



John "Jack" Purcell

April 13, 1933 - December 6, 2007

John Purcell -- Kankakee John F. "Jack" Purcell Jr., 74, of Kankakee, died Thursday (Dec. 6, 2007) at Provena Heritage Village Nursing Home in Kankakee, following an extended illness. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home on West Court Street in Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Patrick's Church in Kankakee. Burial will be at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. After many courageous years living with physical limitations and ailments, Jack fought hard before passing peacefully surrounded by the love of his family and friends. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or Bishop McNamara High School. Jack was born April 13, 1933, in Kankakee. He was the son of John F. Purcell Sr. and Flavia "Tiny" Bennett Purcell and the brother of Norma Jean Purcell-Staubus, all of whom preceded him in death. He attended St. Patrick's Grade School and High School before joining the U.S. Navy in 1952. He received training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Waukegan as well as bases in Oklahoma and Tennessee before two tours on aircraft carriers overseas. As he served his country proudly, Jack saw the world, including bullfights in Spain and the Coliseum and Vatican City in Rome, Cuba, Algeria and much of the Mediterranean. Jack met the love of his life, Shirley (Boudreau) of Kankakee in December 1952 and they married on Feb. 23, 1957 at St. Rose of Lima Church in Kankakee. Wife Shirley survives, along with their six daughters and four sons: Karen and Thomas Mann of Birmingham, Ala., Dave and Vicki Purcell of Lincoln, Judy

Todnem of Katy, Texas, Diane and Jamie Boyd of Kankakee, Linda Deagan of Lansing, Mich., Dan and Lynda Purcell of St. Clair, Mich., Patty and Stephen Goldstein of West Bloomfield, Mich., Chris and Jodi Purcell of O'Fallon, Mo., Peggy and Scott Mayer of Kankakee, and Andy and Meredith Purcell of Manteno; 26 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. One son, Stephen, preceded him in death. Jack was retired from Roper in Kankakee. He was a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, where he was a volunteer for the Special Olympics and Tootsie Roll Drive and a bartender for many years. He was a member of the Kankakee VFW and a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Kankakee, where he served on the parish council and volunteered as an usher. He was active in his children's education, serving as a PTC member and softball coach at St. Patrick's Grade School, and a longtime volunteer at Bishop McNamara High School. He was a longtime area referee in basketball. In addition to being a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather and a literal "Jack" of all trades, he was an avid reader, Jeopardy game show fan, and long-suffering but always hopeful fan of the Chicago Cubs.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



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



“ Remembering the good times we had as neighbor kids when we all lived on Greenwood Street. i;½i;½Will never forget the time your Dad went out to a cornfield to pick fresh corn for his family. i;½He didn't know the difference between sweet corn and field corn until you tried eating some of it. i;½He got rid of the field corn by loading up the kids in the station wagon and drove i;½around town throwing out an ear at a time. i;½Take care, you are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Connie (Stein) Hoffstetter##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Jeff and I both wish would could have made it to Kankakee to say good-bye to Jack. We want to send our thoughts and prayers to the entire Purcell family.##imported-begin##Ali Wayer and Jeff Dumas##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ LOTS AND LOTS of memories of Jack.... his laugh, his love of jeopardy and THE CUBS!!!! I remember in high school hanging out with Andy and going to the house and then jack would come in with a grocery sized bag of day-old popcorn from the KC. I loved that stuff. the limmericks he would tell me, and the eyes that would roll from shirley. HA. To me he represents "FAMILY MAN". I could say more but.. no need.

