



Jack Homlish

August 14, 1936 - January 26, 2021

John Stephen “Jack” Homlish, Jr., 84, Topeka, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Jack was born August 14, 1936, in Washington DC, to John and Marie Campbell Homlish. He grew up in South Orange, New Jersey. He attended Seton Hall University, earned a Masters degree from Notre Dame University and his Doctorate from McMaster University.

Jack taught at Niagara University and then at Washburn University after moving to Topeka in the early 1970s. He later became Director of Continuing Education at the Menninger Clinic. After retiring from Menninger, Jack was devoted to helping those in need through advocacy and direct services, serving as Director of Education at Midland Hospice and then as Director of Community Services for Community Action.

He served on many boards and councils, including the Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Salvation Army, Community Resource Council and the Alcohol and Drug Council. He also served as a representative to the Silver Haired Legislature.

Jack was passionate about social justice, serving as a Freedom Rider and a member of Common Cause. He was a friend, mentor and father-figure to

many, an avid KU basketball fan and golfer. He was instrumental in developing The First Tee of Shawnee County and was a long-time member of Shawnee Country Club.

In 1989, Jack and Judy Holiner were united in marriage. Together they enjoyed traveling, playing golf, visiting grandchildren and extended family, as well as enjoying good food, drinks, and conversation with close friends.

Survivors include Jack's wife, Judy; daughter, Erin Rian (Jim); and son, Mark Homlish (Alden); grandchildren, Mackenzie and Keegan Rian and Caden, Beckett, Sadie and Archer Homlish; his sister, Mary Lynch (Dennis); and niece, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Visitation will be from 4 until 5 p.m. Friday, February 5, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Due to the pandemic, masks and social distancing are required.

Jack's memorial service will be private.

In lieu of flowers and in Jack's memory, the family asks you to consider a donation to the charity of your choice, perform an act of kindness, or offer to mentor someone in need.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jack Homlish



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 06, 2021 at 11:58 AM



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jack Homlish



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 04, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ Jack Homlish

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

FR

“ Dearest Judy,

John and I are so sad and sorry jack is gone. Our friendship these past twenty years has meant much to us and will continue when life returns to normal. The memories of our golf games and dinners in one another's homes comfort us. We've been privileged to go to our kids' weddings and meet each other's friends and families.

You and Jack were like family to us. If there is something you need or something we can do for you, please let us know. We miss him, but we still have you.

*Love,
Fern and John*

fern rosenberg - February 08, 2021 at 04:39 PM

LL

“ *What dear friends Jack and Judy have been for nearly 40 years. Jack was a clear thinker, a great wit who loved to laugh, and someone who didn't take himself too seriously. It took longer for me to appreciate that he was also deeply committed to social justice and helping people in need, especially children and families. He was fiercely loyal and while I knew he would let me know when he thought I was about to do something foolish or misguided, I always knew he would be in my corner. What a great friend. And also lovely to read here the memories shared by other friends I have lost touch with.*

Lisa Lewis

lisa lewis - February 04, 2021 at 05:17 PM

EN

“ As a cousin, my earliest memory of Jack is when we used to throw around a baseball in his backyard in South Orange, He was 15 or 16 & I was 5 or 6. He would throw "grounders" to me & I had to fire them back to the "1st baseman"!!

In 2015, when all the cousins gathered together for the "White Wedding" in Boston, we had an opportunity to "catch up" on what transpired in our lives over the last 60 years. Jack was kind, witty and a very special man. Dot& I send our deepest sympathy to Judy, Erin and Mark. We will always remember Jack!!

ED & DOT NEWTON

ED & DOT NEWTON - February 04, 2021 at 03:53 PM

KV

“ *Deepest Sympathy to all of John's family. I've known him for many years and our paths crossed often with our work. He was the most compassionate about helping others. Rest in Peace, John.*

Kathy Votaw - February 04, 2021 at 03:20 PM

LC

“ *Misty eyed i write of the wonderful memories made with the family of Jack Homlish. We lived across the street from each other for many years. Our paths took separate directions after we moved but will never ever forget the love of family and life that he showed. Judy, Erin and Mark...hugs. Love you dearly!*



Linda De Coursey - February 03, 2021 at 12:54 PM

MH

“ Judy -- My heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Jack will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. Don't forget that you have many friends like me who are always here for you.

