



John E. Holden

May 31, 2013

John E. Holden, alias Jack, took the Deep Six, Monday, May 27, 2013 at the Willow Valley Retirement Community after a life filled with endless laughter and debauchery. While flying his beloved Corsair as a Marine Fighter Pilot during WWII he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his combat activities, the Air Medal for action in Okinawa in 1945 and the Distinguished Fleeing Cross for avoiding numerous women who were seeking child support under unproven circumstances.

After WWII he spent eight years with the Armstrong Cork Company and resigned with the title of Assistant Director of Advertising plus a dinky pension. He then joined the Hubley Toy Company and later became an independent toy designer.

He was a longstanding member of the Lancaster Country Club, the Hamilton Club and the International Mickey Mouse Club from which he was immediately banned after providing housing for a number of stray cats.

For many years prior to his demise, he wrote a tongue in cheek publication at Willow Valley called "The Wrinkle Valley News" where he had close to a thousand readers whom he referred to as "The Inmates of Wrinkle Valley." They fully enjoyed his creative humor and his intention to help them make unwise decisions in their hectic lives.

Jack was widowed ten years ago after sixty-one years of marriage to Elaine Ewing Holden. He has had a number of other wives recently, none of which were his. Three daughters Holly, Wendy and Anne Holden and a son, John E. Holden, Jr. have managed to survive despite being related to their father. His last words were "I'm really going to miss myself."

Stay tuned for the "Gone Away" party to which the invitation may never come. In all seriousness, in lieu of flowers, please send donations to Honor Flight, 300 E. Auburn Avenue, Springfield, OH 45505 or www.honorflight.org.

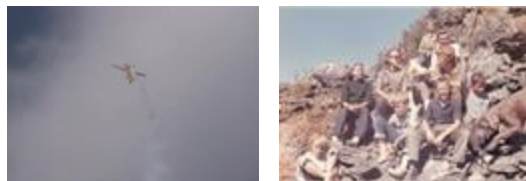
Jack Holden wrote this obituary several years ago.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ That picture of Jack below is in my mother's apartment in Willow Valley.
This video demonstrates one of Jack's skills.
The family picture was a Holden-Mann hike on the Susquehanna River.

Bruce Mann seachanger@gmail.com



Bruce Eric Mann - June 23, 2025 at 07:51 PM

BM

“ Jack was like a father to me. I am a little late here.

Condolences to Ann, Wendy and Holly.



Bruce Eric Mann - June 23, 2025 at 07:33 PM



“ John E. Holden

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

LJ

“ Anne

It feels like the end of an era with your father gone. I remember how fun he was when our group of six graders were scampering around the house in Neffsville. I liked looking at his collection of antique toys on the shelves in the front rooms, not to mention playing in his car, the Delahay (spelling, no idea!), with the wood fold down bar. He will be greatly missed. Missing you too, Anne. Hope you got my email. Love Liz

Liz Jarvis - June 29, 2013 at 09:28 AM

LB

“ Wow....what a man. He sure was a blessing to have in your lives. I didn't know John, but sure wish I had met him. While searching for an obituary I came across this and it brought a smile to my face and made me chuckle several times. I had to share this with others, which brought smiles to many as well. Thank you for allowing us a sneak peek at a remarkable person.

Linda Bish - June 19, 2013 at 08:17 AM

HS

“ Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni.

Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever.

Thank you for your service to this nation.

Harry Simpson - June 08, 2013 at 02:15 PM

RH

“ To the Holden family. I'm sorry to hear of your father's passing. I remember your father and your mother from when I was a boy playing with John when you lived on Valley Road. Your parents were always welcoming to one of the neighborhood kids who played in their spring house (John's clubhouse), in the Delahey? in the barn, with Hubley toys, and drove Wendy's Fiat around the field. Fond memories of my youth provided by your mother and father.

Ron Henry - June 07, 2013 at 08:37 PM

B.

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Holden, but I can tell he was a good man who knew how important it is to look for humor in what can be a difficult world. For what it's worth, I would like to offer my condolences to Mr. Holden's family and friends. I'm sure he will be greatly missed and his memory always treasured.

B. - June 07, 2013 at 04:38 PM

DM

“ To Jack Holden's family and friends... I didn't know him, but through his self written obituary I got the sense of what a special person he must of been. Such a sense of humor. Sorry for your loss, but I'm sure heaven is enjoying him as much as his earthly family. Take care...

