



John "Jack" Fentress Marshall

October 27, 1949 - June 5, 2020

Jack Marshall was loved. And he loved -- Elvis, Churchill, Stax musicians, barbecue, seersucker suits, bow ties and madras, Memphis, fast sports cars, Tiger football and basketball, his wife Jessie and, most of all, the Lord.

John Fentress Marshall, better known as Jack, passed away Friday, June 5, 2020. Born October 27, 1949, Jack was a graduate of Central High School and the University of Memphis, where he studied business. He had a long career as a commodities broker and money manager.

Upon graduation from college in 1973, Jack joined Dean Witter and Company as a commodity broker. In 1977, he and his wife Jessie relocated to Chicago, where Jack worked as a floor trader in the grain markets. Stunned by the ferocity of Chicago's winters, they returned to Memphis in 1978, where Jack continued his work as a broker at various firms, eventually starting his own business. He had a special affinity for two very different commodity markets, soybeans and silver. These two were the source of much joy -- and sometimes angst -- over the years. Recently, Jack was in charge of farmer hedging accounts for Brock Associates of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Well-known in the community, Jack was a longtime member of Second Presbyterian Church, where he belonged to the Faithworks Sunday School class. He was a strong believer and helped several friends come to know the Lord.

Jack counted scores of people as close friends. Between his longtime association with his church, his business, the University Club, and his duck-hunting, poker-playing, cigar-smoking and storytelling buddies, Jack seemed to know everybody, and everybody seemed to know him. On Friday, news of his death spread like wildfire. Literally dozens of friends reached out within hours, and the calls and messages continue to pour in. The family appreciates the support.

Jack served on the board of directors of the Memphis Cotton Exchange and the University

Club. He was a deacon of Second Presbyterian Church. For years, he was an active adult leader and Committee Chairman of Boy Scout Troop 34 at Grace-St Luke's, where his son John became an Eagle Scout, and where Jack was responsible for creating a groundbreaking, innovative fundraising system.

Jack was fanatical about physical fitness, for many years an early morning fixture in the gym, followed by his daily routine of climbing eight flights of stairs to reach his office (if he wasn't out riding his bicycle). Others in his family were exhausted by his lifestyle, only occasionally relieved by his passion for mixing bourbon-based cocktails which were greatly enjoyed at family gatherings.

Jack is survived by the love of his life, his high school sweetheart and wife of 45 years, Jessie Gallagher Marshall. They have three children, Avril Marshall Foote (Guy), of Dallas, Texas, Jordan Marshall Wonsmos (Jeff), of Plano, Texas, and John Gallagher Marshall (Cynthia) of Sewanee, Tennessee, and two grandchildren, William and Lila Wonsmos of Plano. Jack is also survived by two sisters, Dr. Susan Pearson (Tom Watkins) of Lander, Wyoming, Christie Marshall Grothe (Randy) of Dallas and a brother, Jerry Marshall (Elizabeth) of Memphis, along with eight adoring and adored nieces and nephews, and six great-nephews and nieces, and beloved godson Walker Uhlhorn. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Helen Marshall.

A private family service will take place soon, followed by a larger memorial event at an appropriate later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Association for the Bladder Exstrophy Community, <https://www.bladderexstrophy.com/give-now/>, Second Presbyterian Church, or Memphis Union Mission.

Comments



“ Jessie, Avril and family, I am just now learning of Jack's passing, and I am very sad. I am so sorry for your loss! Jack was one of my Sunday School teachers when I was in the youth group at 2PC, and I will always remember him as a very kind and friendly man who was interested in my life even later as an adult. I pray that God will bless you with peace and comfort during this time of mourning. And I hope you will be able to experience the peace of Christ as you look toward the final resurrection. Much love to you all.