Marcia Poell Holston

Marcia Holston - February 02, 2021 at 11:56 AM

MF

“ I was Blessed to have worked with Jack when we worked at Midland Hospice. Sending my thoughts and sympathies to the family. Marge Fiedler

Marge Fiedler - February 02, 2021 at 09:22 AM

TP

“ Judy and family, I was sad to learn about John passing this weekend. He was such a wonderful man. We had a special type of relationship and I appreciate some of the things that he taught me as a young professional. He gave some of the best advice and he also had a way of making you feel important when you were in his presence. I'm glad that I had an opportunity to know him, learn from him and share many thoughts and conversations with him about soooo many subjects--work---diversity--racism--classism--the war on poverty--advocacy--life--religion--joy--pain--love and the list goes on and on and on. Rest well John! God bless you family during this difficult time.

Thea Parks - February 01, 2021 at 01:54 PM

KR

“ *Judy, I only met Jack once, but have known you for several years. I am so sorry you have lost your soulmate and friend. Please know that I am here for you if you need anything.*

Kay Rute

Kay Rute - February 01, 2021 at 12:58 PM

SK

“ *Judy*

I knew Jack while I was at Menninger. He was respected, admired, and likeable. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Steve

Stephen E Katz - February 01, 2021 at 09:42 AM

KH

“ *John was a very kind and super generous person. I will miss the Notre Dame football and Jayhawk basketball talks. The World needs more men like him!*

Prayers to Judy and family.

Kevin Heinen

Kevin Heinen - January 31, 2021 at 10:09 PM

TF

“ Jack and I were friends for close to 40 years. We met while we both worked at Menninger. Jack became director of Continuing Education and I was working in the Audiovisual department. Naturally, my department provided a lot of support for Continuing Education and all of their workshops and programs. I suppose it was only natural that we would become close friends given our similar senses of humor and our appreciation of quality liquor. I valued Jack's friendship and advice more than I ever told him. That is something I will regret until the day I die. I will also regret one other omission of mine.

A couple of years ago, I discovered that Jack's father had been the lead architect for the design of the Liberty Memorial and Museum in Kansas City. I happen to know some of the staff at that museum having worked on a number of video projects in that venue. When I mentioned to the director that I knew the architect's son he replied "Oh yeah, that name is on a lot of the drawings in the archives. You should bring your friend over so we can give him a tour." Well, needless to say, that never happened partly due to Jack's health situation. But also I put some of that down to my own inertia.

Jack, I'm sorry. I hope you can forgive me. I just hope there is quality vodka and bourbon where we will next meet.

Tally Fisher

Tall Fisher - January 31, 2021 at 07:47 PM

SM

“ Jack and my husband were friends for many years. I first met Judy, his wife, when we were social workers at Topeka State Hospital and we were also friends. Sometime 30 plus years ago, Jack and Judy met, married and started their life together. We continued being friends and spending time separately and together as couples. It is with great sadness that I now acknowledge Jack's death. Jack had a fierce intellectual, yet in discussions never made anyone feel inferior. He also had a wonderful sense of humor combined with a deep caring both for his friends and for mankind in general. He was a proud father of Erin and Mark as well as a doting grandfather. Jack was an adoring husband to Judy and cherished both their time together as well as enjoying their spirited discussions. Time spent with Jack was always entertaining. There was also a serious part of Jack, who worked tirelessly to make society a better place. The world seems a less bright and caring place without Jack. We are better people to have known him.

Sharon Mayo

Sharon Mayo - January 31, 2021 at 06:35 PM

SP

“ Jack and I were classmates at Seton Hall Prep in South Orange New Jersey. In our senior year we were both in the minor seminary on the road to the Roman Catholic Priesthood that he completed in the Newark Archdiocese. We also spent time at Notre Dame each of us fascinated with the Life of the Christ as a guiding force for good in the world. In some profound ways we were brothers sharing a devotion to the well being of others. One evening in our Menninger career he was up late reviewing the Seton Hall yearbook and saw my picture and called me to announce that moment. We remained spiritual brothers but lost track of one another after the Menninger setting closed in 2001. I weep now realizing he is gone, a friend from afar although still profoundly connected even now in this moment of grief and sorrow. I LOVE you my friend. Hope to see you on "the other side"...

SIEBOLT FRIESWYK PHD - January 31, 2021 at 02:47 PM