Deb McLaughlin - June 07, 2013 at 03:23 PM

MS

“ To the Family of John Holden and to his friends,

My deepest sympathy on your loss. He must have been a wonderful man judging by his self written obit. It would have been a joy and an honor to have met him.

May your memories of him comfort you now and in the future.

Maureen Sullivan - June 07, 2013 at 10:21 AM

LK

“ Wendy (Sydney and Hannah), Anne, Holly, and John,

Sorry to hear of the loss of your father. He truly was a remarkable man. We were lucky to have had your mother and father as neighbors for so many years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Linda Keener and family

Linda Keener - June 06, 2013 at 10:53 PM

CH

“ I wish I would have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Holden. What a unique and special person he must have been.

chryst - June 06, 2013 at 10:40 PM

CA

“ Dear Jack's Kids,
I did not personally meet your father, but do know that he was well loved at Wrinkle Valley. I believe my father's adjustment to life at Wrinkle Valley was eased by the discovery of your father and his sense of humor. As my father is currently out of the country and incommunicado, I am writing on his behalf in saying that knowing your father is an honor. Thanks to my father (and many other residents), your father's humor was shared well beyond the acres surrounding Willow Valley. My deepest sympathies to you and yours---be comforted that he continues to touch others, both through his writings and through his family, as you remember him.

Catherine - June 06, 2013 at 10:20 PM

JJ

“ To the Holden family - I am so sorry to learn for your dad's passing. Lauren, Jimmy, and Chad had so many fond memories of your dad. They were wide-eyed as they described his workshop and the fun they had playing with his prototypes. They loved the wild rides in "a real Army jeep" - that was so cool to our three (then) young children. Finally, Lauren will always be thankful for a particularly warm gesture. While a student at LCDS, she was not always feeling like she "belonged". One day, Mr. Holden drove up in his limo complete with driver's cap to pick her up after school. I hope he (and Anne) knew how much that made her day as an awkward teenager. These are just a few memories from a small window in Jack's life. He was, indeed, from the greatest generation. Hope to meet him on the other side. JAJ

Jerri Anne Johnson - June 06, 2013 at 07:45 PM

AA

“ Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky,
Be with them always in the air,
In dark'ning storms or sunlight fair.
O, Hear us when we lift our prayer
For those in peril in the air.

Eternal Father, grant, we pray
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
Their land to serve, thy law fulfill;
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps.

And when at length his course is run,
His work for home and country done,
Of all the souls o'er ocean sailed
Let not one life in thee have failed;
But hear from heaven our pilot's cry,
And grant eternal life on high!

Semper Fi, Marine... See 'ya at Happy Hour

A Marine Aviator - June 06, 2013 at 07:11 PM

MA

“ Had he chosen to be cremated I'm sure he would have provided the
marshmallows. :-)
God speed!

Matt - June 06, 2013 at 12:14 PM

CC

“ Jack must have been a lovely man to make light of such a sad time for those that knew him through his sense of humor. I lost my father a month ago and to read this helped ease my lingering sorry for him by reminding me of his funny sayings and quirks. Praying for your healing, Holden Family. It seems, with the help of the internet, you have many kind strangers appreciating who your father was and are praying for you all. God Bless!

Carrie -South Carolina - June 06, 2013 at 07:52 AM

JU

“ I enjoyed your obituary, sounds like you were a happy guy, I didn't know you, but I can tell you enjoyed life, and for that I applaud you, not everyone can do that. Rest In Peace. Or as I like to say Rest in Pieces (because I plan to donate my entire body to science).

Julie - June 06, 2013 at 07:39 AM

JP

“ Dear Wendy, Anne, Holly and John,
My sincere condolences.
I am very fortunate to have known Jack. I remember meeting with him on the farm in the mid 70's for a possible summer job working with him and Art on toy inventions and design. I took that job which turned into a 14-year relationship. Spending time with Jack was always a joy and a learning experience for me. The lunches in B-town, dinners in Lancaster, New York and Providence and the many movies we watched together, Jack loved the movies. I also have fond memories of the farm... taking long walks with Jack down to the quarry discussing business or just life in general and looking over the on-going work on his beloved collection of E-Jags. We shared a lot of laughs, we both had a sense of humor, but he was a master. Thank you Wendy for hooking us up again last year. I'll miss Jack. He was an extraordinary man, a true gentleman and a friend.

