



John Joseph Schafer

March 19, 1949 - August 21, 2020

John Joseph Schafer, affectionately known as Jack to those who knew and loved him, went home peacefully surrounded by his loving wife and children on August 21, 2020 at the age of 71 after several years of declining health.

One of 13 children, Jack was born on March 19, 1949 in Philadelphia, PA, to Robert and Anna Schafer.

Beloved husband of 43 years to Joan Schafer. Loving father of Sean (Kathryn), Maura (Teresa), Ryan (Lori) and Colin (Susanne) Schafer. Cherished Pop Pop to Sean, Jr., Eloise and Natalie. Brother of Robert Schafer, Margaret (Frank) Rowland, James Schafer, Sandy (John) Spinelli, Ann Marie Schafer, William (Denise) Schafer, Jerry (Cheryl) Schafer, Ellen (Kelly) Brown, Brian (Michelle) Schafer and Carolyn (Bill) Sabol. Jack was predeceased by his sister Barbara Vitale (Sal) and his brother Kevin.

A father of four, Jack was able to teach some of life's toughest lessons to his children through humor, sports, and life experiences. He easily made friends and left lasting impressions on all he met, usually bringing a smile to their faces through his good-natured humor and generous heart.

With a love for family, friends, sports and community, Jack celebrated life, coached youth sports, enjoyed cooking delicious food, and sang and danced his way through life. Everyone has a "Jack" story that brings a smile to their face. He is a legend who will be missed by all. "Let him rest. Heaven blessed."

Relatives and friends are invited to Jack's Life Celebration Tuesday 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday 8:45-10 a.m. at Givnish's of Cinnaminson, 1200 Route 130N followed by his funeral Mass 10:30 a.m. St. Charles Borromeo Church, Branch Pike, Cinnaminson. Social distancing and masks are required at both the viewing and the Mass. Interment will be private. Donations in Jack's name may be made to Samaritan Care Center, 265 S. Route 73 Voorhees NJ 08043. To share your fondest memory of Jack, please visit Givnish.com

Events

AUG 25 **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM

Givnish Funeral Home (Cinnaminson)
1200 Route 130 North, Cinnaminson, NJ, US, 08077

AUG 26 **Visitation** 08:45AM - 10:00AM

Givnish Funeral Home (Cinnaminson)
1200 Route 130 North, Cinnaminson, NJ, US, 08077

AUG 26 **Mass** 10:30AM

St. Charles Borromeo Church
2500 Branch Pike & Pomona Road, Cinnaminson, NJ, US, 08077

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Givnish Funeral Home - August 25, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ We are just finding out about the services now and apologize for not being there. We would have never missed it had we known. Kenny has many great memories of coaching football with Jack. I was truly honored when he would let me be in charge of the snack stand during his games. On Sundays he had everything set up for me when I got there and of course Sundays with Sinatra was playing on the radio. I always teased him about it. He threatened me saying if it wasn't still on when he got back in the stand, I was in serious trouble. Eventually I took the stand over full-time. This is one of my favorite memories, along with the Prom speech at football!

I am truly sorry we missed the service. You are all in our thoughts.

Kenny and Kim Loomis

Kimberly Loomis - August 28, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ Some of my favorite memories are working with Uncle Jack at the Depot Deli. He showed me you could work hard but still have fun. Sometimes we would go from the Deli to the Old English. “Fridays with Frank” were the best. Uncle Jack would try to sing while making the Friday night special, NY Strip and baked potato. Johnny Mathis never sounded better than when Uncle Jack sang “Chances Are”.

I remember one Christmas he called me. He and Aunt Joan had family over at the deli for Christmas dinner. He asked me if I wanted to come over to do the dishes and he would give me a few bucks. I said sure but he laughed and said he was kidding and just hung up. No Merry Christmas.

At every family party, he would ask the worlds best DJ, me, to play a Cha Cha for him and Aunt Joan.

I remember him coming into Mom Mom’s house, carrying each of his kids like a football, never dropping one but making Mom Mom very nervous.

Uncle Jack, for a tough guy you were always kind and caring to everyone.

