



John "Jack" Higgins Jr.

January 12, 1946 - October 29, 2021

John J. Higgins, Jr. passed away suddenly at home on October 29, 2021. Affectionately known as Jack, he was born on January 12, 1946 to John and Lena Higgins in Wilmington, DE. He resided in the New Castle County and Elkton, MD areas along with his parents and sister, Lena. There he enjoyed living on his family's farm, playing baseball, drag racing and eating his mother's homemade cooking and chocolate cakes. Jack graduated from Elkton High School in 1964 and shortly thereafter met the love of his life, Dolores "Dee" M. VanMeter. Jack and Dee married August 19, 1967 and were happily married for 54 years raising their two daughters, Dawn and Tina. For the past 11 years, Jack and Dee resided in Middletown, DE along with their daughters, son-in-law and three grandchildren, in a house filled with love, spirituality, and nonstop fun-filled chaos, which the family refers to as the BIG house. Jack played an active role in all of their lives.

Jack took great pride in his craftsmanship as a professional painter and did so for 24 years for the Wilmington Hospital. His true passion though was being a husband, father, grandfather and minister to the Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses where he was baptized in 1974. He was also part of many other volunteer activities within the organization of Jehovah Witnesses such as the Hospital Liaison Committee working alongside the University of Pennsylvania Hospital to create programs to help enable bloodless surgeries, the Local Design Committee (LDC) helping to build and maintain places of worship, as

well as devoting himself to countless hours teaching others about God's Kingdom and the future hope for mankind.

Jack loved spending time with family, being Pop Pop to his grandchildren including babysitting and chauffeuring them over the years, and recently "supervising" home carpentry projects with his youngest grandson. He could eat spaghetti every night of the week. He enjoyed a cold beer, especially a Heineken, on a hot summer day after paying special attention to his finely manicured lawn, driving his numerous trucks and working on his cars. Jack also liked listening to Elvis Presley or any of the oldies, and sitting in his recliner with his dog Chloe watching the evening news, Blue Bloods, Family Feud, The Lawrence Welk Show, or any old westerns.

Jack was known for his humor, compassion and standing firm for righteousness. He had a larger-than-life personality, a big heart, and a full head of hair that he was well-known for and never had a hair out of place. For those who knew him and those he just met, his love for people was apparent. He loved to talk, tell stories and joke around. He was fun loving and took a true genuine interest in others, yet always direct, never mincing words. "That's the thing", "I don't know", "It is what it is" and "Let me tell you this, and you might not like it" were just some of his famous sayings.

Jack was predeceased by his father, John Higgins; mother, Lena (Maccari) Higgins; brother-in-law, Thomas Adams; nephew, John Adams; and his beloved schnauzer, Chloe. He is survived by his wife, Dolores "Dee" Higgins; daughter, Dawn M. Treherne and grandsons, Cheyney and Brayden; daughter, Tina L. Hill and son-in-law, Brian Hill, and granddaughter, Kennedy; sister, Lena Adams and nephew, Michael Adams (wife Christine); and numerous extended family and friends.

Jack will be sadly missed and forever in our hearts until we see him again, as

he firmly believed, under God righteous rule on earth as promised in Psalms 37:29.

A private visitation by invitation only with immediate family will be held Saturday November 13, 2021 at 4PM ET at Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Road, Newark, DE 19702 followed by a virtual Memorial Service at 5pm ET through Zoom. All are welcome to join the virtual memorial service at 5pm ET, using the following details:

Important Note/Requests: Space is limited, so please limit one device per family for logging on; if maximum capacity is reached on the zoom details below then please join the live stream link also noted further below.

- Zoom Meeting ID: 879 7555 6886

- Zoom Passcode: 218730

- Zoom Link: <https://jworg.zoom.us/j/87975556886?pwd=ZTNTUjRKNndzVWw3Wk1iS2d6RkVwQT09>

- Zoom Dial by your location:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Live stream link in the event the above zoom link reaches maximum capacity:
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCnpgbZzOQappxhDwo7L-ZKg>

To send an online condolence visit www.stranofeeley.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to either the Worldwide Work of Jehovah's Witnesses by visiting Donate to Jehovah's Witnesses (jw.org) or Penn Medicine The Center for Transfusion-Free Medicine via the How to Give - Penn Medicine link and indicating it is for The Center for Transfusion-Free Medicine.

Previous Events

Virtual Service

NOV 13. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

ZOOM

Tribute Wall



“ *Falling asleep to the “oldies” on the record player stereo. Sodas in the closet and deep dish pizza. A splash of Myrtle Beach and K&W with a study in the family room. There’s so much more……. With love - Kim*

Kimberly DiVito - November 14, 2021 at 12:03 PM



Great memories. Thank you for sharing.

Tina L Hill - November 23, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Higgins Jr..*



November 13, 2021 at 06:24 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Higgins Jr..*



November 12, 2021 at 11:56 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Higgins Jr..*



November 12, 2021 at 05:35 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Higgins Jr..*



November 12, 2021 at 07:04 AM



“ *Jack always had a kind and encouraging word to share with me. He will be greatly missed. Bro. Tom Lovari*

Tom Lovari - November 11, 2021 at 08:30 PM



“ *Bro Higgins was such a father like figure to many and such a loving person who would provide words of wisdom that you would hear ring in your ear still to this day I appreciate the times he sat down on my study and or had a snack after .He will be truly missed but never forgotten. Sending sincerest condolences to the entire Higgins family.*

Niceie Anderson(Randolph) - November 11, 2021 at 07:28 PM

TH

Thank you, Niceie. Mom has really appreciated you reaching out to her too.