Joe Perez - June 06, 2013 at 03:35 AM

SI

“ *I never knew Jack Holden but 'met' him today through the wonders of the Internet and so, on the other side of the planet here in South Africa, I raise a glass to a man who clearly knew how to make others smile and I wish his family comfort in good memories as they grieve.*

Sioux - June 06, 2013 at 02:11 AM

DE

“ *To the Holden family,
I do not know you nor did I know Mr. Holden but I did read his obituary through a Facebook post. What a wonderful man he must have been and how sad it is that he is not with you anymore. I am sure condolences from a stranger mean little but I am truly sorry for your loss.*

Dee - June 05, 2013 at 11:54 PM

LG

“ *To Jack's children:
Add me to the long list of people who never knew your dad but truly wish they had. You must have such wonderful memories! My prayers are with you in this sad time. My dad has been in Heaven for 18 years now and I just know he's laughing at your dad's take on life - and eternity. God bless all of you!*

Lisa G - June 05, 2013 at 11:50 PM

ME

“ Holden Family, I didn't have the pleasure of meeting your father, and like many I saw his obituary on Facebook. I sincerely hope you take a huge measure of comfort in knowing how many total strangers have a smile on their face when they read his words. He sounds like he lived life and was wicked funny. That is the only way to live in my book. Bless your family, you have my sincere sympathy.

Melisa - June 05, 2013 at 11:11 PM

PN

“ I saw Mr. Holden's obit on the CT Air and Space Museum (CT) Facebook page. Wow! What a man!!!! Now I know what my mother meant by the phrase, 'All the good ones are gone.' I was born 30 years too late! With deepest sympathy to Mr. Holden's family.

Pamela Norman - June 05, 2013 at 10:21 PM

PH

“ I just read this obituary on facebook. I am so sorry for your loss but I have to say this is the best obituary ive ever read. May you rest in peace
Phaedra
Hurst, Tx

Phaedra Hornbeck - June 05, 2013 at 10:12 PM

BM

“ Why are people creative ?

Someone should do an autopsy on Jack.

My best to my childhood friends.

Bruce Mann - June 05, 2013 at 05:53 PM

MM

“ Wendy, and Family,

I am saddened to hear of your father's passing, and happy that I was able to work with him for a short time. Those appointments were always something to look forward to. My own children have heard stories of the "Crazy toy inventor" who used to be a client of mine. One of the stereos from his office sits in our living room. He sold it to us for a song shortly after we were married, and I was complaining that we had no furniture.

*Mark Myers
Smokey Roberts Film & Video*

Mark Myers - June 05, 2013 at 05:29 PM

AM

“ Dear Holden Family,

To see the love expressed in this obituary, made my eyes tear up and my face smile for you have been so blessed to have known such a man. My sincere sympathy on the passing of your Father. I just want you to know how much I enjoyed his obituary. Thank you for publishing such a wonderful memory of him. I would have loved to have known him and as you grieve, know that you have shared so much love with so many. May God bless you and keep you during this time of sadness.

Amy Meli - June 05, 2013 at 02:53 PM

MH

“ *I only met Jack a couple of times over a decade ago at his house with Elaine. He was a very dry, funny man. As Da Vinci said, "As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well spent brings happy death."*

Mark Hiester - June 05, 2013 at 02:47 PM

SU

“Isn't it funny how someone can impact your life after they are gone, all while not even knowing them personally but wishing you did? To the family please know that his obituary has made many laugh and smile and realize what is important in life. Jack Sir, Semper Fi and thank you for being you. Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Sgt USMC - June 05, 2013 at 02:41 PM

MF

“My deepest sympathy for your families loss. I would have love to have met him, he seems like an amazing man with a great sense of humor. Rest in Peace and may your family be held in God's loving arms. Thanks for the Smile and laughs Mr. Holden.

Michael Fannon - June 05, 2013 at 02:24 PM

TG

“Writing your own obituary is hard--I know, it's an exercise several of my early journalism instructors assigned--but writing one that so brilliantly conveys your character and spirit is even more challenging.

I never met Jack but, like many others, I wish I had. He reminds me of my grandfather, whose own send-off to the pearly gates included a belly dancer and a U-Haul emblazoned with signs that read, "And who said I couldn't take it with me?"

I have no doubt Jack and my grandfather will be fast friends when they meet in Heaven. RIP, Jack.

