



John "Jack" Sullivan

March 24, 1925 - December 1, 2016

John C. "Jack" Sullivan, 91, originally of Hudson and, more recently, Claverack, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at Hudson's Columbia Memorial Hospital. The son of James and Beatrice (nee Garrison) Sullivan, Jack was born in Hudson, NY, on March 24, 1925 and graduated from Hudson High School as a member of the Class of 1943.

Immediately upon graduation, he enlisted in the wartime U.S. Navy, where he was assigned to the 7th Beach Battalion, Platoon B4. Jack became, in his own words, one of the members of his unit who was "responsible to get the men and supplies safely across the beach so they could head inland to fight the enemy." At age 19, Jack's first major engagement was in Normandy, France, where his unit arrived at Omaha Beach at Hour 25. Jack served on that famous beach for 22 days – living in a foxhole on the beach – until June 29th, 1944, when the 7th Beach Battalion secured it.

From Normandy, Jack was reassigned to the Pacific Theater, where he and his unit furnished the same service, first during the bloody and costly Battle of Iwo Jima and, finally, at the crushingly long Battle of Okinawa, where America suffered over 70,000 casualties.

Upon returning to the Hudson Valley, he was employed by IBM in Poughkeepsie and Kingston for forty-one years, living, during that period, on

Parker Ave. in Hyde Park with his parents and younger sister, Patty. Jack retired from IBM on July 1st, 1987.

Jack belonged to the Quarter Century Club at IBM, and was a thirty-year member of the Hyde Park Lions Club. He also was an active member of the V.F.W. and the American Legion, as well as the Rogers Point Boat Club in Hyde Park.

Jack loved music, especially the music of the Big Band era, with Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey being among his favorites. He greatly enjoyed his work as a trombonist with the IBM Concert and Dance Band, though, in his typical self-deprecating way, he was quick remind people that his Dad, also a musician, always told him: “The only thing you lack is talent.” Jack and his good friend and fellow musician, Frank Spies, enjoyed many hours talking about music and listening to “the greats.”

Another of Jack’s most endearing – and enduring – qualities was his sense of humor. He kept it until the end. Wherever he was, and no matter who he was with, he had an irrepressible wit. His well-timed delivery of his inventory of humorous Vaudeville-style one-liners will not be forgotten by anyone who had the pleasure of hearing them.

Jack was also known for his extraordinary generosity to his friends and loved ones, always offering help to those in need. For decades, he served as a volunteer for Hospice and took great pride in the simple ministry of companionship and conversation he furnished during the final days of his patients’ lives. He was a prayerful man, reminding his family that “tomorrow is not given,” and was a lifelong parishoner of St. Mary’s/Holy Trinity Parish in Hudson.

Jack was pre-deceased by his parents, James and Beatrice Sullivan, and two

sisters, Margaret Sullivan McNamara and Patricia Sullivan Barnard. He is survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins, including Patricia Simonoff and James (Barbara) and Brian McNamara of Erie, PA, Daniel McNamara of Los Angeles, CA, Scott Barnard (Stephanie) of Atlanta, GA, Laurie Adkins (John) of Guin, AL, and Marlene Carwile (Ray) of Port Richey, FL. Jack is also survived by his very dear friend and companion, Lucy Grater, now of Billerica, MA, and his fellow musician and good and faithful friend, Frank Spies. Over the last decade or so, Jack and Lucy spent countless hours in great companionship and conversation, often while, in Jack's words, "breaking bread" at one of several local restaurants.

Jack will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. He was truly "one of a kind," an authentic representative of the Greatest Generation.

Jack's family extends their special thanks to the following people, all of whom helped ease his passage to his heavenly reward: The staff and administration of Pine Haven Nursing Home, the staff of Columbia Memorial Hospital, especially the nursing staff and Robin on the 2nd floor medical unit, Tina Seecharan, M.D. of Columbia Memorial, Pine Haven's Liz Groat, who advocated so effectively for Jack in his final days, and last, but certainly not least, the paid and volunteer staff of Community Hospice, who attended to Jack as his time drew near. Special thanks too to Walt and Joan Jutkofsky, who showed singular kindness and compassion toward Jack as he declined.

In order to allow adequate time for Jack's loved ones from around the country to plan and travel to Hudson to pay their final respects, a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Saturday July 1, 2017 at 10:00am at Holy Trinity Parish/ St. Mary's Church 429 E. Allen Street Hudson, NY 12534. Burial with Naval Honors will follow at Cedar Park Cemetery.

