



Jack Owen Watson

June 28, 1942 - August 19, 2018

The spirit of Jack Owen Watson of Mooresville was reunited with God on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Born June 28, 1942 and a native of Greensboro, he was predeceased by parents Owen and Fannie Watson and brother Mark. Jack graduated from Greensboro Senior High School, now Grimsley, where he was a member of Torchlight, the national honor society, and of the football and wrestling teams, being named Sportsman of the Year and Wrestler of the Year in 1960. Assisted by scholarships, he acquired a degree in applied mathematics at NC State University and his varsity letter in wrestling and served as president of the NC Beta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, the Interfraternity Council and New Arts, an organization bringing emerging musical styles to campus. At State, he was named to the honor societies for each of the four class years and was All-Campus in intramural track and field.

Jack began his career at the Cincinnati headquarters of the Procter & Gamble Company, working in the brand management system. He extended this experience in 1968 to RJ Reynolds in Winston-Salem, later serving there, in succession, as Director of Marketing Services, Director of Marketing Planning and Director of Duty Free Marketing worldwide. While at RJR he was awarded certification in strategic planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1980 he accepted the position of Director of Advertising of the Wrangler Group in Greensboro and was later named President of their Womenswear Division. Other notable career stops included Vice President of

Marketing in the sock division of Greensboro's Kayser Roth Corporation, later becoming CEO of the Stanback Company in Salisbury. While there he served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce and the United Way, where he was active in its fund raising efforts.

Upon the sale of Stanback to Block Drug in 2001, Jack tested early retirement for a year before partnering with Jim Riggs, a previous associate at Wrangler, to form the LakeShore Consulting Group, providing the tools and coaching for the management teams of closely-held companies to create their own strategic business plans.

Jack was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt, fish, canoe and backpack. A member of the Scouting movement, some of his fondest memories revolved around these experiences, to include serving as counselor at the General Greene Council's camp at Brown's Summit, N.C., first teaching the merit badges of Forestry, Hiking and Camping and then as Assistant Waterfront Director, where he provided instruction in the Swimming, Rowing, Canoeing and Lifesaving badges.

Beyond camp counseling, his summer jobs following high school principally were lifeguarding and swimming pool management, first in Greensboro at the Elks Club, then the Hamilton Lakes Club and finally as manager of the Lila Jones pool in Apex during its inaugural year of 1963. It was there that he met the love of his life, Kathy Whittington, whom he married in 1965.

Jack described himself as a "Constitutionalist," believing that the United States was the greatest political force for good in the world. He was a lover of history, current events and the English language. An avid reader and a student of public policy, he enjoyed vigorous dialogue concerning human nature, economics, politics and morality, often writing on these subjects. Importantly, through these pursuits, he strengthened his Christian faith, and

with Kathy became a devoted member of Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church in Mooresville.

Recreationally, he was content in his later years to gathering with his family and socially with fraternity brothers and their wives and being an enthusiastic supporter of NC State athletics and the Carolina Panthers. He also enjoyed frequent trips to the Caribbean and to North Carolina's beautiful sea coast and mountains. Indeed, referring to it as his "post-bucket list," he asked to be cremated, with portions of his ashes deposited in several locations in the state that he held so dear.

Jack is survived by Kathy, sister Linda Hedgecock of Kernersville, and his pride, joy and legacy, children Dr. Kevin Watson of Salisbury and Lara Durbin of Waynesville, along with their wonderful spouses, Amber and Tom, and world-class grandchildren Zoë, Quinnlan and Keeley Watson and Katie and Jake Durbin.

A Memorial Service will be held in his honor on Sunday, August 26 at 2:00 PM at Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church, 575 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Visitation for family and friends will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials to Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home and Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Watson family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **26**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church
575 Brawley School Road
Mooreville, NC 28117

Public Viewing

AUG **26**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church
575 Brawley School Road
Mooreville, NC 28117

Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Owen Watson*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Jack Owen Watson*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Jack Owen Watson*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Iris Brewer Humble lit a candle in memory of Jack Owen Watson*



Iris Brewer Humble - August 23, 2018 at 03:01 PM

MP

“ *Kathy and family,*

Jack meant the world to me both as a mentor and friend. I learned many things from Jack that helped me both in the business world and personal life. He was affectionately known as Captain Jack to our kids and they still speak fondly about their time at your first lake house.

We will cherish our memories of Jack and celebrate the life he led.

Mark and Beth Pate

Mark Pate - August 22, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Jack Owen Watson.*



August 22, 2018 at 11:40 AM

LG

“ *Oh, Kathy, I am so sad to learn that Jack has passed. We worked together for years at RJR and I still miss him! He was special! Love to you, Lyons Gray*

Lyons Gray - August 22, 2018 at 10:05 AM