Rest In Peace, Sal

Sal - August 26, 2020 at 12:43 PM



“ My Uncle Jack. He was one of those people that I find myself thinking about often and being amazed at how much of an impact he had on my life. He was the toughest guy I knew and he secretly loved that I also knew what a softie he was. Not many people can pull that off but Uncle Jack was one of a kind. I always felt special around Uncle Jack like we had this unspoken bond but I imagine he made most people feel that way. Whether it was making a lobster dinner for his “favorite” niece (sorry siblings and cousins) or letting me practice driving on a gravel road In the woods with a van full of kids, Uncle Jack always knew how to make me feel loved and important. If Uncle Jack was on your side, you were invincible and he was always on my side. Some time after his stroke I came home to visit and I was nervous to see Uncle Jack. But his face lit right up and I knew that he knew it was me. Even then, he knew how to make me feel special. I’m so glad God gave him to me as an Uncle and I will miss him so much. Aunt Joan, Sean, Maura, Ryan and Colin, for the past 13 years you and your families have shown what true love is. I know Uncle Jack is looking down at all of you right now and smiling.

Christine - August 25, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Tough, hard working, family man with a great sense of humor. This is what you’ll hear from everyone who ever met my dad. Him and my mom were cut from the same cloth, they didn’t believe in short cuts and they put family first. When I was younger I would love to sit around the aunts and uncles during family parties and hear them tell stories about dad. I felt so much pride to have him as my dad because I could tell they all respected and loved him. I must of heard the same stories told by them a hundred times but every time they started with “ remember when Jack did this” I was parked right there hanging on to every word like it was the first time I heard it. When we were younger we would stay up late to see what he would bring home from the restaurant for us. He never disappointed. A lot of doctors probably wrote him off after his first stroke, but he bounced back better than anyone thought he would, proving once again but not for the last time that you could never count Jack Schafer out. After that first one he loved to order a big lunch and watch the Eagles games with us. Loved to go to parties and hold court. Loved to see pictures of his grandson and with a huge grin say “ looks like me!” You taught me a lot, your were a great dad and all I can hope for is that I end up half the man you were. God finally gave you peace but I know that’s not the end. For a long time to come you’ll hear from around a fire pit up the Poconos, at a Christmas party filled with family, at a pool surrounded by your brothers and sisters, or somewhere from someone you met, “Remember when Jack “. If I didn’t end with a movie quote you would probably be disappointed so, I’ll see you again my friend,,, but not yet, not yet. Love you buddy, thanks for everything.

Colin Schafer - August 25, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ Our brother-in-law Jack was truly a legend....busy, hard-working, generous and kind and a Dad who adored his beautiful family unconditionally to the core and took pride in all of their accomplishments. A testament to his love and devotion was evident when he fell ill and his amazing wife and all of his children rallied around him and cared so lovingly for him each and every day as he suffered through thirteen years of failing health after a devastating stroke. Jack enjoyed having fun and we will never forget the twinkle in his eye and the little smirk that would precede one of his many pranks. The world was surely blessed with Jack and now Heaven calls him home. Rest In Peace, Dear Jack, and know how much you were loved!

Dolores and Tom - August 25, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ The one memory of my dad I want to share is one of my favorite memories in my life. While there are many great ones about him to choose from, this memory had a lot of personal meaning to me. It was around the end of 2017. Almost a full year after Dad’s second stroke. It was difficult to gauge how much of him was there after the second, but he always had his moments of letting you know he was still Dad. Lori and I had found out we were having a baby and I wanted to share the news of his second grandchild with him before anyone else since we were keeping it secret the first couple of months. I knew he couldn’t rat me out.

So, while I was alone in the room with him at my parent’s house, I held up a picture of the ultrasound. My phone wasn’t the biggest or best quality and we all know the Schafer’s eye sights aren’t the greatest, and he was no exception. The strokes didn’t do his vision any favors and his communication skills weren’t great, so I didn’t expect much of a reaction as I held up this blurry black and white photo.