In keeping with Jack's wishes, in lieu of flowers, please send any memorial gifts to Community Hospice 47 Liberty St. Catskill, NY 12414

To leave online condolences please visit: www.sacomcdonaldvalenti.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 10:55 AM (ET)

St. Marys/ Holy Trinity Parish
429 East Allen Street
Hudson, NY 12534

Committal Prayers

JUL 1. 11:20 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Cedar Park Cemetery
20 Columbia Tpke.
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-0517

Tribute Wall

RO

“ It was always a delight to encounter Jack in one of his strolls around our park, or to see him "breaking bread" with Lucy in a local restaurant. After making sure that you knew his age and that he proudly served with the military for our country, he would share a memory for your enjoyment. Jack was a special person who was a joy to know and we will always cherish our friendship.

Ruth and Les Ogden

Ruth Ogden - June 29, 2017 at 07:58 AM

LB

“ Shortly after marrying my husband Bob, Jack (his then ex-brother-in-law) came to visit us at our home in Atlanta. Needless to say, I was filled with trepidation but my worry was completely unfounded. Jack treated me with respect and kindness from the first time we met. That friendship continued over the years and our last visit with him and Lucy was filled with the fun and laughter that was Jack's trademark. At Bob's funeral last year, he had requested a favorite hymn "Going Home" the lyrics of which contain the words of comfort that in Heaven we will find "all the friends we knew". I know Jack found his friend Bob awaiting and the thought of their reunion brings me joy. Linda Barnard

Linda Barnard - December 26, 2016 at 12:30 PM

MC

“ *Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
R.I.P. Jack. I love you.
Marlene*

Marlene Carwile - December 24, 2016 at 01:22 PM

MC

“ *Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
R.I.P. Jack I love You.
Marlene*

Marlrnr Carwile - December 23, 2016 at 12:51 PM

MC

“ *Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
R.I.P. Jack
Marlene*

Marlene Carwile - December 22, 2016 at 12:41 PM

JL

“ Altho' I only met Jack 3 years ago, I will remember his kindness, humor, his daily walks around the "neighborhood" Always dressed "dapper". He would stop and have a chat and usually tell a one liner..Sang praise to his friend and neighbor Frank who was "the best pianist" Jack had ever heard. I believe he was a man of great faith and is with the Lord. Joan L Miller

Joan M Lezette-Miller - December 21, 2016 at 08:52 AM

PC

“ I was sorry to hear about Jack. His sister Patty was in my class in grade school and F. D. Roosevelt High School, and we had many birthday parties at her house on Parker Avenue in Hyde Park. Jack was always there helping out and looking out for his youngest sister. We were saddened when Patty passed away. I was amazed by Jack's obituary as it gave such a thorough time line of his life. May Jack rest in peace!



Patsy Newman Costello
Hyde Park, NY

Patsy Newman Costello - December 19, 2016 at 08:19 AM

TR

“ Tricia lit a candle in memory of John "Jack" Sullivan



Tricia - December 18, 2016 at 09:50 AM

TR

*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your
fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his
hand.*

Tricia - December 18, 2016 at 09:52 AM

SG

“ Susan Goodsill lit a candle in memory of John
"Jack" Sullivan



Susan Goodsill - December 17, 2016 at 03:43 AM

SG

“ Jack, my friend. you will be forever missed but in my heart forever.
Loved your stories over the years at Hospice. Will miss seeing you
around the meeting room and at our functions. R.I.P. my friend

Susan Goodsill - December 17, 2016 at 03:43 AM

FA

“ 1 file added to the album Jack Sullivan



Family Album - December 13, 2016 at 10:13 AM

FA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Family Album - December 13, 2016 at 10:12 AM

LA

“ *I remember when i was around 5 or 6 years old, that Uncle Jack bought me my first bike without training wheels. It was a red Schwinn with a basket on the front. Uncle Jack always brought so much joy to others and had a heart of gold. I am still wanting to pick up the phone and call him just to say hello. I miss Uncle Jack everyday.*



Laurie Adkins

Laurie Adkins - December 11, 2016 at 04:51 PM

SB

Uncle Jack was a true war Hero and my hero growing up , always there for me an Laurie . Great memories of going to the park, Vanderbilt mansion property , the movies, bowling, going for ice cream. The sweetest and most generous man I have ever known. So glad my family got to know him and get to hear his wit first hand. I was lucky enough to see him 6 weeks before his passing, Love you Uncle Jack, you will be missed by all!

scott barnard - December 12, 2016 at 06:07 PM

MC

“ *Marlene And Ray Carwile lit a candle in memory of John "Jack" Sullivan*



Marlene and Ray Carwile - December 04, 2016 at 11:38 AM