



Major General (Ret) John "Jack" Waggener

August 17, 1925 - February 3, 2017

Major General (Ret) John "Jack" Waggener, 91, of Cape Girardeau, MO passed away Friday Feb.3, 2017 at The Lutheran Home in Cape Girardeau after a brief illness.

Jack was born August 17, 1925 in Gideon, MO and grew up in Charleston, MO where he graduated from high school before joining the US Army and eventually attending and graduating from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1948. Jack then quickly returned to Charleston to marry his sweetheart, Mary Ella Drake, of Charleston before beginning an exciting and rewarding 33 year career as an officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Survivors include three sons; John Jr. (Karen) of Cape Girardeau, Drake of Telluride, Colorado, Robert of Norwood, Colorado; a daughter, Mary, of Cape Girardeau; one grandson, Peyton of Manama, Bahrain; and one granddaughter, Laura of Lexington, Virginia.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ella, brother, Marion Waggener of Charleston and sister, Gerry Getty of Little Rock, AR.

A memorial service will be held 10 AM on Saturday, February, 18 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel.

A family graveside service will follow later that day at the IOOF Cemetery in Charleston.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Charleston United Methodist Church, 1700 E. Marshall St. Charleston, MO 63834, or to Centenary United Methodist Church, 300 N. Ellis St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Cemetery Details

I.O.O.F.

Charleston, MO

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

BK

“ Thank you for all you did for me. I will never forget that.

Bob Kraft - May 14, 2019 at 08:14 AM

JB

“ I went to West Point with Jack. We were also hunting and fishing partners. He was a great guy and a good friend. I am sad to hear of his passing. He will be dearly missed.
Jim Barnett (retired Col.)

Jim Barnett - February 11, 2017 at 06:27 PM

LL

“ I had the distinct pleasure of playing bridge with Jack and his wife Mary Ella and my Mom LouAnn Launhardt. I worked at the Veterans Home for 14 years and quit prior to Jack even needing their services. Jack's love and respect for Mary Ella was so touching. I enjoyed talking to him about his service. I know had a mutual respect each other. My deepest sympathies for such a gentlemen as Jack in his service to his country, his family and those around him. Lori Launhardt

lori launhardt - February 10, 2017 at 07:26 PM

LD

“ I was blessed to have served under the command of General Waggener. The General was highly professional - a perfect gentleman. He was fair and forward thinking. It was an honor to attend a ceremony in his office where he presented me with a medal for winning a competition for “Soldier of the Year” during a time when females were not always allowed equal access. Will never forget his positive and gracious manner.

Deepest regrets to his family and friends. RIP General. SALUTE!!!

Linda Ellis Doran

Linda Ellis Doran - February 10, 2017 at 04:06 PM

FN

“ General "Jack" Waggener was a remarkable individual. I met him at the Lutheran Home in Cape about a decade prior to his death in order to interview him as one of the "special people" to come out of southeast Missouri. He had a long and distinguished military career, and he was a warm, gentle, and gracious individual. He had a keen sense of humor, and was one of the brightest persons I have ever met. He could work complicated mathematical problems in his head faster than I could do them on a calculator. As a graduate of West Point, a military engineer and distinguished veteran of Korea and Vietnam, he had to be one of our most capable generals. His piercing eyes, wry smile, and gentle manner endeared him to almost every one he met. He was one of the best individuals from southeast Missouri, and from America.

Frank Nickell - February 09, 2017 at 10:33 AM