



Jack Godfrey

December 19, 1941 - August 27, 2020

A private service with his immediate family will be held for Jack Godfrey on Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery. Jack, 78 passed away at his home in Broussard, LA on Thursday, August 27th, 2020.

Due to current world events, the burial service will be for immediate family only, with a Celebration of Life event to be scheduled at a later date.

Caring, generous, and honest, with an insatiable thirst for knowledge is an understated description of Jack Godfrey, as anyone who knew him will attest. He was born John Joseph Godfrey in Queens, NY on December 19th, 1941. He attended Regis, a Jesuit High School in New York City, graduating in 1959. He spent the years immediately following in the Jesuit Seminary in upstate New York before finishing his collegiate education at Fordham University. He then attended Georgetown University where he earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics. He completed his post-doctorate work at Rite-Patterson Airforce Base in Dayton, OH where he met Nina, who would become his beloved wife of 44 years. Jack spent his entire career in research and development of Computer Voice Recognition and Speaker Recognition technology. He made significant contributions in the field, from TI's "Speak and Spell" to his leadership of the US Department of Defense's Human Language Technology Group at the National Security Agency. He was an accomplished linguist and was held in high regard.

Jack was a loving and caring Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, and Uncle to his family.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, John Martin and Eleanor Margaret Godfrey, and his sister Patricia McDonough.

He is survived by his wife, Nina Suru Godfrey of Broussard, LA; sisters Jean Beidl of Oakland, NJ, Anne Godfrey of Salinas, CA, and Mary Godfrey of Pacifica, CA; and his brother, Tom Godfrey of Woodloch Springs, PA; his sons, Brian Godfrey of Pottsboro, TX,

Eliot Godfrey of Broussard, LA; and Paul Godfrey and his wife, Stephanie, with granddaughters Eliza, Suru, and June Godfrey of Charlotte, NC.

Jack was a man filled with energy, drive, and commitment to accomplishment. His experience with the Jesuits made him a true “Man for Others.” He showed this every day of his life in how he raised his family, how he was involved in the community, and how he treated every person he met. Jack had many talents, when he wasn’t using his mind for cutting edge technology and the NYT crossword puzzle, he was using his hands to build/renovate/improve every home he lived in. He had a passion for travel, which brought him many memorable adventures with Nina around the world. He was a talented woodworker and many of his friends and family were the beneficiaries of his workshop creations at Christmas. He was an avid and accomplished fisherman who spent countless days on the water with his sons and closest friends, where he was truly happy.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made, in John’s name, to the charity of your choice.

Personal condolences may be sent to the Godfrey family at www.delhommefuneralhome.com.

Delhomme Funeral Home, 1011 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA, is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Cemetery

Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery

200 West Main Street

Broussard, LA, 70518

Comments



“ Jack is going to be missed, but never forgotten! All memories that I have about him are great! It has been a long time that Jack and I exchange some words. However, I have never forgotten all the help he gave me in my Ph.D.! A good listener and a helpful master! We'll miss you Jack - Andre Gustavo Adami (Brazil)

Andre Gustavo Adami - October 23, 2020 at 01:03 PM



“ Jack was always someone who lived a full life. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for many years, first at TI (I remember well a beerhall at Munich ICASSP), then with the government, and finally here at JHU. He was always full of interesting ideas and conversation, whether about speech processing or philosophy. Let us all raise a glass to a life well lived!

Alan McCree - September 04, 2020 at 02:10 PM



“ When I first visited Jack at the Callier Center in Dallas, he discussed his research programs and demonstrated his unique ability to imitate the voice of his speech synthesizer. Over many years I appreciated his quick wit, his deep understanding of phonetics, and his abundant curiosity which made him a valuable asset to many different projects. In addition to these skills that he brought to his career, he was a good friend and an interesting colleague who always had wisdom and kindness to share about the events of our lives. We'll miss you Jack, I hope that you got in lots of good fishing trips in Louisiana. I will keep many enjoyable memories of your talents. - Richard Wiggins