William Webb - June 29, 2020 at 11:12 PM



“ Jack had an absolutely beautiful spirit and amazingly lovable heart. He brightened every room he walked into. I hope Jesse and the Marshall family find comfort in knowing that God picks the best flowers from the garden of life, and I'm assured that Jack was one of the most beautiful! Sending prayers of comfort and strength for Jessie and the entire Marshall family.

With love,
Syreeta

Syreeta Butler - June 12, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ Jack was such a wonderful man. I know that he will be missed immensely by all who ever met him. May you all find peace and comfort in the many memories you shared.

--Keshia Williams

Keshia Williams - June 11, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ I really got to know Jack better at our Central dinners. He was such a sweetie and spoke to everyone - not just a HI, but really interested in what you'd been doing and how you were. Not many like him. Glad I had the privilege to know him.

Susan Brown

Susan Brown - June 11, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ Sending love to John and Cynthia and to all the family at this difficult time--Emily Senefeld

emily senefeld - June 10, 2020 at 08:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Fentress Marshall.



June 10, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ Diana Bolen lit a candle in memory of John "Jack" Fentress Marshall



Diana Bolen - June 10, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ I'm so sorry for the family's loss of such a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, & other family member - Jack. I remember nothing but great things about Jack & his neat hats. My prayers are with the family during this time. God bless each & every one of you.

Jesse special Huggs from Missouri to Memphis to you

Diana - June 10, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ What a great privilege to have called Jack a friend. We met my Freshman year at CHS, and Jack being an upperclassman, was quick to offer a smile and welcoming attitude. WOW, that smile he flashed so often, anyone that ever met Jack understands this statement. His open and genuine way never changed and he was always so very glad to see you whether it was a few days or a few years.

A true Christian and and fine Memphis Gentleman, our friend Jack will be sorely missed by so many.

Jessie, Cindy and I have you and the family in our thoughts and prayers. May The Lord have his hand on you through this difficult time.

Marshall's.....you all have much to be proud of!
God bless each of you.

Jeff W Compton

Jeff W Compton - June 10, 2020 at 12:37 PM



“ Jessie,
Jan and I are sending our condolences and prayers for you and your family. Many times over the last 40 years, my brother Gil and I would bump in to Jack at many Tiger functions and events and always walked away feeling enriched and better informed after our time visiting with Jack. Lucky Tigers for having a big time Devine Tiger Cheerleader. Our love to you and your family.

Jan & Terry

TERRY J CALLAWAY - June 10, 2020 at 12:25 AM



“ Sending my deepest condolences to the Marshall family. You all were a beacon of light during a dark time in my life. Jack and Jessie took me in and for that I will always be grateful. It was an honor to know the Marshalls. Sending love to the family during a difficult time. I know you all will carry on his memory and his legacy. <3



Milo Manopoulos Beitman - June 09, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ He was so fond of you and wanted to help in any way he could. Thank you for honoring him by contributing to Lila's bladder exstrophy association. He would be so touched by your thoughtfulness.

Love,
Jordan

jordan W. - June 11, 2020 at 01:30 AM



“ Hey Jack when you see our old buddy, Batman, yours and my favorite duck dog, hang on to him. someday we'll all be together and we'll chase those ol greenheads in heaven

gumbo - June 09, 2020 at 04:58 PM



“ There aren't many men as kind, and caring as Jack Marshall was. My fondest memories will be the relaxed, casual, fun nights at Dino's with our group of CHS former classmates. Jack originated this and managed to keep it going for years. He never missed speaking to everyone individually who came in the room. Quite a smoozer! The kindest, gentlest voice he would always make you feel like you were the only person in the room he wanted to talk to. I will miss him alot. I know his mother will be glad to welcome him home.

alicia allen king - June 09, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ This is Jack's daughter, Jordan. Dino's was such a perfect venue for Central High and he loved those nights. My mother just added that he told her you were one of the few people who would help him with his paper route while at Central. Thank you for remembering him.

jordan M. Wonsmos - June 18, 2020 at 08:51 PM