Tina L Hill - November 23, 2021 at 04:00 PM

BM

“ I am very saddened to hear of Jacks' passing. I extend my deepest condolences for you Delores and the entire family. He was a cherished mentor of mine when I was a young elder, and it was a privilege to serve with him. And of course he was a wonderful friend. As King David said of a beloved leader in Israel, "...a great man has fallen this day..." (2 Sam. 3:38) He will be greatly missed indeed, but we will certainly see him again in the not too distant future! Incidentally, in addition to the daily spaghetti, I believe Jack could have washed that meal down with ice cream every time too.

Brian McClure - November 10, 2021 at 08:21 PM

TH

Thank you so much Brian for your support and you are absolute right on all fronts about dad including the ice cream 😊

Tina Hill - November 11, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Higgins Jr..



November 10, 2021 at 09:14 AM

TG

“ My sincere condolences to the family. He always made my wife and I feel at ease. I will miss seeing him at the Conventions, once we return. Looking forward to him saying to me again, "You remind me of Leon Weaver"! And replying as always, "I wish". Tony Grandy

Tony & Teresa Grandy - November 10, 2021 at 06:29 AM

TH

Thank you so much for your sympathies and sharing your stories about dad too.

Tina Hill - November 11, 2021 at 11:16 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Higgins Jr..



November 09, 2021 at 02:24 PM

JB

“ My heart really is in pain.I lost my buddy.
Could talk with him about anything and
He never turned you away but listen very
Patiently no matter how long it took. He
Would say to me, you “You can handle it”
And somehow I felt I could.Always asked
Me if I was behaving myself.Yes friends,
We all have something great to say about
Our brother.will miss him from speaking
What was right and true and never failed
To mention how close we are to the new
World.well you beat us to it my friend, but
We will was you soon.My heart and love
Is with the family praying that they get
Through these trying times.

joyce Brown - November 09, 2021 at 11:53 AM

TH

Joyce - Dad always got a kick out of you and thought so highly of you.
Keep sharing your stories of him with us along the way. We all need
them. We love you very much!

Tina Hill - November 11, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
John "Jack" Higgins Jr..



November 08, 2021 at 07:13 PM

AD

“ I will miss my dear brother so much! Always with a smile working along with him in the Newark East Cong., conventions, assemblies, etc. He had a way to comfort & motivate you with a little humor as well. That was JACK!! See you soon my brother! 🥺

Art D'Aloise - November 08, 2021 at 05:57 PM

TH

Thank you so much Bro D'Aloise. He loved being with you all for sure. And that humor was definitely dad too!

Tina Hill - November 11, 2021 at 11:20 AM

MA

“ Mr Higgins, that's what I call my brother-in-law, Jacky Higgins. He was a very special part of our life. Ray & Mary Ann. When Covid 19 hit, My husband just got out of the hospital With a cancer treatment. I called Mr. Higgins he was right there to help me out. I knew I had to do something special, and make them both something good to eat. I came home one day, and Jack's is where is the strawberry shortcake. I said give me a minute and I'll get it ready. He was a great meal. Love and prayers Mr. Higgins. Ray and Mary Ann.. till we meet again 🙏💔💔💔

mary Ann Arroyo - November 08, 2021 at 03:03 PM

HW

I loved working with Jack on Kingdom Hall projects, learning so much from his work ethic. He reminded me of my Dad, and his presence will definitely be missed with that Elvis persona appearance. We loved him, and look forward to his resurrection in God's New World. Sleep well until then.

Howard & Everlina Washington - November 09, 2021 at 09:09 AM

MD

Peggy and I will miss Jack. Although we moved to Florida 32 years ago and we saw Jack at a circuit assembly a few years ago, I was like we never left. So many good memories serving together in Newark, I still miss them all, my mentors Jack, Art D, Eugene F, Earl J, Dean S, Richard I, Sr & Jr, Paul B. and others. What a fine body. Jack was the service overseer and helped Peggy when she was one of only 2 reg pioneers in the Cong. Good Times. We remember the baby shower the Higgins there's got our firstborn (now 37 y. o.) And how Peggy went into labor a month early the next day.

Death is the enemy but we can't help but to think of all the good things and we smile. Rest my brother.. all our love prayers and good thoughts of the near resurrection to Delores and family.

Mike & Peggy DuPhily is

Michael DuPhily - November 10, 2021 at 07:08 PM

TH

Thank you Annie, Howard & Everlina Washington and Mike & Peggy DuPhily for all your support & beautiful memories of dad. We so appreciate it more than words could ever express

Tina Hill - November 11, 2021 at 11:24 AM

VW

“ *Delores, and the rest of the family : we are certainly very sad to hear of your loss.*

Words cannot express the sense of deep sorrow that is felt. Jack was one of the very BEST. A BROTHER that leaves a void that is not easily filled. He and I didn't get along very well when I first met him, but over the years, we came to know each other and we became the GREATEST of friends. In fact i'm not ashamed to say that I loved him.

He truly was a good man and we all eagerly await the the JOY of seeing him again in the not too distant future. We TOO share your grief and sorrow. WOODY & MONA.

Vernon R. Woods - November 08, 2021 at 01:14 PM

TH

Woody & Mona - Much love to you. Woody your words & sentiments about dad really touched our heart. He loved you too!

Tina Hill - November 11, 2021 at 11:26 AM