



Jack E. Keyser

June 4, 2022

Jack E. Keyser died June 4, 2022, at Moravian Manor in Lititz, Pennsylvania. He was 91 years old. Born in 1930, Jack was the first son of Thelma Gladys Hoke and Earl E. Keyser, who was editor of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania Intelligencer Journal from 1944 to 1955. His only sibling, E. Edward Keyser, was born in 1938.

Jack graduated from Manheim Township High School in 1948 and attended Utah State University where he received a B.A. degree in 1957. During his college years, Jack served in the Air Force as Senior Information Specialist at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona and as a reporter based in Guam for the Stars and Stripes newspaper during the Korean War.

Jack met Janet Myers in 1952, and after several years of long-distance courtship, they were married in January 1956. Their 66-year marriage until Janet's death in January took Jack and Janet through numerous career changes as writers and editors, as loving parents to their two children, and as avid travelers who loved to entertain friends and family. Jack was a lifelong Democrat who celebrated all Democratic Administrations from F.D.R. to Joe Biden, who met several Presidents and served under one.

He was Farm Editor at the Intelligencer Journal newspaper in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from 1958 until 1966. He then joined the U.S. Peace Corps,

serving as a Program Officer in Washington, DC and Manila, Philippines until 1970, returning to the Intelligencer Journal in 1971, where he won an award for his coverage of Hurricane Agnes in 1972. The election of Jimmy Carter led him back to Washington where he was a speechwriter for the Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland until 1980. Jack then went to Ibadan, Nigeria where he served as director of public affairs for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture until 1985. Jack also was Press Secretary to Senator John Melcher of Montana and a consultant to the CGIAR, a global agricultural research partnership funded by the United Nations and other governmental entities.

In retirement, Jack was able to pursue his numerous passions: preparing fabulous meals and beloved martinis, swimming laps at the F&M pool, assembling a tremendous stamp collection, and traveling as much as possible, Jack also loved spending time with his grandchildren. A great raconteur and delightful curmudgeon, Jack loved hosting visitors and giving tours of Lancaster County, especially driving the back roads where he spent so much time as a farm reporter.

He is survived by his two children, Jane Gironde and husband, Gene of Springfield, Virginia, Ed Keyser of Takoma Park, Maryland, and three grandchildren: Peter Gironde, Carolyn Gironde, and Johanna Keyser.

A Funeral Service will be held at St. James Episcopal Church, 119 N. Duke Street in Lancaster on Friday, July 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Clean Air Task Force, 114 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109-2421.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
119 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I was a rookie reporter at the Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal in Summer 1974 when I first met Jack, who was on the editor’s desk. He was a constant source of encouragement, taking me under his wing as I learned the business and the city. What I remember most about Jack was his quick, sly wit. I remember approaching the managing editor’s office one afternoon, only to be waved off by Jack: “Not now, Dave. The elephants are trumpeting.” I’d be pecking away on a story at my desk, only to notice him suddenly hovering above me. “What you need, Kling,” he’d remark, “is a good shot in the chops.” He never failed to draw a smile from me. Occasionally, he would regale me with stories from his Peace Corps days, share a tale of his own mischievous past antics about town or crack wise about some pomposity associated with the staff or the city. I lived and worked in Lancaster for only two years nearly 50 years ago, but it says something about Jack that I still remember him vividly today. I was, and remain, grateful for his mentorship and friendship during my formative professional years in journalism. Thanks so much, Jack. Rest in peace.

David Kling - July 27, 2022 at 11:07 AM

SF

“ Stacy Frey lit a candle in memory of Jack E. Keyser



Stacy Frey - July 18, 2022 at 10:12 AM