But as I held it up for him to see, his eyes immediately filled with tears, and a big smile appeared. He knew exactly what he was looking at and knew exactly what it meant to him. What I didn’t know is how much that reaction would mean to me. He was still there.

The guy took a beating those last couple of years, but he still fought through to make the most of what he had. He ate himself full during Thanksgiving at Mom mom’s, he stole cookies from the Christmas parties at Joe and Tom’s, he compared siblings’ appearances at Uncle Bill and Aunt Denise’s holiday parties, watched a football game at Williamson, he took in the sea air and bacon wrapped scallops at Cathy’s in Wildwood. He even snuck a few sips of Crown at Aunt Ellen and Uncle Kell’s summer shindigs. And after all those hardships I just listed, he found the time to enjoy some of the finer moments in life. He saw the Phillies and Eagles win a championship. He danced at his first son’s wedding. He was right outside the delivery room for his first grandson’s birth. He got to enjoy photos of all his children getting married and got to smile at his second and third grandkids, and to enjoy hearing the news of his fourth. Even just a month ago, he was blowing kisses at Natalie and smiling at Sean and Ellie chasing each other around up the Poconos.

We all remember the great guy he was before the strokes but it’s nice to know that same guy was there all the way up to the end. In a way, he was forced to take a retirement he never would have given himself. He had a long run there to enjoy movies, TV, music, and food, all while relaxing. And most of all, he got to spend that time with family and friends, which was always the most important thing to him. Who knows if it was his toughness or his stubbornness that kept him going all those years, but we’re glad he did. It’s hard to say if he was the lucky one to be there for those moments, or if we were all the lucky ones for having him around.

I couldn’t imagine having a better dad. You will be missed.
Love you Dad.



“ 164 files added to the album LifeTributes



Givnish Funeral Home - August 25, 2020 at 10:22 AM



“ Uncle Jack was always one of my favorite Uncles because of his kindness, generosity, contagious laugh, humour, work ethic, and his love for his family and all those around him. I absolutely loved going to visit Aunt Joan and Uncle Jack even though he called me “boats” every time I saw him because he thought my feet were bigger than his. He was definitely a character and made me laugh a lot with his sarcasm and his funny looks. Uncle Jack was such a stand up guy and his work ethic and toughness were very admirable qualities. He was always looking to help others and his children were his Stanley Cup! Never did a visit go by without a hockey game in the background, delicious home cooked food, and Sinatra music! One of my favorite memories was going to parties at the Schaefer pool. Uncle Jack always threw us up the highest and one time I swore I was going out of the pool! His nieces and nephews admired him greatly and always knew where they could go for the fun! Uncle Jack was courageous, tough, and loved Aunt Joan and his children unconditionally. He is someone I talk about often to my children and I know his memory will always live on. Rest In Peace Uncle Jack.....you made this world a better place and we love you!

Jennifer - August 25, 2020 at 08:36 AM



“ Jack is a huge inspiration to so many people. He instilled work ethic, pride, toughness, and so much more to kids in this town. Not only was he a hell of a football coach, he was a mentor, a role model and a dear friend to the Loomis family. We lost a good man and he will be deeply missed. I will always remember his speeches as a coach. “Time to go to the prom” anyone who played for him knows the rest. Our deepest condolences to the Schafer family.
Sean Loomis

