



John James Sears

November 7, 1942 - April 23, 2026

John James "Jack" Sears, 83, of Mooresville, North Carolina, formerly of Freeville, New York, passed away on April 23, 2026. He was born on November 7, 1942, to Carl and Margaret Sears.

Jack graduated from Ithaca High School in 1960 and went on to attend SUNY Morrisville, graduating in 1962. He dedicated 35 years of service to Cornell University as a heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration technician. His work touched nearly every corner of campus—from managing air conditioning systems in countless buildings to maintaining the ice at Lynah Rink.

Jack met the love of his life, Margaret Todi, on a blind date in 1962. They married on April 4, 1964, in a small ceremony in Ithaca. Following his retirement, they spent several enjoyable years in Florida before making Mooresville, North Carolina, their home in 2006.

Jack had a lifelong love of working with his hands and pursuing hobbies that allowed him to create, fix, or explore something new. He was a private pilot for several years and found great satisfaction in building and flying remote-control airplanes, helicopters, and boats, woodworking, caring for his property, and many other favorite pastimes.

Preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Margaret Sears, Jack is survived by his devoted wife of 62 years, Margaret Todi Sears, and their faithful dog, Gizmo, who provided endless joy and companionship. He is also survived by his daughters, Christine (Patrick) McGroder of Sunset Beach, North Carolina, and Deborah (Justin Williams) Hoover of Slaterville Springs, New York; former son-in-law Randy Hoover; grandsons Andrew (Alexandra Bond) Hoover, Timothy Hoover, Seth (Maggie) McGroder, and Jeremy (Natalie) McGroder; step-grandchildren Brendan Williams and Molly Williams; two great-grandchildren; his brother, Richard (Susan) Sears of Stevensville, Maryland; his sister, Nancy (David) Nivison of Cortland, New York; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of Jack's life will be planned at a later date.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Sears family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ John was a patient of mine for many years. We loved visiting with him and will miss him dearly. He was a hard working man. My condolences to the family.

Robin Sweet - May 15 at 09:40 AM

CH

“ My deepest condolences go out to Jacks family. Jack worked with my falther at Cornell for many years and later with my husband Pat. When he was in town he would stop by for a visit to catch up the story he shared, leaving with a jar of Strawberry Jam.



Charlene Haskell - May 01 at 09:15 AM

JE

“ I new jack from the acandr shop at Cornell jack took great pride in lynah ronl

JOSEPH EVANITSKY - April 30 at 06:09 PM

JJ

“ I first met Jack when I got out of the Navy in 1973. He kept his airplane at a grass air strip where my dad had his airplane. We hit it off. We flew together, built an equipment trailer and we both bought backhoes that needed work. We worked together well. , also rode snowmobiles together. Carol and I used to go square dancing with Jack and Marge and my parents. When my father (Jack), myself (Jack Jr), and John (Jack) were together someone would call out Jack and we all would respond. I nicknamed John (Jack) Henry and he called me Luther. We lost contact after they moved from Florida, so we had not been in contact for many years. In February of 2023 I got in touch with Debi to get his phone number. We had a great long call, We spoke and text often. Carol and I were able to go and visit Jack and Marge. We had a great day visiting. It is amazing how much work he accomplished on their property. He cut down many trees and milled lumber on his own sawmill. He also built some impressive buildings. He was also a great mechanic. Rebuilding and restoring tractors in recent years. I was very impresses with the work he was still able to do. He also was woodworking. Recently he started playing steel guitar. I already miss our calls and text.
Jack Hurlbutt

Jack C. Hurlbutt Jr - April 28 at 05:15 PM