



John Jack Brown

December 24, 1916 - January 23, 2008

John Brown Jr. -- Kankakee John Francis "Jack" Brown Jr. died on Wednesday (Jan. 23, 2008) at his home in Kankakee. He was born on Christmas Eve 1916 in Peoria. He was the youngest child of Ann Plover and John Brown. Early in his life, Jack developed habits that would sustain him for 91 years. As an elementary school student, he balanced studies with helping in his father's grocery store. During the Depression, watching his father give away food while ignoring profits instilled in him a lifelong obligation to others. Jack also served as the head altar boy at the Peoria Cathedral, underlining his Catholic faith, which carried him through not only World War II but in the rearing of seven fabulous children. In Peoria, at age 7, he suffered a serious fall. When he overheard the hospital doctor explain to his mother that he might not walk again, he left the hospital through a window. This same spirit led to a lifetime of athletic endeavors -- a high school football championship game played at Soldier Field, top-ranked Peoria tennis player, swimming across the Illinois River, Kankakee racquetball champion, avid golfer with the distinction of two holes-in-one, and a marathon runner. Jack married Mary Schwarz on April 19, 1941 at St. Bernard's Church in Peoria. After Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. Navy and served his country in the South Pacific away from his beloved wife and first three children. Following the war he returned to his dental lab work and, in 1951, moved to Kankakee, where he established his own lab. During his 27 years in Kankakee, he embraced community service. He was a member of St. Martin of Tours Men's Club, a Community Chest

fundraiser, president of Bishop McNamara's Huddle Club for two terms, a lifetime blood donor for the Red Cross and founder of the YMCA's Century Club, which donates memberships for children. In 1979 he retired to Hot Spring Village in Arkansas and returned later to Kankakee. To his family, friends and community, he gave the gifts of faith, strong convictions, service and hard work. His family was his first priority. He is survived by his wife and seven children, Vikki and son-in-law, Sheldon Proctor of Evanston, Pat and son-in-law, Phil Aldred of Nipoma, Calif., Jim Brown of Kankakee, Suzy and son-in-law, Jim Ruder of Kankakee, Mary and son-in-law, Tom Rogers of Knoxville, Tenn., Sheila Brown of Kankakee and Liz Brown of Chicago; grandchildren, Chad Proctor, Gareth (Valerie) Proctor, Laura Proctor, Kari McGinnis, Kendra (Bob) Farber, Marc (Becca) Brown, Matt (Jennelle) Ruder, Chris (Shaw) Ruder, Megan (Mike) Roche, Nate Rogers and Ben Rogers; and 11 great-grandchildren. A memorial visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Saturday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. A memorial Mass will follow at noon at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. A committal service will be held at St. Joseph Cemetery in Peoria at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bishop McNamara High School or to the YMCA.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:42 PM



“ Hey' Jack,

Too bad you left kinda sneaky-like cuz now I'm left with a carload of Hershey bars. ĩ¿½Tho' if you contact me (gentle-like) and send me your address (gentle-like) I'll send them on up & around with the transportation angel.

Want you to know that you and Mary are of my favorite people. We had some wonderful times! ĩ¿½Thanks for being our friends!

God Bless, Mary .. and love to your family. ĩ¿½May God send you His blessings.

Love 'n Hugs! ĩ¿½Pat###imported-begin###Pat Blais###imported-end###

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ We are shocked and deeply saddened. ĩ¿½What a wonderful friend and inspiration Jack was to all who knew him. ĩ¿½I'll never forget the golf games, stock club, bridge, and the years of Jack's "one of a kind" humor. ĩ¿½Jack will be missed but fond memories will be everlasting.

Pat and Bruce Huot###imported-begin###Pat and Bruce Huot###imported-end###

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ Jack was so much fun at a party. I am so glad I was privileged to know him.
I hope you will soon be feeling better and will return to the bridge tables at Ruby Tuesday's.
We miss you.
You have my sincere sympathy.
Love, Lois
Lois Meier

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ I truly enjoyed the short time we worked together. Rest in peace Jack.
Scott Piggush

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ We are so sorry to have missed services for your father. We missed the obituary in the paper.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Please accept our condolences.
Kevin & Janis
Kevin & Janis Nugent

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ Molly, we send you our deepest sympathy on Jack's passing. I am sure his great humor will be a source of joy for all of your family.
Please know that we have you in our thoughts and prayers.
Nick and Shirley
Nick & Shirley Africano

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ *Our very deepest sympathy.##imported-begin##John & Joyce Krutilla##imported-end##*

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM



“ *WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE, THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS##imported-begin##ROSEANNE DELSING##imported-end##*

January 24, 2008 at 02:26 PM