



## John "Jack" Wapniarek

February 16, 1935 - February 25, 2014

The spirit of John "Jack" Wapniarek passed peacefully after a long and courageous battle with cancer on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 with his family by his side. Jack was born in Wilmington, DE on February 16, 1935 to William and Helen (Boruta) Wapniarek. Raised in Wilmington's Hedgeville neighborhood, he attended St. Hedwig's Elementary School, graduated from Wilmington High School class of 1953 and attended Brown Vocational School. He proudly served his country in the Delaware Air National Guard. John retired from the Wilmington City Fire Department after 24 years. He was a self employed licensed plumber. Plumbing was his lifetime trade and he brought this skill to Sears Installation and Maintenance Department located in Newport. Wherever Jack worked he retained lifelong friends.

Jack had many hobbies and interests. He was born with a green thumb and was an avid gardener bordering on farmer! He maintained two large gardens in Milton and Newark. He was a voracious reader, seeking new information on plants, trees and growing methods. He was always willing to share his knowledge of herbs, trees, and plants whenever the occasion arose. Jack was a beekeeper for many years and belonged to both the Delaware and Pennsylvania Beekeepers' Associations.

With their friends, Jack and his wife Phyllis enjoyed all forms of dancing. He loved mud sales, along with looking for antique tools and auctions.

Traveling across the country and building a second home near Broadkill Beach after retirement gave him even more cherished moments with his

family and friends.

A devoted husband and father he is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Phyllis (Millman) Wapniarek; 2 daughters Catherine Berchock of Newark, DE and Joyce Wapniarek of Wilmington, DE; son, John R. Wapniarek of West Chester, PA; sister, Leona (Joe) Ziolkowski of NC; 3 grandchildren whom he adored: Grayson, Hayden, and Scarlett Berchock; family friend, David Fienberg, and many nieces and nephews. HE was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Alfred Wapniarek; and 3 sisters: Eleanor Kowalewski, Irene Titus, and Joann Long.

A viewing for family and friends will be held Sunday, March 2, 2014 from 6-8 PM in the Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Rd., Newark, DE 19702 and again on Monday, March 3, 2014 from 10-11 AM in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 345 Bear Christiana Rd, Bear, DE, 19701 followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 AM. Burial will be private in White's Chapel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's memory to the Helen Graham Cancer Center, 4701 Ogletown-Stanton Road, Newark, DE 19713. For directions or to send an online condolence visit [www.strano-feeley.com](http://www.strano-feeley.com)

# Cemetery Details

**White's Chapel Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**MAR 2.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

### Visitation

**MAR 3.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

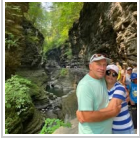
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
345 Bear-Christiana Road  
Bear, DE

### Service

**MAR 3.** 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
345 Bear-Christiana Road  
Bear, DE

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Phyllis and Family,  
We have just learned of Jack's passing. So sorry. Although we had not known you for very long we feel close. The children always wanted to come over and see what Jack was up to in his garden when you were down. We always enjoyed visiting with you although we didn't do it often enough. I'll never forget my adventure with him in moving the bee hives. We'll miss him and think of him often.  
Jeff, Amelia, Clara-Rosa & Jeffrey Jr. Hertzog*

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**Jeffrey Hertzog** - March 09, 2014 at 04:40 PM

GP

“ *Dear Phyllis and family : Our deepest condolences on your loss. We will remember him dancing the Polka and always happy as a good person should be. Our thoughts are with you and your family.  
Gigi and Ed Purzycki*

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**Gigi Marcial and Ed Purzycki** - March 02, 2014 at 09:15 AM

KP

“ *Phyllis & Family, sorry to hear of the passing of Jack. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time.*

*Catherine (Sis) Hastings & Kathaleen Hastings Panuska*

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**Kathaleen Panuska** - March 01, 2014 at 12:32 PM

TA

“ *Joyce - Our deepest condolences on the loss of your father. Our thoughts are with you and your family.*

*Tara & Nick Cavaselis*



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**Tara** - February 27, 2014 at 07:27 AM

JS

“ *Sorry to hear of the loss of Jack. Worked with him on WFD, he was such a nice person and a great "Ladder Man". He will be missed. Sincerely,*  
*John J Samluk*

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**John J Samluk** - February 27, 2014 at 07:20 AM

BP

“ *Joyce,*  
*My sincere condolences. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*  
*With deepest sympathy,*  
*Bob Patton*

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**Bob Patton** - February 26, 2014 at 11:38 PM