



John M. "Jack" Sofilka

July 4, 2020

John M. "Jack" Sofilka, 74, passed away on Saturday, July 4, 2020 at his home in Lancaster, Pa. He was the son of the late Mary (Sinko) and John Sofilka.

Born and raised in the coal regions of Saint Clair, Pa., Jack graduated from Saint Clair High School and received a full scholarship to Columbia University, New York. He made the decision during his sophomore year to answer the call of his country to voluntarily enlist in the military and entered the United States Marine Corps in 1966, earning the rank of Corporal. He completed one tour of duty in Vietnam which he rarely discussed except to teach his daughters to always shake out their shoes to ensure no giant insects had crawled in overnight, a lifelong skill they continue to practice.

Upon returning from Vietnam, Jack graduated with a Bachelors Degree from Susquehanna University, including credits for the Vietnamese Language – mostly because, "nobody could test me so I passed." He married Cathy (Simpson) with whom he recently celebrated 49 years of marriage. After beginning their family, Jack made the decision to attend law school and graduated from Widener School of Law in 1983, following several years of working in trucking overnight, and attending class during the day. He practiced law until his passing and loved his work family at Eager, Stengel, Quinn, Sofilka and Babic. Vowing to never stop working, he likened his days with his

partners to getting a shot of Vitamin B-12. The greatest compliment he could be given was, "I wouldn't have guessed you were a lawyer," because he didn't like most lawyers – he just wanted to help the underdog.

He enjoyed watching sports, from high school football and basketball with his friends who traveled the state to key matchups, to Premier League Soccer which he'd wake up in the early hours of the morning to catch live. An animal lover, he enjoyed the company of his dog Ralphie and his daughters' dogs. One of his favorite places to be was on Hilton Head Island with his family. Jack was an avid runner for more than 40 years. He was a voracious reader and loved listening to music, from reggae to classic rock.

In addition to his wife, Cathy, who provided exceptional commitment and care for him during his health challenges over the last few years, he will be lovingly missed by his daughters Kristen Sofilka, of West Chester, Pa., and Megan Tomscheck, wife of Ryan, of Lancaster, Pa. He is also survived by his brother, Michael Sofilka, husband of Celestine, and nieces Stephanie and Kara, of Florida. He was preceded in death by sister Mary Ann Wingard and niece Amanda Lindner. Extended family, and friends who became family, will also miss him and his dry sense of humor.

Childhood friend Monsignor John Grabish will be officiating the service on Friday, July 10 at 1:00 pm at The Groffs Funeral and Cremation Services, 528 W. Orange St., Lancaster, PA. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the family requests that guests wear masks, and there will be no receiving line. In addition, the family urges anyone who is high risk, cares for anyone high risk, or has any hesitation to gather, to please stay safe at home.

Despite his wishes to have his ashes spread over TJ Maxx, "so Cathy can visit me weekly," Jack will be privately interred with military honors at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. Those who loved him are encouraged to

sip some Jack Daniels, remembering Jack's favorite toast: "May you live as long as you want to, and want to as long as you live."

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memorial Giving, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (or online at stjude.org), or to a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Service

JUL **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Groff's Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc

528 W Orange St.

Lancaster, PA 17603

(717) 394-5300

admin@thegroffs.com

<https://thegroffs.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *John M. "Jack" Sofilka*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I miss you so much I can't take it you always had my back I'm so alone*

Regina Fronina - August 11, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ *To the loved ones of Jack
I met Jack many years ago and had a few cases with him from time to time. He was a real gentleman and I always looked forward to talking with him. I read the other tributes posted by attorneys and I agree with them. Jack and I were friends And I will miss him. You were fortunate to have him. God keep him. Steve Liero*

Steven Liero - August 04, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ *I will never be the same after Jack he was my boss for over 30 years and by boss I mean he was my friend confidant my father my counselor my everything I love you Jack until we meet again*

Regina Fronina - July 21, 2020 at 07:11 PM

JJ

“ Dear Cathy and family,

I just was informed of Jack's passing today. My sincere condolences. The first case I tried in Lancaster County was against Jack. Of course, I say "against" in its mildest form as I can't imagine Jack being against anyone. Over the years we had numerous cases "against" each other, but inevitably when it came to discussing a case over the phone, we would spend two minutes on the case and an hour plus talking basketball, football and any other topic Jack wanted to discuss.

