



John Mahlon Wellnitz

JAN 4, 1928 - DEC 24, 2014



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Paris-John M. "Jack" Wellnitz, 86, of Paris passed away Wednesday December 24, 2014 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on January 4, 1928 in Minneapolis, MN, the son of Edward M. and Ione (Parsonage) Wellnitz. Jack is survived by Joan, his wife of 37 years, three children, Clare Wellnitz of Los Angeles, CA, Mat (Terri) Wellnitz of Big Rapids, Michelle (Marc) Littleton of Belleville, MI, Joan's children Rebecca (Eric) Priebe of Saline, Mary (Mark) Waldron of Big Rapids and Thomas (Vickie) Southworth of Royal Oak, five grandchildren, Audrey Waldron, Dean Waldron, Austin and Jackson Littleton and Charlotte Southworth. He was preceded in death by his grandparents who came to the United States from Germany, his parents and a stepson, Roger Southworth. Jack played Baritone saxophone in high school. He performed in a 16 piece band which was assembled based on a national competition. They won the "All American Swing Band Competition" at Carnegie Hall. Soon thereafter he joined the "Johnnie Bothwell Big Band", performing around the United States for two years. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Jack worked for GMAC for over 30 years. He served as Green Charter Township Supervisor for 20 years. Jack continued his love of playing the saxophone in several bands in the Big Rapids area, to include WCCB, Community band and the "Don't Get No Respect Gang". He sang in the United Church Choir for over 40 years. One of Jack's favorite sports was FSU hockey. He was a member of the Solid Ice and Blue Line Clubs. Jack had season tickets from the very first year. A memorial service for Jack will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 3, 2015 at the United Church in Big Rapids with Pastor Jon Fleming officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the United Church of Big Rapids, Hospice of Michigan or SOLID ICE.



Tribute Wall

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LM

Linda Milam posted:

Jack we will so miss you at the golf outing and the baseball game. You were a true supporter of FSU hockey! You and Joannie took me and Houdini in every weekend for four years so I could watch Troy play. You were one of the kindest men I have ever known.

January 25 at 8:00 PM

SM

Shawn Macfarlane posted:

On behalf of all of the MacFarlanes, our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Joan and Jack's family. A great neighbor and friend, Jack will be missed but never forgotten.

December 30 at 8:00 PM

JM

Jack Mitchell posted:

Heaven received a great person. He will be missed on earth.

December 28 at 8:00 PM

GH

Gale L Hebel posted:

God bless you, Jack. My life was brighter knowing you. It was a joy to sing with you at church and to share your love of music. I will miss you, my friend.

December 27 at 8:00 PM

RM

Rex Mortensen posted:

So sorry to be reading this. I've known the Southworth's all my life as well as knowing Matt and Claire since high school days

December 26 at 8:00 PM

FN

Frank & Deb Nash posted:

Jack was a real trooper. Always made it to family gatherings, and even managed fit a nap in as well! He will be missed. Frank and Deb Nash

December 25 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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