Tiffany Di Giacinto - June 05, 2013 at 01:48 PM

JW

“ im sorry for your loss but this had me laughing. we just lost my father on may 31,2013. its nice to know that he will have such good company! this has got to be the best obituary i have ever read though!! Salutations Sir.

jen wells - June 05, 2013 at 01:07 PM

AO

“ After reading the obit that he wrote , I had to laugh and I think that was his intention..TO SMILE gotta love him...I send my deepest sympathy to his family and I thank him for his service to Our Country!

Audrey Orlando - June 05, 2013 at 11:26 AM

AS

“ Semper Fi John Holden,found out about you on TheBlaze.com Quite an amusing memory of your life!

Al Scherer - June 05, 2013 at 10:02 AM

SG

“ Rest in peace, Mr. Holden. I wish I had known you in life, you sound like a truly wonderful person.

suzanne g. - June 05, 2013 at 09:11 AM

TA

“ thank you for sharing your father with the world. it's been shared on my fb newsfeed by three different people in the last 24 hours, and i re-read it all three times! what a joy. one thought: maybe "the wrinkle valley news" would make a great book?!? i'd love to read more of what this man had to say, and apparently, i am not alone:)

tara - June 05, 2013 at 09:09 AM

JW

“ I never knew this man but read about his obituary on Facebook. I had to check this out to see if it was real. He must have been a hoot!! I am so sorry for your loss..... You will always miss him but WOW! Cherish those beautiful, funny memories. I'd like to be around the dinner table during the holidays to hear some wild stories y'all have. My deepest sympathies to whole family. And thank you Mr. Holden for your service to this country. Semper Fi!

Jennifer Williams - June 04, 2013 at 10:24 PM

AS

“ Dear Holly, Wendy, Anne and John, One of the few bad things about our moving to Charlottesville was our loss of contact with your father. He was an inspiration with his creativity and joy of life. I will never forget the fun and laughs we had with our very exclusive OSFA luncheon club which consisted of Jack, Jack Eshelman, Jack Hartmen, Vic England and myself. We always made a reservation for a full house of men --3 Jacks and 2 Aces and requested the dirty talking section. We ate lunches in Lancaster, Reading, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and NYC where we met Holly for lunch and then took in the Radio City Music Hall Christmas show, drinks at 21 and proceeded to lose the garage parking ticket for Jack's limo. Don't even ask how we got home or when. The memories of Jack will never die and I suspected that he had written his own obit and am so glad that you all decided to publish it. Jack was a special and unique friend. One other experience I had was going with him to the marine memorial in Washington which he had never seen until that day. I cannot describe the emotional reaction he went through as we stood there and relived his wartime experience. In my mind Jack will live forever and Anne and I send love to all of you.

Al Strickler - June 04, 2013 at 09:44 PM

RW

“ *Hilarious! Never knew him but wish I had.*

Robert J Wee - June 04, 2013 at 08:37 PM

MF

“ *Again, I never knew your Dad and, like everyone else, how I wish I had!! Here I am in San Diego, California -- responding to an obit that was posted to my facebook page.... Don't be surprised if this one goes viral! This is the first obituary I ever read that actually lifted my spirits and put a smile on my face.... Kudos to Jack for that!*

Semper Fi Marine....

And to Jack's kids? You must be hurting so much, but I hope it comforts you to know how many hearts you've lifted by publishing Jack's obit. Many hugs to you...

Marlana Fury - June 04, 2013 at 07:11 PM

DH

“ *For Anne, Wendy and the whole family.
Just found out Anne.
I am so sorry and I cannot believe it.
Your dad was so nice to me the times I met him at Adams Antiques.
He was a pleasure to talk to and so full of knowledge, wit and humor.
We are sure you all will miss him greatly.
Miss seeing you...call us.
Diane Hartman and Scott Kohl*

Diane (Ditto) Hartman - June 04, 2013 at 05:59 PM

WI

“ Holly, Wendy, Anne, & John,

I'm so sorry that I never met your parents. Your father sounds like a wonderful and endlessly entertaining man, and I can only imagine how truly wonderful your mother was for loving and living with him for 60 years. I'm saddened our world has lost a person of such character and humor, as well as such a humorous character. Please know that your father's obituary is, possibly, his last gift of laughter to the world. With the capabilities of the internet, he has the potential to make people everywhere laugh, now and for years to come.

*God Bless you and all your family,
Winnie Ritchie,
Delaware.*

Winnie - June 04, 2013 at 05:33 PM

TH

“ Oh Wendy, your dear dad sure knew how to keep it real, or not. He always had a clever story to share and made sure he left you smiling if not amazed. I have wonderful memories of the tales that came from your parent's farm. My kids still tell of days spent driving the tractor, making movies, the lessons on etiquette, the glued now quarter, the crazy costumes, and endless afternoons roaming about the farm. Hope the laughs and memories are bringing you comfort in this time of loss.