I do recall one time when we both represented the same client at trial. Jack and I were about the same size and I believe our client got last standing between us. If I recall, Jack's recent partner, Mr. Eager, was part of the opposing team.

I will always recall Jack's courage in these recent years. I am employing the definition of courage as "grace under pressure." I know he was going through a lot, but he always retained his humor and wit. I will miss him. RIP.

Joe Muzic

Joseph G Muzic Jr - July 13, 2020 at 11:47 AM

JR

“ *My deepest sympathy reaches out too Jacks family. We were H.S. school mates and he was my best baseball catcher in high school. I was the pitcher and he the catcher at S.C.A. We also played football together. He played tackle. Played in football Dream Game together in H.S. Sorry for the loss of a good friend and athlete.*

Joe Rady Class of "64"

Joe Rady - July 10, 2020 at 10:41 PM

RT

“ With deepest sympathy to Jack's family. You are in my thoughts and prayers as well as the thoughts and prayers of his friends in St. Clair. Richard E. Tomko

Richard Tomko - July 10, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of John M. "Jack" Sofilka.



July 10, 2020 at 08:44 AM

LP

“ I met Mr. Sofilka about 15 years ago through mutual friends. They had recommended that I get in touch with him to take on my case. I was one of his "Underdogs"! We didn't win my case, but not once did he ever give up on me. He did all he could. He was a very caring man and funny! I will remember him always. My condolences go out to his family. You've lost a great man!

Lugene Pasker - July 09, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John M. "Jack" Sofilka.



July 09, 2020 at 08:20 AM

LP

“ Dear Cathy, Kristen, Megan and family, Jack will be missed. I will always remember him as one down to earth guy. As Cathy’s co-worker for over 20 years, I was blessed with many opportunities to socialize with the Sofilka family and was always encouraged by Jack to just make myself at home. Jack knew how to enjoy life and wanted others to enjoy themselves. He was kind, compassionate and willing to help others. Jack surely has left the world a better place and I feel blessed to have know him. May your fond memories of Jack give you peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Lucille Becky Powell - July 08, 2020 at 10:30 PM

JA

“ I practiced law, knowing Jack for most of his career. We always were on opposite sides; and I looked forward to that, because Jack was uniformly direct, courteous, open, and in good humor. Did he ever frown? He must have, but I do not recall ever having seen it. We may have gone to trial once or twice, but mainly I remember us beating on each other in discussions about the merits of our positions until we got to mutually agreeable middle ground and settled at a fair resolution. The Lancaster Bar and our entire community are lesser for his passing.

Jim Adams - July 08, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John M. "Jack" Sofilka.



July 08, 2020 at 01:33 PM

SK

“ Dear Cathy,

We were shocked to see Jack's obituary in the paper. We can't believe he is gone. You and he were such wonderful neighbors to us on Carol Drive. We sorry we lost touch over the years, but we have such fond memories of living across the street from you. We especially remember how Jonathan bonded with Jack and how Jack gave him some Army memorabilia. We think Jon still has the items somewhere. Jack was a truly amazing person. We have always been so impressed with how he worked at night and earned his law degree by day. He is a true American success story. We know he will be missed in so many different ways. You and your family are in our prayers.

