

Jack was very happy to know, we wanted to setup a scholarship in his name. And he requested it be for student going into Counseling careers. Jack's Family thank you for any donations given.

Send Donations to:

Solano College Foundation
PO Box 2208
Fairfield, CA 94533

Please mark checks - Lawrence "Jack" Wheeler Memorial

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Lawrence "Jack" Wheeler

August 15, 1933
January 13, 1998

Poems

GOD SAW HE WAS GETTING TIRED
AND A CURE WAS NOT TO BE
SO HE PUT HIS ARMS AROUND HIM
AND WHISPERED, " COME WITH ME"
WITH TEARFUL EYES WE WATCHED HIM
SUFFER, AND SAW HIM FADE AWAY.
ALTHOUGH WE COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE
HIM, WE COULD NOT BID HIM TO STAY.
A GOLDEN HEART STOPPED BEATING.
HARD WORKING HANDS LAID TO REST.
GOD BROKE OUR HEARTS TO PROVE TO US
HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST.

Hold fast to your memories,
to all of the cherished moments
of the past,
to the blessings and the laughter,
the joys and the celebrations,
the sorrow and the tears.
They all add up to a treasure
of fond yesterdays
that you shared and spent together,
and they keep the one you loved
close to you in spirit and thought.
The special moments
and memories in your life
will never change.
They will always be in your heart,
today and forevermore.

-Linda E. Knight

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FOR
LAWRENCE "JACK" WHEELER

Introductions (Starting at 7:00PM)	Ron Nelson SCC Counselor
	Carolyn Orcutt Jack Wheeler's sister
Prayer	Pastor Don French
Family Tribute	Wheeler Family
Speaker	Martin Mini SCC Counselor
	Doris Higgins SCC Counselor
Solo "O Mio Babbino Caro" by Puccini	Alma Hollinsead SCC Counselor
Accompanied by	Tim Hollinsead
Speakers	Ted Harding SCC Counselor
	Alma Hollinsead SCC Counselor
	Jim Bracy Dean of Student Services
Closing	Ron Nelson

Please join the Wheeler Family for refreshments immediately following.

Jack learned a great deal during his marriage. I believe it helped in his own Classes to be able to share.

Jack loved Jazz Music. He had become an expert at Computer technology. He loved photography. And he loved his coworkers and the students.

November 1996 - Jack had his bladder removed, it was solid cancer. He was in surgery 8 hours and had 6 units of blood given. After a few days in ICU he improved.

At home he worked hard to get himself built back up. He went through radiation therapy for a few months. Finally in July he actually felt good. The doctors did routine scans, only to find out a couple days before his 64th birthday the cancer had spread to his spine, lower lungs and around a ureter.

The doctors gave him about 6 months to live. Unfortunately he didn't feel good most of those days.

Jack has always been a quiet inward type person, except to the few people he let get very close. As family we saw glimpses of the "Real Jack".

Jack recently planned a flower garden in his new brick planter (my grandson, Tyler and I planted it for him). He said he wouldn't get to see the flowers bloom, but wanted me to take pictures every 2 weeks. Some of those plants are a foot tall now.

Jack was working on his web page, "Captain Jack's tour of the Wine Country". He kept in touch with friends by e-mail. But, the last 5 weeks it became more difficult to work at the computer.

It was hard for Jack to accept sympathy and as a result, he was uncomfortable having friends over. But, he told me there were many friends at work that he really liked.

On January 13, 1998 Jack was alert until he took a medication for pain. At that time I asked him if there was anything else you want to say or tell anyone. He said no it all had been said. He let me say a prayer for him. Then he told me, "It will be OK baby - It will be OK", these were his last words. He passed on a few hours later with his mother, 2 sisters, bother-in-law, Niece Tammy and her son Tyler at his side.

I feel he is Happy to be free.