Through tears I can't help but think how much your dad and precious Troup looked alike.

Keeping you close.

*love,
Jay & Tammy*

Tammy Horning - June 04, 2013 at 04:58 PM

MP

“ for ANNE E. HOLDEN...sorry about your dad...never knew him but certainly wish I had. what an obituary...loved it.
regards & condolences to you & John. MEPatton

ME Patton - June 04, 2013 at 04:45 PM

RI

“My husband and I met the Holdens in the late 60's when Elaine and Bob were active in the Democratic Party. We became friends and spent happy times with them at their Valley Rd. and later, Mt. Joy homes. They were an utterly charming couple. It should be noted that in addition to being a nice man, Jack was dashing handsome. During a party at our house, both my mother and best friend were smitten and did some serious flirting with him. In later years, his self-deprecating humor must have enriched the lives of the "inmates of Wrinkle Valley."

*We send our heartfelt sympathy to his son and three daughters.
Bob and Regine Ibold*

Regine & Bob Ibold - June 04, 2013 at 04:41 PM

AN

“I'm sorry to say I don't know your family, but I found Mr. Holden's obituary re-posted on a blog I read. You're lucky to have had such a funny, optimistic man in your family. He reminds me of the main character in *Big Fish*. I hope that pleasant memories help you through this sad time.

Anonymous - June 04, 2013 at 03:39 PM

JW

“Mr. Holden wrote the BEST OBIT. that we have ever read. Just recently we were discussing with friends that it would be great to read a "real" obit. in the paper. Hurray for his cleverness. Altho we did not know him, he certainly sounds like a wonderful person to have spent time with. Our sympathy to his children, friends and family. the Wiggins of Pa.

June & Wayne Wiggins - June 04, 2013 at 03:33 PM

TF

“ Dear Holly, Wendy, Anne, and John,
Your dad was a great man, I will truly miss his emails and correspondence. He understood the meaning of family, life, honor , and courage. He is now finally at peace and free of all the earthly bonds that weigh us down in the end. Well Jack...you used to tell me "Stay Vertical" I guess your permanently there now. Semper Fi my friend

Tom (Honey Hancock's Husband)

Tom Favale - June 04, 2013 at 03:07 PM

PB

“ I offer you my sincere condolences on the loss of a truly amazing human being. May he have as much fun in the afterlife.

Pam Brush - June 04, 2013 at 02:47 PM

BB

“ Dear Wendy and Anne;
So sorry to hear about your Dad. My thoughts are with you. Betty

Betty Burkhart - June 04, 2013 at 02:41 PM

RG

“ To the Holden Family: When you find yourself surrounded by Marines, look to your left and look to your right. Look in front of you and behind you. You will find Jack's spirit has surrounded you. For we all have a little bit of Jack inside each of us and his spirit will live forever. God Bless and I'll see you at the pearly whites Jack. Just not yet...

Rico Garcia - June 04, 2013 at 12:55 PM

VH

“ I also did not know your father but I wish to pass on my condolences. What a void this will leave in your lives but the good memories will last forever & help during the sad times. I lost my 33 year old daughter to cancer a few years ago & at her funeral I spoke about her & said that if we can say the world has been a better place for us having been in it, we have lived a good & honorable life. The world has definitely been a better place because of my daughter & I am sure you feel the same way about your father. He helped people. He did good. He made us smile even in the darkest times. No, I never met him. But I feel the spirit of the man through his writings. And I like him.

Vanessa Humphries - June 04, 2013 at 12:40 PM

RH

“ To John's family I send my sincere condolences.

It is obvious that John was a person who people describe as, "Bigger than Life," and that only makes it harder in dealing with your loss. I'm sure you all have so many stories to share and will pass on to your children when remembering him.

In his honor, I donated a little to his cause. Thanks so much for sharing John with the rest of the world. RHP

RHP - June 04, 2013 at 11:29 AM

JE

“ I knew you'd be famous someday Jack. Glad we saved those Wrinkle Valley publications. No one else could bring so much joy from the great beyond. Love and miss you much.

