



Jack Edward Griffith

August 13, 1964 - November 28, 2020

Jack passed away peacefully on November 28th at the age of 56. Jack was born in Parkersburg (Wood County) West Virginia, and attended schools in Ritchie County where he excelled academically and athletically graduating from Harrisville High School. He was a Golden Horseshoe of West Virginia and played baseball at the state level. He attended West Virginia University majoring in English Literature in 1987 and had completed part of his Masters Degree in English Literature when a friend of his told him about an opportunity at the National Security Agency (NSA). Jack started at NSA in June of 1988 as a Russian language analyst. After two years, he entered the intelligence analysis development program. Upon completion he took an overseas assignment to Stuttgart, Germany at Headquarters European Command (EUCOM). He started as a senior watch officer at the height of the Balkans Civil War, and later became the subject matter expert briefing EUCOM senior leadership. Jack returned to Maryland and became the Signals Intelligence Mission Manager for a Joint Task Force when he deployed in support of a sensitive mission. He moved on to become a Technical Director for multiple missions and oversaw the deployment and usage of new tools during unprecedented change in intelligence operations. Jack retired from NSA in October with 32 years of service.

In addition to his technical acumen, Jack was a good husband and friend. He enjoyed cooking elaborate meals for friends and family and baking restaurant-worthy cheesecakes. Jack sent four dozen homemade cookies to Afghanistan

during the Christmas holidays making the combat zone a little brighter. He was famous for his deviled eggs and sharp wit. Jack also enjoyed minor league baseball where he would score the games, and he enjoyed attending spring training. Jack also enjoyed playing golf with his friends. Despite working complicated problems at work and creating complicated meals, Jack enjoyed simple things: drinking Yuengling Light in a bottle, wearing black aviator sunglasses, and listening to Rush, Yes, or Pink Floyd (loudly). He is survived by his wife, Erika as well as his sister Kathy Wiley and her husband, Doug, and Jack's brother, Dave Griffith and his wife, Jo. Jack will be missed by many.

Tribute Wall

VE

“ *With love and prayers.*

Vicki and Everette - February 06, 2021 at 02:04 PM

MG

“ *I went to high school with Jack, but really got to know him when we roomed together three years at WVU. We've stayed in contact thru the years, and we would get together occasionally when I was lucky enough to cross paths with him. For a number of years, a group of high school buddies would get together, play golf, have a few cold ones and relive the old days in Ritchie county. I will truly miss those outings at North Bend, and I'll especially miss Jack. So long pal. - Mike Goff*

Mike Goff - December 12, 2020 at 11:34 PM

CB

“ *We moved to Ritchie County from the DC area when I was 9 years old. Jack was one of the first friends I made there and he remained so for 47 years across many miles. My job involves a bit of air travel to the west coast. I had a habit of calling Jack from airport bars. It was usually between my first and second pint of beer and sometimes it was a \"little late\" in the eastern time zone. Jack always took my call and we always had a good talk. The calls started with \"Hey DooWack\" and ended with \"So long BJ\". I was very happy to hear that he had retired and was looking forward to visiting him and meeting Erika in 2021. So long DooWack, I'm going to miss you!*

christopher bias - December 12, 2020 at 07:57 PM

“ I have vivid, fond memories of growing up with my only brother in Cornwallis WV. From early youth to the time we finished School. We had great times together playing with our G. I. Joes and the toys that our living parents made sure that we had. We spent a lot time exploring the woods and the river banks of the Hughes River and the old Black Pond just down from the house we grew up in by the railroad tracks and of course harassing our sister Kathy. Jack used to like searching the woods for old half dead trees that were small enough for him to knock over with a karate style kick. One Christmas we both got Mini Bikes. Boy did that open up a whole new world for us! We did a lot of riding and beating down trails through those Cornwallis woods! I remember how he had a bad habit of when he stopped his Mini Bike he would just jump off and let it fall over to the ground without putting the kickstand down! LOL. He would just shrug it off and say " It will be OK " I certainly enjoyed his fun loving, carefree nature. Being the youngest of the family AND of the group of us youngsters in the neighborhood, he needed this strength of his personality to take the razzing that he did while growing up. We spent many a summer together enjoying the outdoors camping with friends and family. We hardly ever slept in the house. We loved camping under the stars. Of course there was plenty of mischief we got into, but we always knew it was time to come in when the street light came on. As with a lot siblings, as we grew older, we grew apart and went our separate ways. I was lucky enough to be able to reconnect with him after all of his travels abroad when he purchased a place in MD and I was living just a few miles up the road in DE. We got a chance to go to Minor League baseball games together. We also went on several charter boat fishing trips in the Chesapeake Bay! After a successful fishing trip, we would go back to his place and he would fix the fish several different ways. He was an awesome cook, but he made it well known, especially when he was cooking for the family get together's during the Holidays, that NO ONE was allowed in the kitchen while he was cooking! Looking back on the memories of growing up and having Jack as my brother, I've just got to say that I realize how lucky a person I am. He will be greatly missed. He has burnt a solid,