Richard Wiggins - August 31, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ Heartfelt condolences to Nina, Brian, Elliott and Paul on the passing of my colleague and friend of many years. I learnt the basics of phonetics from his lectures at Texas Instruments (TI) when he was still with the University of Texas at Dallas (Callier), shared several professional trips while at TI and last met him in 2011 in Dallas when he was visiting to give a talk at UTD. I fondly recollect when we saw the Broadway show, CATS, together during ICASSP 1988 in New York City; he even shared a copy of T.S. Elliott's book. We will miss him, his sharp wisdom and friendship. May his soul rest in peace. - Raja Rajasekaran
Raja RAJASEKARAN
Colleague at Texas Instruments & Friend

Raja RAJASEKARAN - August 31, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ Jack was a great mentor. He was the one who introduced me to Linguistics in 1996. Had worked with him for many years after that. He was so full of life, funny and serious at the same time. He had a knack to "read" spectrograms like no one else. I cherish the time I spent with him. He will always have a special place in my heart.

I wish the the family strength and solace.

Aravind Ganapathiraju - August 31, 2020 at 04:06 AM



“ I came to know Jack thru his son Brian. We all had a passion for catching “Stripers” on Lake Texoma. I always found Jack to be intriguing in that here was this highly intellectual man who found a high level of joy in the common act of fishing on the lake with friends and family.

He will be missed at the lake and elsewhere.

Mike Gallagher.

Mike Gallagher - August 30, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ Our hearts and prayers go out to the family as we all mourn the loss of Jack. I had the privilege of working with Jack in the Speech Recognition Laboratory at TI, where he mentored me in the concepts of speech and hearing. I learned so much from him. Always knowledgeable, helpful, industrious, smiling, fun loving, and generous are the way I remember him.

Lorin Netsch - August 30, 2020 at 04:04 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Jean Beidl - August 30, 2020 at 02:57 PM



“ Our hearts are completely shattered with the loss of my wonderful, loving, talented, brilliant brother. He was the happiest man I knew and he loved life, especially the fishing part! Our lives will never be the same but his memory will always be with us. God bless you, John. We love you so very much.
Jean Godfrey Beidl & Bill Beidl



Jean Beidl - August 30, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ Our condolences to Jack's great and far-flung family. Jack was a year behind me at St. Andrew's in the Jesuits. Grounded in Jesuit education and spirituality, our paths would take different courses. When I saw him briefly at a Cody's in Brooklyn reunion a few years ago after a 50 year hiatus, he had that same impish smile. That smile stuck and had a message that lifted your spirits no matter what the level of chaos and gloom and intelligence might be. The burden is not all ours. It's lighter than we think. And we can have fun at the same time. God rest your soul Jack. And do what you can to help save the rest of us.

Gerry Drummond Dumont, NJ

Gerry - August 31, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ My deep condolences to Jack's wife Nina and the rest of the family for the great and tragic loss. My prayers for his soul to Rest in Peace and for strength for his family to bear the loss. I had known Jack as a colleague at Texas Instruments for several years before he moved to NSA. My TI colleagues and I in the Speech Research group went to Jack on issues relating to acoustic phonetics, among other areas of his expertise. I was personally impressed by his wealth of knowledge on a lot of topics. He always had something worthwhile to say on any topic at all!

Vishu Viswanathan

Vishu Viswanathan - August 30, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ Jack was a US national asset. His contribution to the government and general scientific community was nonpareil. Plus, he was a really nice, humble (although opinionated) person. Our joke used to be that Jack was “god” in the field of speaker recognition and automated speech analysis. It is not only a personal loss to those that knew him, this is a loss of 50 years of corporate memory. I'm very sad. We've lost a giant.

James Wayman - August 30, 2020 at 12:21 AM



“ I am so sorry for your family's loss of a great man and a dear soul. I was a colleague of Jack working with him at NSA and JHU for many years. I recall that Jack was kind enough to let me, a no-nothing fisher, join him for some fly fishing in Canada after attending a technical conference, and he showed me enough to not get tangled up in the line! I just saw Jack last November when he came over to Maryland for some fishing on the Chesapeake with old JHU colleagues (see pictures). We had a wonderful time, made more special by Jack's stories and humor. We will miss Jack, but he has touched so many people through his life that, in a way, he still lives on.



Doug Reynolds - August 29, 2020 at 05:06 PM



“ On behalf of all the members of the Regis class of 1959,I would like to express our sincere sympathy to all the Godfrey family on the loss of a good friend - Leo Tymon

Leo Tymon - August 29, 2020 at 04:32 PM