Jen - June 04, 2013 at 11:26 AM

MH

“ Dear Holly, Wendy, Anne and John,

We knew your dad from way back at Brown, and then my first husband (Craig Moodie) and your dad happened to find work at Armstrong in the same department. We were family friends for a few years, when my daughters - Leslie and Alison - went camping with Holly and Wendy. And then to find us here at Willow Valley together! Jack was a favorite friend of mine thru all these years. I send all of you my sincere sympathy. He would not have stood for being an invalid.

Warmly, Meg (Moodie) Hazeltinej-Wolfe

Meg Hazeltine-Wolfe - June 04, 2013 at 09:08 AM

TR

“ *I have tremendous respect for those who serve their country, and even more for a man with such a wonderfully tongue-in-cheek sense of humor.*

Ain't no paternity suits in Heaven, Jack. Enjoy your eternal retirement.

The Rob - June 04, 2013 at 09:01 AM

DC

“ *You want something done right, you do it yourself! You did good, Jack. Bon voyage.*

DC - June 04, 2013 at 08:48 AM

PA

“ Seems as though your father was exactly what "The Greatest Generation" described-
As many others have stated, I would have loved to know him-
Praying that your sad days will be fewer knowing how many lives he touched-
God Bless----

Parmalle - June 04, 2013 at 07:32 AM

LB

“ Dear Annie,
You remember I met your dad one time a few years ago when he came to Brimfield with you? I'm still talking about him. He was the most handsome man I have ever met in my life!!! (I mean that) And so FUNNY!! I remember him trying to tell me how old he was and I wouldn't believe him. I said, "The only way I will believe you are THAT old is if you show me your ID." He insisted, I insisted on seeing the ID, and nearly fell off my chair when I saw it. You definitely got your good looks and humor from your Dad. I hope you can find comfort in knowing that he is in a happier, painfree place. Please know that you are in John's and my thoughts and prayers.
Linda
ps. We miss you so much in Brimfield. Please come back! :)

Linda Walsh (John's Linda from Brimfield) - June 03, 2013 at 09:20 PM

SD

“ Dear Jack,
Thanks for the wonder and joy you gave me reading about your life and feeling your spirit and sense of humor. Your words here will be read by countless people through social media. As I'm sure you did in life, you will continue in death to show people the love, joy and laughter that is so important to a lifetime of happiness and fulfillment. I think you might actually start a wonderful trend...

Shelton Dominici - June 03, 2013 at 09:01 PM

JG

“ I did not know Mr. Holden, but after running across his obituary online, I just had to comment.
What a great sense of humor this man had !
It sounds like he was a treasure and a great joy.
My condolences to the family and you should all be very proud.
Thank you for your father's service and thank you for sharing him with what most likely be most of the internet by tonight.
Peace from my house to you all

Jim Gaines - June 03, 2013 at 08:46 PM

TA

“ Who knew reading an obit would bring a smile to my face! Mr. Holden has so many people smiling and thinking of him today. He seems to have had an amazing sense of humor. Prayers to the family!

Tara - June 03, 2013 at 08:33 PM

RN

“ Dear Holly, Wendy, Anne, and John,
I have not ever met you or your dad, but a friend shared this obituary on my Facebook timeline. I lost my mom just two months ago, and know how hard it is to say goodbye and how precious memories are. As you remember the delightful man that your dad obviously was, I hope you will spread his legacy in the paths your lives will take. God bless and may you always keep his sparkle in your eyes and in your hearts.

Robin from NH - June 03, 2013 at 07:49 PM

GM

“Holly, Wendy, Anne and John,
I was so sorry to hear the news of your dad's passing. I was so impressed with his obituary! It speaks volumes about his spirit and great sense of humor. I love the line that his fellow Willow Valley resident said: He "tended to bring out the best in folks." I can agree with that! He really did. I am so glad that I grew up in "Frog Hollow" and our parents had the courage and vision to take those two old houses and make them the backdrop for great lives for their families. Three toots of the Delahaye's horn for you, Mr. Holden!

Gwen Kimball Melton - June 03, 2013 at 07:23 PM

JA

“A lazy rainy morning reading the newspaper, and I read the first sentence of your father's obit.. Wasn't long after that that three of my friends called and asked if I had read it. What a wonderful legacy to leave behind, a sense of humor, accomplishments, love of life and courage to face the end. No, I did not know your father, but his death has inspired all of us growing older. You will really miss him, but he is in the sky looking down kindly for printing his last words as he wanted. God bless you all.

