*Having lost my father just 4 months ago, I can understand your loss. *½*Hopefully the holidays will be a time of good memories that help your families grow closer.

Best wishes,
John Mitchell###imported-begin##John Mitchell###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Hi Stephany,

Sorry for your loss.
Tom###imported-begin##Thomas Benn###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Stephany - Sorry to hear of your loss. *½*Unfortunately part of life. *½*I remember your white wood house on 5th ave.? *½*Missed you at the last reunion. *½*Take care. *½*John G.###imported-begin##John Gregoire###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Dee, *½*I was so sorry to read about your father-in-law. *½*Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

###imported-begin##Barb Jackson###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Jack and Lisa, we are sorry to hear of the loss of your father. *½*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time.###imported-begin##Jeff & Kim Green###imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Please accept my condolences on the passing of your father. My thoughts will be with you during this most difficult holiday season.##imported-begin##Olga P. Ryan##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ My deepest sympathies in this difficult time. God Bless.##imported-begin##Scott Duckworth##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ On behalf of the Westview Class of 1975 and myself, our sincere and deepest sympathy on your loss.

May the Good Lord keep you close and may your thoughts be filled with the fondest of memories and your hearts be filled always with the love and joy that he gave you.

Thank you Jack for your service to your country!##imported-begin##Bill Maass Jr.##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ My prayers are with each of you at this time. i¿½Kathy##imported-begin##Kathy Cassidy##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Jack,

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very sorrowful time. May God help you all through the Holidays!

God Bless,
Michele (Denault)
Castner

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ My deepest sympathies go out to you during this sad time.

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Jack was always so kind and helpful to veterans. He went out of his way to assist disabled vets work through VA bureaucracy. He was also a good teacher while helping so that people could help themselves. It was obvious he liked people and loved his family. Our community needs more men like Jack!

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies go out to you and yours for your loss. If there's anything you need, never hesitate to look us up.

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM



“ Hi Stephany. ĩ½Just wanted you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this hard time, especially with Christmas approaching. ĩ½My husband's parents have passed away, so I know some of what you are going through. ĩ½From reading your father's obituary, he had a rich and full life. ĩ½I'll be praying for you.

With sympathy,

Jennifer Roop

PS ĩ½I missed you at the last class reunion!##imported-begin##Jennifer Roop Troutman##imported-end##

December 09, 2007 at 04:59 PM