sean loomis - August 24, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



August 24, 2020 at 09:35 PM



“ Sitting here watching the Flyers game, I cannot help but reminisce about my Uncle Jack, an avid Flyers fan. As the oldest of his nieces and nephews, I have had the privilege of hanging out with him the longest.....something I will always treasure. I have many favorite memories of Uncle Jack and Aunt Joan.... Our trip to Hershey Park with my 2 sisters-----we thought we were so cool in the back of Uncle Jack's Convertible until it started to rain and the top would not go up. Working for the “Best Boss Ever”, as I often referred to him, at the Depot Deli and Catering, I will never forget all of the times the car keys were tossed my way and I was summoned in a frantic voice to go get things like Champagne, ice cream, etc. that we were missing or short of for an event-----I wasn't from Jersey, there was no GPS, and I dare not return without the items in my hands. Luckily the job came with some perks, one being he lent his car to my prom date to pick me up in Philly. Very generous of him to provide my transportation. My first encounter with Chinese food was with Aunt Joan and Uncle Jack after a catering event—something I never thought I would come to like, but always associate it with him. And then, there was his love of the shore. I was able to experience his trip down with Aunt Joan, shortly before his first stroke. There was a walk on the beach, a delicious seafood dinner that Uncle Jack thoroughly enjoyed (and quite the food critic he was) and then dancing in the back yard, one of his favorite things to do. It was a night I will never forget! What stands out in my mind over the past 13 years is the unfailing love, resilience, devotion, and steadfast admiration that Aunt Joan, Sean, Maura, Ryan and Colin had for their husband/father. Their unending care and support given to my Uncle Jack will live on forever in my heart.

Rest in Peace Uncle Jack.

Love,

Maureen

Maureen - August 24, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ I remember one year it always seemed like Uncle Jack had a Steven Seagal movie on whenever we would visit. I think I only saw Above the Law, Hard to Kill, Out for Justice, and Under Siege when I was visiting Uncle Jack. That summer he would practice his Steven Seagal moves on us when my siblings and I would try to jump on him in the swimming pool, and I am shocked to report his moves were surprisingly effective.

Then he would all of the sudden put on Lil' Abner or Les Miserables. I remember thinking it was so odd that somebody could like both Steven Seagal and Lil' Abner. This was a guy I considered really tough - I remember him holding on to burning sparklers from a birthday cake gone awry until he could throw them out the front door. Tough. And after throwing his nieces and nephews around in the pool with moves he learned from repeated viewings of Steven Seagal movies, he would put on Les Miserables. It was an early lesson that liking the things you like cant make you less of anything. It makes you more interesting, and full of life, and lovable. Like my Uncle Jack.

Tim Connelly - August 24, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ I have so many good memories of Uncle Jack throughout the years that I would like to share. First, I remember playing street hockey in Mom-mom’s backyard on Forklanding Road with him and all of the other Schafer Uncles. I think I was the goalie (no pads or stick) and my brother Sal and cousin Frankie were used as body check targets. The game did not end until someone ran the goalie after scoring a goal...which then erupted into a full-fledged brawl (fake of course) until Mom-mom or Pop-pop flew out the backdoor to break it up. There were also many faux wrestling matches in the pool on Forklanding Road. My Uncle Brian would always initiate the brawl squaring off against either Uncle Jerry or Uncle Jack and then the melee would erupt into a battle royale with Robbie Curley, Michael Devo, and all of the younger nephews joining in. Great times!! Uncle Jack was always a part of it. He made it that much more fun!

Uncle Jack was also very hard-working and extremely generous. He and Aunt Joan had the same type of work ethic. When Uncle Jack and Aunt Joan owned their deli business, they invited the entire family over for Christmas dinner. Both sides! Looking back, I’m sure it was extremely stressful on their part for them to organize and prepare food for that size gathering.... but they did it. It just goes to show you the kind of people that my Uncle Jack and Aunt Joan are.

Finally, there are some other fond memories of Uncle Jack that I would like to mention. In the 80’s, I used to work at the deli after school. I’ll never forget accidentally throwing away the broth to his famous snapper soup that he just cooked. He was so mad!! Uncle Jack loved music and talk radio as well. You could always tell what time of the day it was when you walked into the deli by what Uncle Jack was listening to at the time. He loved listening to WWDB radio in Philadelphia. During the week, Uncle Jack would listen to radio host Irv Homer in the morning and Dr. Jim Corea in the afternoon before heading home for the evening. Every Sunday, on that same radio station, he would listen to “Sundays with Sinatra”. He enjoyed every moment of it! Classic!

Uncle Jack totally adored his children! He used to attend all of the hockey games for each one of his kids in the dead of winter. I know this because I used to referee those games. I didn’t know he was there right away; however, when I called a penalty on one of his kids or one of the million or so kids who Uncle Jack coached during his Maple Shade Tigers football days, I was immediately heckled from behind the fence. When I turned to see who the instigators were, I saw that it was Uncle Jack and his coconspirator Ed Loomis. Uncle Jack would have a smirk on his face and Ed would be looking the other way.