everlasting place in my heart. And for that I will be eternally grateful.
Dave

David Griffith - December 08, 2020 at 04:28 PM

EB

“ *Sassy Gewurtztraminer. If i had to narrow down fond memories of Jack, it'd probably centered around enjoying the wine culture around parts of Germany and France. I was proud to call Jack friend and colleague. I offer my condolences to Erika and family. Evan Baumhofer*

Evan Baumhofer - December 04, 2020 at 08:08 PM

LB

“ *I first met Jack when he was in high school, but my greatest memories were staying with him when his mother, his sister, and I made two trips to Germany. He demonstrated his love of cooking by preparing dinner each evening when we returned after our long days of touring. He planned a USO wine tour for us all. His graciousness made beautiful memories for me.*

Lynn Bennett - December 04, 2020 at 01:42 PM

AG

“ *He sounds like a remarkable human being. He sure did choose a wonderful wife.*

Amy Gill - December 04, 2020 at 12:19 PM

SJ

“ *Jack was a bright and imaginative student. I was glad to reconnect at his high school reunion. His final words to me were that it was wonderful seeing me again. I feel the same. I will never forget him*

Sheryll Jameson - December 03, 2020 at 08:01 PM

DG

“ *Jack Edward Griffith*

David griffith - December 03, 2020 at 02:07 PM

TS

“ *In memory of Jack*

Tribute Store - December 02, 2020 at 11:33 PM

SJ

“ *I will miss Jack. My family and I had gotten to know him on his tour in Germany, and he was a pleasure to work with and to know outside of work. I'll remember some very good times in Germany, enjoying German Rieslings together in the Rhineland and introducing him to a truly memorable Alsatian Gewurztraminer, lending him a B.B King cassette at an Autobahn rest stop on our way in two cars to Garmisch, during a weekend when he liked the blues, but learned he didn't like skiing. After the Germany tour, we enjoyed minor league baseball for a time before our careers went in different directions. Even after a 10-year period when our contact had lessened due to geography, it was still a pleasure to run into Jack at work, and conversation could pick up easily even after some time and distance. It is the mark of a friendship to treasure. Jack worked hard, served his country well, and made a contribution to events that were bigger than himself. He was a good, solid man, highly respected among his colleagues. I extend my condolences to Erika and his family, and all those who will miss him as well.*

Stephen Jaskoski - December 02, 2020 at 11:30 PM

CK

“ *So many fond memories of Jack as a little boy. They make me smile.*

Cookie Kaptis - December 02, 2020 at 09:33 PM

SH

“ David and Kathy...gone way too young. I remember you 3 and your parents.....Betty was a dear friend - Ray and I enjoyed Eastern Star meeting s with Betty. Just so sad for your family...We are never ready to part with those we love.

Sandra & Ray Harper - December 02, 2020 at 03:38 PM

DG

“ Jack. Youngest of three, bravest of all. Stepped up to the plate and said I'll go first. What the Hell. Love you like a brother. Brother. You will be sadly missed. I'm afraid there's not enough space or time here to share all my loving memories. Dave.....

David Griffith - December 02, 2020 at 02:36 PM

BS

“ I am terribly saddened at the news of Jack passing. May God bless you in this difficult time. He will be remembered by some for always being the smartest person in the room; and others for his many accomplishments. I hope everyone realizes what a great friend, and genuinely kind human being he was. I will miss my old friend forever... Brian Stewart

Brian Stewart - December 02, 2020 at 12:19 PM

JG

“ Ya left us to soon dude ya will be missed greatly. It was awesome being related to ya ! We will carry on love and hugs.

Jo Griffith - December 02, 2020 at 11:27 AM

SF

“ *As a silent warrior, he had a tremendous impact on the safety and security of U.S. and allied forces around the world. Thank you and you will be missed.*

Scott Fortier - December 01, 2020 at 03:16 PM