



John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell

April 5, 1939 - December 3, 2014

John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell, whose ever-present kindness blessed the lives of a proud family, peacefully entered into the presence of the Lord on Dec. 3, 2014 in Branford, CT at the age of 75. Jack, the shining example of a gentleman, was a loving and devoted husband. He is survived by his wife Paula Grant McDonnell. Jack and Paula, who resided both in Cheshire, Connecticut and Branford's Hotchkiss Grove, celebrated fifty years of marriage this past summer.

Jack was most proud of his three children and four grandchildren. They were a constant part of his daily life surrounding him with love and laughs. In Jack's final days his daughters Alison Grant Velez (McDonnell) and Rebecca Grant Tessitore (McDonnell) joined Paula with comfort and care for Jack before he reunited with his son Sean and sister Ellen. Jack is survived by his daughter Alison, her husband Dalton Velez of Guilford, and cherished granddaughters Crystal and Gabriela. Jack also leaves behind his daughter Rebecca, her husband Joe Tessitore of Wallingford and Jack's namesake grandson John Vincent and adored granddaughter Nicolina. Jack is predeceased by his son Sean Grant McDonnell, his sister Ellen (McDonnell) Ferguson of Branford, and his parents. Jack was the son of John and Marie (Fogarty) McDonnell of New Haven.

Jack's family includes loving sister-in-law Robin Cianciolo (Grant) and family

of Larkspur, CA, Loyal brother-in-law's Ray Ferguson and family of Branford, Gary Grant and family of Glastonbury, and Bruce Grant and family of Milford. He will be fondly remembered as Uncle Jack to many loving nieces and nephews.

Jack was an alumnus both of Villanova University and Brown University. Born and raised in New Haven, he attended Notre Dame High School. A lifelong voracious reader he taught college English courses at both Brown and Quinnipiac University. He would help lead McDonnell's Coffee, the family's business legacy, for many years. He balanced his work with a commitment to service to others. Jack had saved lives as a trained paramedic and volunteer firefighter.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Jack's life of goodness with a Roman Catholic funeral mass at Church of the Resurrection, 115 Pond Hill Road in Wallingford, CT on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 11:00am. Prior to mass the family will receive visitation from 9:30am until 10:30am at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Avenue in Hamden, CT. Burial will follow at New Saint Bridget Cemetery in Cheshire.

Donations in memory of Jack can be made to The Connecticut Hospice at hospice.com/donate/ways-to-support/

www.siskbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

St. Bridget

Cheshire, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

DEC 9. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Funeral service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of The Resurrection
115 Pond Hill Rd.
Wallingford, CT

Tribute Wall



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell.*



December 08, 2014 at 11:49 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell.*



December 08, 2014 at 10:45 AM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell.*



December 07, 2014 at 04:23 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell.*



December 07, 2014 at 04:04 PM

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“ *The most caring and sweet husband and father. You will be missed.
XOOX Nicole Koester*

Nicole Koester - December 07, 2014 at 09:12 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the
family of John Vincent "Jack" McDonnell.*



December 05, 2014 at 09:13 AM