



John M. "Jack" Walsh

January 4, 1938 - July 25, 2021

FITCHBURG: John "Jack" Walsh age 83, lifelong resident of Fitchburg died July 25, 2021 after a five year battle with Parkinson's and Dementia.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Betty (McDonald) Walsh, three daughters, Jane Walsh of Arlington, MA, Erin McNamara and her husband Steve of Leominster, Paula Fontaine and her husband Mike of Leominster. He is also survived by four grandchildren, James McNamara and his wife Becky, Christopher McNamara, Sarah Fontaine and Emily Fontaine, all of Leominster. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Paul Francis Walsh and Louise (Moses) Walsh, and his beloved brother Paul Walsh.

Mr. Walsh is a 1955 graduate of Fitchburg High School, attended Syracuse University Language School for the U.S. Air Force and served as a Russian Language Specialist on an isolated base in Alaska. He also attended the Gemological Institute of America and was employed as a designer and gemologist for Shreve Crump and Low of Boston for thirteen years. During this time, Jack was a lecturer and sales trainer for De Beers of London and traveled extensively for that firm in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. He was later employed by Long's Jewelers and worked throughout the greater Boston area and Southern New Hampshire.

An avid musician, beginning with the Kingsmen Drum and Bugle Corps in his youth, Jack went on to play for the Syracuse Brigadiers Drum Corps, the Fitchburg Military Band, The Leominster Colonial Band, The town bands of Westminster, Lunenburg, Townsend and Ashby, The Fitchburg High Alumni Band, and the Patrick Gilmore Society Band. He was also a member of the National Tuba Society. In 1978, he was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" by the Salvation Army of Boston for playing Christmas music alongside their red kettle for the passerbys on Boylston St. Boston. After his retirement, Jack played taps for many years for local veterans services and a member of Fine Tuners Band with his close

friends, who played at many senior facilities.

As a hobby, Mr. Walsh collected rare editions of the novel Don Quixote and studied Cervantes, traveling to Spain and compiling a manuscript of the various translations of this novel. He amassed a library of over 400 volumes and donated his collection to the Walsh Library at Fordham University. He also collected ventriloquist dummies and owned over 75 of them, which he would display and demonstrate to various schools and Civic organizations.

Jack and his wife Betty and their family, vacationed every summer on Old Orchard Beach Maine where Jack would play his trumpet on the beach at sunset and walk his beloved Scottie dog Kielty along the shore. Jack was also a talented cartoonist and painter who spent many hours with his loving grandchildren, entertaining them with his unique interests and hobbies.

Jack's family would like to express their deep gratitude to Dr. Petullo of Health Alliance Hospital of Leominster, Health Alliance Hospice and the entire staff of the Foster Wing for their exceptional and devoted care of Jack during his final days at the hospital.

Funeral services and interment will be held privately.

The Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon Street, Fitchburg is assisting the family with arrangements. For additional information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

Donations may be made to the Salvation Army.

Tribute Wall

WW

“ It saddens me greatly to hear of Jack's passing. He was truly one of the good guys. Always kind, always sharing, always interesting, and always passionate about his family, his music, and his friends. My condolences to the family.

William (Bill) Williams - July 31, 2021 at 12:05 PM

PC

“ My deepest sympathy to the entire Walsh family. Having grown up in the neighborhood, it seems like yesterday that we could hear Mr Walsh playing his trumpet in the back yard. I have many fond memories of Mr Walsh and the entire family. Bless you all.

Phyllis & Keith Cheeseman

Phyllis Cheeseman - July 30, 2021 at 08:11 PM

SP

“ So sorry to hear of Jack's passing. He was a valued member of the Colonial Band for many years, and always had some new tidbit of knowledge about a piece of music to share with us. Jack has been and always will be with us, not only as a memory but in an even more tangible way. 38 years ago, he helped my wife and I find the engagement ring and wedding band she still wears. It was an estate piece which had been inscribed by the previous owner with her wedding date, which ironically, was the same exact date of our own wedding, only about 40 years before. We knew that ring must have some magical meaning, and so far it has! Thanks, Jack! Riposa in pace.

Steve Piermarini - July 30, 2021 at 02:57 PM

“ To Betty, Jane, Erin, Paula and the entire Walsh Family,

Every now and then, but far from often enough, you have the good fortune to cross paths with someone truly special. That was Jack Walsh. Truth be told, that would apply to the entire Walsh family.

My introduction to the Walsh family goes back to the mid 1950s when I was single-digit age. You see, Jack's parents were regular customers at my Uncle Sam's (Tasca) grocery store, Carbone's Market on Water Street in Fitchburg. In spite of my age at the time, I have a clear memory of Mr. & Mrs. Walsh coming to the store.

In my late preteen years, it was Jack's brother Paul who helped me assemble the intricate parts of a model ship I was struggling to complete. Paul was so accomplished at the fine detail work necessary in model building.

Fast forward to the late 1970s when I was about to ask my future wife-to-be, Rose, for her hand in marriage. Where would I find the appropriate engagement ring? Call Jack, that's where! Jack was at Shreve, Crump and Low in Boston at the time. He took care of everything, designing a beautiful diamond ring that, of course, Rose wears proudly to this day.

Returning home one day, just prior to our wedding, I noticed a small blue velvet drawstring sack hanging from the doorknob. Inside were two smaller white satin sacks. Opening them, I found two gold wedding bands; one for me and one for Rose. This is what is engraved inside each band: "RMC & CMT 9-21-80 JW". It was and is a treasured wedding gift from Jack!

Perhaps ten or so years ago, Rose and I saw Jack at the Kmart garden center. Well, one thing led to another, and the next thing we knew we were at Jack's house getting the full tour of his ventriloquist dummies (yes, Charlie McCarthy was there), other interesting collectables, and all things relating to Don Quixote. It was such a wonderful, enjoyable, unplanned visit!

Rose and I are deeply saddened at Jack's passing. But at the same time, we feel truly blessed to have known Jack and to have shared such special, unforgettable times with him.

Jack will forever hold a special place in our hearts and minds.

*With sincere condolences,
Charlie & Rose Tasca*

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“ *Patti (Leger)Varley lit a candle in memory of John M. "Jack" Walsh*



Patti (Leger)Varley - July 28, 2021 at 12:49 PM



“ *Pink Satin Heart Casket Pillow was purchased for the family of John M. "Jack" Walsh.*



July 26, 2021 at 03:35 PM