Written by
Carolyn Orcutt



Lawrence "Jack" Wheeler
August 15, 1933
January 13, 1998

August 15, 1933 Jack was born to Minnie & Lawrence (Jack SR.) Wheeler. Jack's father was a sailor on the U.S.S Tennessee. Jack was the first child in the family and was a cute curly haired baby boy. He was loved by everyone. He was two when he had a mastoid surgery; which left him with poor hearing on one side.

Jack's little sister, Sharon, arrived when Jack was 5 and Jack's Dad was basically out of the picture. But Mom, Jack and Sharon lived with Grandma & Grandpa in a very big house.

Then war broke out and all the Uncles joined the services. Mom got a job for the Red Cross. When she met Lewis 2nd husband. Then came Jack's 2nd baby sister, Carolyn. Jack was then 11. Jack was a smart little boy. He loved animals and he had a dog named Jigs. He got into lots of trouble for being inquisitive and mischievous at times. He smoked up the house with his Chemistry set one day. Jack raised pigeons as a youth.

As the war ended so did Mom's marriage and we all ended up living with Grandma & Grandpa.

Jack attended Fremont Grammar School, Santa Rosa Jr. High and Santa Rosa High School. But, had to finish high school in bed.

Then June 4, 1950 Jack went with a group of friends to the Russian River at Healdsburg to swim. They had been swimming for awhile when Jack dove into the river. He hit a sand bar. He didn't come up for a while, so his friends went to get him. After pulling him out, they stood him up despite him saying his neck was broken. Needless to say he fell down; severing his spinal cord. He was now a quadriplegic. After 10 months in Crutchfield Tongs, in the Sonoma County Hospital, Jack was released. At that time he was unable to feed himself. With the devotion and care of our mother Jack finished high school in bed. Jack developed a love for flower gardens and also raised parakeets.

Jack started working for a local photographer, retouching negatives. He became interested in photography. He and Mom went to Santa Barbara for a 2 week course in photography.

1959 - with all the money Jack, Sharon and Mom got together we bought our 1st home away from our grandparents.

There Jack opened Southwood Studio. Within a year and a half he moved to, Mayette Photography, in a small shopping center, with a friend.

1964 - Jack bought a car and had me go with him on his first drive since his injury. It was a Sunday and a nice day for a country drive. The brakes failed and we went head on into a tree. Jack had broken both legs, knee, pelvis and hand. But, would not go in the ambulance with me. He went home with a lady, telling our mother he killed me (I had a large cut on my forehead - when I hit the windshield - cars had no seat belts then). I was in the hospital 3 days. Jack was in the hospital for 3 weeks and a long time at home. He had metal plates put in both legs. During his convalescing his partner had taken Mayette Photography down, and taken all the money.

Jack went into a depressed period of time and in the late '60s sought counseling. After going through some "Hippie Times" the counselor encouraged him to at least check out college. Take some tests, see where his interests might be. In other words if you are not happy do something to change your life.

Jack was surprised when he tested out to be at a physician level. Unable to do the physical side of being a doctor. He went to the next thing a psychologist. So, he headed to college, graduated with his bachelor degree in 3 years at Sonoma State College in 1972. He went on Fresno State graduating with his masters degree in 1974. He would have finished sooner, but he had gotten pneumonia and then Endo Carditis (infection in the heart muscle). This left him with a weaker heart and problems to deal with for the rest of his life.

Jack and Mom moved back to S.R., where Jack worked for 2 years as a counselor for The Teacher Association.

There were no jobs available at the local college at the time.

1975 - Jack was hired at Solano Community College. Where he was a Professor and Counselor until August 1996. He was forced to retire because of his medical condition.

He really hated to leave the school because as he said recently "I have always thought of myself as a "gimp" but I could say look at me. See what I can do. I can be a productive person. I can make a difference!"

It is though this action we all saw him encourage other - be what you can be. Why let things get in your way - Push on.

Jack was married to Janice Keys August 7, 1979 to September 1982. Though his marriage didn't last, it provided Jack with total independence and a chance to love and be loved.