Hey Jack... beware of falling rocks!###imported-begin###brett lamie###imported-end###

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Diane, Jamie and Boys: i½You have been in my thoughts since reading about your beloved Dad/Grandpa. i½Thank you Diane for coming to Germaine's wake last week. i½I know what this is like after just losing your Dad. i½I hope that you can surround yourselves with your wonderful, large family and help your Mom during this time of year. i½We all miss my Dad terribly, but nothing can compare to the loss my Mother feels. i½I know your presence will be a comfort to her. i½You will continue to be in my prayers. i½###imported-begin###Bonnie Mackin###imported-end###

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Hey, Alex -

Please accept my sympathy. i½Your grandfather was a special person to you and the community. i½His loss will be felt by many but especially you and your family. i½You've always been one of my favorites and I'm thinking of you now with a heavy heart. i½But just envisioning that twinkle in your eye makes me feel better and a smile always comes across my face. i½Please let us know if you or your family needs anything at all.

Fondly, Mrs. G###imported-begin###Colette Gernon###imported-end###

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Many thoughts ran through my mind as I made my train ride to Kankakee. I made the first meet you, and this past one to say good-bye. We had our ups and downs, (stubborn people usually do)but I never realized how much we had in common until the other day. As I walked

around and looked at the many tributes,pictures, etc.,the one that caught my eye and the one I will never forget was a newspaper article with you and the kids playing baseball in the yard. It spoke of your love of Mom and the kids and even in the hardest of times (for you personally), your love and devotion to your family. I felt as if a great burden of guilt had been lifted for all the the weddings, parties, and "family" get togethers that I had missed because of football playoffs, swim meets and playoffs, school plays, sick kids, work, etc....As many times as I could, I sent Dan back to be with you...even at the end. But for me Dad, like you so many times, the family came first and home was my place. Like everyone else, I will miss you, but as for your many stories, your laugh, the tilt of your nose, and in general just the way you were, they live on in my house each day I have with your "Danny".##imported-begin##Lynda Purcell##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ I wish to express my heartfelt sympathy to the Purcell family. ÿ½While no words of mine can ease your loss, I just wanted you to know that I am grieving with you and thinking about you. ÿ½May you find comfort ÿ½in your many special memories and in the thought of all the happy years you shared with Jack. ÿ½

Sincerely,

Haydee##imported-begin##Haydee M. Pampel##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ We are neighbors of Chris and Jodi and we were all saddened to hear that Mr. Purcell had passed on. We would like to send our deepest condolences to the entire Purcell family. Please know that your father lives on in your memories and stories. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Gary & Mary Hauser##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Karen and Tom - we are sorry for your loss, and pray your safe return. At this time of year, a loss of this magnitude is difficult, but also at this time of year we take comfort in the love of a Savior, a Savior that will bring us all home at an appointed time for another family reunion in his Mansion.##imported-begin##Ed & Tina Robinson##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS.##imported-begin##DEBBIE LAYFIELD##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Karen & family - what a joy to have had a man who would share so much of himself with you! The precious stories of her dad which Karen has shared makes me know he was a beloved husband and father. May God comfort each of you and give you peace knowing that one day you will all be together again.

##imported-begin##Lynne Williams##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Karen: *½Please know I understand your pain as it is so hard to say good-bye to a Dad. ½I'm so thankful you all had the chance to be with him at the ball-

game several years ago. ½Those will be

precious memories. Love, Anne###imported-begin###Anne Rice###imported-end###*

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“ Judy, My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You have spoken so many times about your father and family, I feel like I know many of them. Please know that my heart aches for your loss. There is no greater love - than that of a Father and his Daughter. Let your memories ease your pain and fill your heart. I'm always here if there is anything I can do.

With Love,
Claudia & Greg###imported-begin###Claudia DeKing###imported-end###

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“ You have been in my thoughts and prayers, hoping you will find comfort in your memories and your faith. No matter how prepare we think we are it is never easy to loose a father, specially for a daughter. Only time will help your grief. If you ever need a person to talk to or anything, put me on your list and I will be there.