Jane - June 03, 2013 at 07:21 PM

BE

“Aye, Jackie, we hardly knew ye! In fact, I didn't know you at all, but sure enjoyed reading your obit. All we can hope for in this world is a good life and a good death, and it sounds like you had both. Have fun and I'll see you when I get there, presuming we're going to the same place. Oh, and to his kids? It's not everybody that got to have Jack Holden for a dad. Lucky you!

Beth - June 03, 2013 at 05:56 PM

GG

“Wish we had known your Dad - what memories you must have of him. We're all going to take the Deep Six one day - I only hope we can do it with as much class and laughter as your Dad. Love & blessings to you all.

Gloria & Dave Goldy - June 03, 2013 at 05:52 PM

RD

“I'm so glad to see the comments above. I never knew Jack, but can see he was well loved and had a strong sense of humor. I wish you all well and hope the sorrow you must be feeling will soon be pushed back by all the good memories and stories you can share.

Rosanna Danna - June 03, 2013 at 05:17 PM

GL

“Great send off for your father , you kids have great heart to publish that awesome obituary! We all should have such a story to tell! Made my day, his thoughts remind us to keep our sense of humor, joi de vire, and zest for life no matter what. He made us laugh even after he passed over. God bless him and his whole family!!! Great!!!

Gloria - June 03, 2013 at 04:51 PM

BE

“What an incredible human being. To his family, my blessings to you. He will live on forever in your hearts. Many stories to be shared I am sure! Enjoy the laughter and memories!

Betty - June 03, 2013 at 04:02 PM

DF

“ John (and all the Holdens)

Your dad was one of the coolest. Remember that I cut the grass for him for a few summers back in the 60s? I have great memories of the fun we had knocking around the farm and not the least of which was test driving the prototype toys your dad would try out on us. Great obituary! I'm gonna start work on mine -er- sometime. God bless you all.

Drew Farenwald - June 03, 2013 at 03:13 PM

SU

“ The life of a Marine:

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem.

—President Ronald Reagan

Marines die, that's what we're here for. But the Marine Corps lives forever. And that means you live forever.

-GySgt Hartman

Semper Fi Jack. Gen. Puller has been waiting for you.

Sgt. William Ahlstrom, USMC - June 03, 2013 at 02:45 PM

RO

“ Semper Fi John. Sorry I didn't know you brother.

Ron - June 03, 2013 at 01:48 PM

NL

“ *What a wonderful human being! You are going to miss the heck out of him, I bet! I've taken the liberty of including his obit in my blog, [Nina Lentini's Life Without End](http://ninalentinislifewithoutend.blogspot.com/), at <http://ninalentinislifewithoutend.blogspot.com/>. He's among an interesting bunch!*

Nina Lentini - June 03, 2013 at 01:25 PM

SJ

“ *I deeply regret that I never met this gentleman. After a friend of mine sent me his obit, I knew I'd missed out on something. To friends and family, my condolences, of course. To Jack, wherever you are, I'll raise a glass in your honor.*

sj

Spartacus Jones - June 03, 2013 at 12:33 PM

PT

“ *To the Holden family: Like many others who have left notes, I, too, never knew Mr. Holden, but surely wish I had. Thanks for sharing his version of his obituary with the world. I am sorry for your loss and wish you peace at this difficult time.*

Peg Tansey - June 03, 2013 at 12:31 PM

MK

“ *I did not know Mr. Holden but he sounds like a person I would have liked to have known. What an uplifting obit (if one can be uplifting). He sounds like a man who enjoyed life and family. I hope my children will publish the obit that I have composed for myself. My heartfelt sympathy to all close to him. May his memory be eternal!*

Mary Keares - June 03, 2013 at 12:25 PM

BK

“ My most sincere sympathy to the Holden family, I know he was a joy to have in your lives. I will always remember fondly the times I had the privilege of being in his company. They sure don't make them like that anymore! RIP Jack.

Bill Klein - June 03, 2013 at 11:28 AM

BG

“ Thank you Jack. Your obit made my day.

Bruce Guilbault - June 03, 2013 at 11:07 AM

KD

“ Jack was indeed one of a kind and he was a defining member of the greatest generation. His sense of humor helped us all cope with life's new problems in retirement. Now he has gone off into the wild blue yonder. OAMAAM, Semper fi Jack.