Don and Sandy Knaub

Sandra Knaub - July 08, 2020 at 01:19 PM

RM

“ *I will always remember the enjoyable conversations with Jack during "tax time". Those memories will always bring a smile to my face. Life is always too short for the "good ones".*

Richard Miller

Richard L Miller - July 07, 2020 at 11:16 PM

CP

“ *Dear Cathy, Kristen, Megan, & Ryan. You had the best husband, father, & father-in-law in the world. He will always be "best man" in my heart and memory. I love you all. Connie*

Constance Podgurski - July 07, 2020 at 05:39 PM

WC

“ Jack had 1 million good friends. They were all real. He had a way of putting people at ease the moment they met him. He had a big big heart.

William W. Campbell - July 07, 2020 at 11:31 AM

DP

“ While we lost touch over the years, nothing can detract from the many laughs and friendly barbs we exchanged over the years. He was direct, honest, funny, and someone I truly miss seeing. He's still the king of the York Football League after getting "one for the thumb." Our "last to first" golf team remains a special memory for me. The tribute posted is wonderful and accurate, but the photo says it all. I will miss that smile. Condolences to the family.

Dave Pollick

Dave Pollick - July 07, 2020 at 10:39 AM

JF

“ Dear Cathy and Family,
I just read Jack's wonderful testimony to his life. Not many leave a full scholarship to serve their country. He was a patriot! You and the girls were blessed to call him husband and father. Even though I lost contact with all of you over the years, I remember Jack as kind, happy and fun-loving. May you find comfort in the love that you shared.

*Peace and love,
Jo Anne Farley*

Jo Anne Farley - July 07, 2020 at 10:29 AM

BG

“ Jack was a real gift to this world. I can think of no finer gentleman and all around just a great guy, the kind you can sit and chat for hours. my sincere condolences to his family.

Bill Graff - July 07, 2020 at 10:11 AM

DA

“ In the 30 + years I knew Jack I always respected and appreciated his common sense, honest approach to matters. He was always well prepared and a pleasure to work with. He was a credit to the legal profession but more importantly he was a good, caring man. He will be missed.

David Ashworth - July 07, 2020 at 08:02 AM

TH

“ I was always glad to get a case with Jack. He was a gentleman and an adversary that could be trusted. And a great sense of humor. But I mostly remember that he loved his family. While not waxing on about them, a comment would always find its way into conversation to let you know that Jack was a man who cherished his family.

Tim Huber - July 07, 2020 at 06:51 AM

EP

Jack was a great man with a Big Heart. I really appreciate all the hard work he has done for me the past 20 years . I would bring cakes, Cookies and pie's and we would sit in his office a shoot the breeze talk about when he drove truck because my father drove coal truck year's before he be came a shoe repair man. I believe he liked strawberry pie the best, He always share the deserts with his staff ! I will miss him a lot. See you on the other side Big Guy !!! Prayers for your family. Ed Paparo

Ed Paparo - July 07, 2020 at 08:27 AM

DB

“ I will always remember Jack for his kindness and willing to help anyone, especially our family. Such great memories spending weekends at Cathy and Jack's house with Jess and the kids. Gunner loved sitting in the screen porch reading to "Uncle Jack". They were buddies and He definitely will be missed by all of us!💙

Diane Brown - July 06, 2020 at 09:26 PM

BK

“ We had so many wonderful memories with Jack and the family throughout the years. Always made us laugh. Thoughts and prayers to the family. Jack will truly be missed by many friends and family.

Betty and Bill Koran - July 06, 2020 at 05:33 PM

GZ

“ I always liked that Uncle Jack thought my jokes were funny 🤣 and I'm glad I like to read as much as he did.
Love , Gunner Zellers

Gunner Zellers - July 06, 2020 at 05:16 PM

KK

Sending our love and prayers. Your dad would have loved the TJ Maxx reference.
Love from the Knox Family

Kim Knox - July 06, 2020 at 05:26 PM

MT

“ Marcy and Cal Tomscheck purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of John M. "Jack" Sofilka.



Marcy and Cal Tomscheck - July 06, 2020 at 05:09 PM