Uncle Jack could also be quiet at times; though, when you hit on a subject that he was interested in, whether it was the Philadelphia sports teams or movies he liked, he was all in for the conversation! He always loved a good debate on how the Flyers were going to do or what movie ranks number one of all time.

I am very fortunate to have grown up with all of the characters that I did. Uncle Jack, you were certainly one of them and I will miss you.

Rest in Peace,
Rob Vitale



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



August 24, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ Jim & Marlys Dyvig purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



Jim & Marlys Dyvig - August 24, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ Rob Curley lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Schafer



Rob Curley - August 24, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ Maple Shade Tigers Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



Maple Shade Tigers Family - August 24, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ Your TundraFMP Family purchased the Dawn of Remembrance Basket for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



Your TundraFMP Family - August 24, 2020 at 10:10 AM



“ Dad, you were my role model and best friend. You taught me how to have character, work hard and so much more. You were always there for me. I hope you look down with pride how your family took care of you out of the love we felt. My hope is one day my son looks at me with half the respect and admiration that I looked at you with and I would consider my self a success as a father. See you on the other side pal.
Love you

sean schafer - August 24, 2020 at 07:44 AM



“ Sean, That was a beautiful tribute to you Dad. He was one of a kind and a tremendous example of persistence, dedication, fun, love of family and charity. He will be greatly missed.

Rob Curley - August 24, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ Sean this is so beautiful and your dad was such an amazing and a truly caring person whose family was the most important part of his life!!! We were so fortunate to have known him and enjoyed spending time at the games with him and your mom and family watching you and jack and shared our families gatherings!! You are like our second son and me and Bigs are thinking of you all and now he is at peace!!

Michele and Jack McGuire - August 24, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ When I was younger, I found it odd that Uncle Jack enjoyed the songs of Les Miserables so much. It seemed to be on a constant loop during the week that we shared in Lake Arrowhead each year. But since then, I find that I listen to those songs every time I hear them. I actually know some of them by heart. They always remind me of Uncle Jack, and Aunt Joan, and my parents, and my childhood. I think my own kids find it odd that I play them often. But they'll learn to love them. It'll be a little gift from their Great Uncle Jack.

Joey Connelly - August 24, 2020 at 07:29 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Kate Connelly Olszewski - August 23, 2020 at 09:20 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



August 23, 2020 at 09:14 PM



“ I will always remember Uncle Jack singing “K-K-K-Katie” every time he saw me. It always seemed to me to be such a contrast, when this gruff, tough, bear of a man would break into song. But it always made me smile and feel loved.

Our family has been talking a lot about our Uncle Jack stories this week and even through all our sadness, the stories still make us laugh.

We got to witness the amazing amount of love and care that Uncle Jack’s family has given him, not just through these last many years, but through his whole life. One thing is for sure, he was LOVED.

I talked to my sister Christine today and she summed up pretty much how I was feeling, “I don’t really have the words,” she said, “But I sure am glad he was my Uncle.”

I sure am glad he was my Uncle.

Goodbye Uncle Jack. We love you.

Kate Connelly Olszewski - August 23, 2020 at 09:09 PM



“ Jack you will be missed by all of us You were always so hard working and so generous You helped so many people You fought the good fight Joan and your kids took such good care of you They did you proud I think one of your best friends say it best the other day He was one tough bastard Rest and be at peace know how much you are loved and miss Tell everyone how much we miss them You’ll be surprised to see Barb Frank and Kevin My heart is breaking I love you Marge

Marge Rowland - August 23, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ Matthew , Faye Ploppert purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



Matthew , Faye Ploppert - August 23, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



August 23, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ Nancy Ryan lit a candle in memory of John Joseph Schafer



Nancy Ryan - August 23, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Rest In Peace.

Nancy - August 23, 2020 at 01:01 PM



“ Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



August 22, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of John Joseph Schafer.



August 22, 2020 at 03:24 PM