Kurt Dorenkamp - June 03, 2013 at 11:01 AM

KS

“ We just lost our father 10 days ago and we (my sister and mom) haven't been laughing too much! We really had to smile when we read Jack's obituary (is ok to say this?) My sister mentioned that my father would have loved it (he was in the Air Force). We offer our condolences and hope they meet in heaven ! The Amico Family

Kim Speer - June 03, 2013 at 10:39 AM

CH

“ Thank you for publishing this obituary. It brightened my day. I never knew Mr. Holden, but I will never forget him. He made me smile in writing this. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Christina - June 03, 2013 at 09:39 AM

JR

“ Dear Holly, Wendy, Anne and John
My sincere sympathy on the passing of your Father.
I just want you to know how much I enjoyed his obituary. It was
informative of his life, which was very impressive, but yet the joy in
his spirit drove me to write to all of you. I wish that I could have
known him in his lifetime. He is exactly the type of man I would have
loved to be around.
God Bless all of you and I hope all of you have a little bit of your
Father's zest for life!!!!

Judy Randazzo - June 02, 2013 at 09:53 PM

JC

“ My one regret in this life is... that, "I didn't know 'Jack'(Holden)". May
God bless his family & friends (one of which I never had the honor
of being). :)

Jim Copenhaver - June 02, 2013 at 09:12 PM

BG

“ I didn't know Mr. Holden - but after reading his obituary on
Facebook I sure wish that I had! What a wonderful sense of humor.
I hope that he is having as much fun in Heaven as I'm sure he did
on Earth. My condolences to his family - I hope your memories of
Mr. Holden will make you laugh often! God Bless You!

Beth Graham - June 02, 2013 at 06:24 PM

RO

“ I personally did not know this gentleman, but it sounds as if he loved
life and lived it to the fullest. What a wonderful way to celebrate the
life he had. Remember, he will always live on in the hearts of those
that love him.

Robin - June 02, 2013 at 04:43 PM

HH

“ I did not know him, but I sure wish I dd. My dad as hilarious, but not as funny as Jack. You must have wonderful memories and no regrets, a I do.

Helen Hollad - June 02, 2013 at 04:34 PM

KA

“ I never knew Mr. Holden but I sure wish I did! What a character he must have been. Holly, Wendy, Anne and John be proud of your father. Sounds like he did a lot of good in his days and made a lot of people laugh ... constantly!! Rest in peace, Mr. Holden, your rewards await you in Heaven!!

Karlene R. Arment - June 02, 2013 at 04:08 PM

CK

“ Dear Holly, Wendy, Anne and John,

Your father was certainly one of a kind. Although it has been a long time since I have seen him, I will always remember him as a true gentleman. His obituary reflected his humorous personality. My thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Charlie

Charlie Kurtz - June 02, 2013 at 03:55 PM

BO

“ To the family of Jack,
I did not have the honor of knowing him. The idea that you would allow the publication of his self written obituary is the greatest honor you can give him. I often thought that when my time comes, I want a celebration of my life, or just an incredible party for my friends and family. I hope that is what you enjoy, because he sounds as if he would have a great time doing it himself. My thoughts and prayers for your loss, but even in his passing, he has made a stranger smile, laugh and wish he had the chance to have met him.

Brian Ober - June 02, 2013 at 03:50 PM

EG

“ I am very sorry to hear of your father's passing. I did not know him but after reading his obituary, I wish I had. Thank you for sharing a piece of him through his very funny and loving obituary. It sounds like you were very lucky to have him as your father. I am sorry he is no longer on this earth but it sounds like he was the type of man that will live on forever through his family. God bless you all.

Eileen Giaco - June 02, 2013 at 02:01 PM

DE

“ He must have been an awesome man, with a great sense of humor. Wish I got to meet him. Rest In Peace John Holden.

Debbie - June 02, 2013 at 01:29 PM

HE

“Gosh, I am going to miss this guy. Jack Holden was one of my father's contemporaries and best friends for many years. How delightful of him--and how typical--to have penned this obituary himself. He provided a lot of good humor, happiness and care to our family. He and my dad, ol' JBE, can now swap flight stories, in the sky themselves.

Henry Eshelman - June 02, 2013 at 01:15 PM

WH

“Eliciting stories of his heroic military service was unrewarding. But this man had a wonderful sense of humor, much of it self-deprecating as we can see in his obituary. His physical pain and depression were hard to hide, and many of his Wrinkle News readers knew his life had become challenging. Those residing nearby in the Garden Apartments could note the kindnesses extended in his direction by fellow residents and Willow Valley team members. Jack's spirit tended to bring out the best in folks. Those who wish they could have done more for him are now joined in prayer we know the Lord will hear.

William Houley - June 02, 2013 at 11:37 AM