Affectionately,

Patricia###imported-begin###Patricia Smith###imported-end###

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“ Karen & family,
 My heart goes out to you all. My prayers are with you and your family. If there is anything I can do, please let me know. I didn't know your Dad, but from everything Karen has told me, he must have been a great man with a sense of humor. Take care and God Bless you all.
 Shelea

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“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Prayers for comfort for all of the family. Jack was a great guy.
 Doug Fiore
 Minnesota

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“ Dad you will be missed by all that met you and remember by all who have an empty spot in their lives that they will never know or understand the heart of this county!
 Dan

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“ i am so sorry for your loss. i do know exactly what you're going through. it is very tough but you know he is in the best place. i will be here for you and i will keep your family in my prayers. as we go through the holidays, keep your head high, our DAD'S will want it that way.
 even though i didn't know your dad i know he will be missed very much.
 i will be keeping you and your family close in my heart during this hard time.
 truly your friend,
 Kelly

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“ Karen,

We are so very sorry about you and your family's loss. We are praying for Jesus to comfort your family during this difficult time.

Love, Johnny McCullough

Johnny & Tracy McCullough

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“ KAREN AND FAMILY

YOUR IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PAYERS

SHEILA GLENN

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to your family. ĩ½

Candice Gillett

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Many memories went threw my head when I read about Jack passing away. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Purcell family.

Chuck Christophersen

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“ Thoughts & prayers are with you.

The Lord cares and we do to.

you are not alone.

Henry & Judy Wright

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“ Meredith:

We are all thinking of you and your family at this time. i¿½##imported-begin##Paul Jones##imported-end##

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“ I wish the entire family my sympathy and prayers. I will always remember the Purcell family and Mr Purcell's involvement at St Pats.

He left a wonderful legacy.##imported-begin##Holle Homberg Galyon##imported-end##

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“ My grandfather was without a doubt one of a kind at least through my eyes! There was never a dull moment when you were in the presents of grandpa jack purcell rather it was is funny faces and smart comments or just his amazing knowledge of the world ingeneral some of the finest memories that i shared with him were made over a cup of coffee and a poptart in the morning, which my grandma prepared perfectly in the microwave for about 2 min! I loved watching him put together countless puzzles and every once in a while we would break out the old "NAVY" pictures and he would share with me stories that he held so close to his heart! I will miss him greatly, one thing is for sure my breakfasts in kankakee will never be the same. I love you grandpa Purcell, THanks for all the stories and your knowledge that you shared with me! Go CUBS##imported-begin##stacey##imported-end##

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“ Grandpa was a strong, devoted man, whom I have always admired. I have learned to be strong and devoted, not only to the CUBS, but more importantly to my family, through my grandparents and my parents. I am honored to have had such an incredible man in my life and will cherish every moment I've had.

He will be missed by all who knew him and loved him.##imported-begin##Tami Purcell##imported-end##

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“ Although we never met Jack, we felt like we knew him through Tom's and Karen's wonderful and funny stories about him. ï¿½Because of them, we feel your sadness and grief. ï¿½Just know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this heartbreaking time.##imported-begin##Ken & Susan Monk##imported-end##

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this tiem of lose. ï¿½May God comfort and keep you all in His loving arms.##imported-begin##David, Rita, Jessica and Hannah Kelly##imported-end##

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“ My love and deepest sympathy to Judy, Neal and Adam as well as the entire Purcell family.

God bless and comfort you through the difficult days ahead.##imported-begin##Sandi Bergholtz##imported-end##

December 08, 2007 at 12:41 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time, and we trust that your faith and family support will help you through this inevitable step in the journey of life.

---Aunt Marilyn###imported-begin###Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann###imported-end##

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“ Karen and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Having been through similar circumstances with my father, I understand how hard it is to let them go. He looked like a very special daddy.

You are in my prayers.

Susie Stewart###imported-begin###Susie Stewart###imported-end##

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“ Karen and Tom may you keep all the precious memories in your heart and may you have the strength to get through this time of sadness. Your in my thoughts and prayers. Love Rhonda###imported-begin###Rhonda Hicks###imported-end##

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“ Shirley & Family: ï¿½You have our deepest sympathy in the loss of Jack.

He was one-of-a-kind!###imported-begin###Chuck & Mary Denault###imported-end##

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