



John "Jack" Furman

AUG 21, 1936 - SEP 6, 2024



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John Robert Furman (Jack) grew up in the Schoharie Valley in upstate New York, son of Robert and Charlotte Furman. His parents owned and managed several general stores in the local area for many years. His father built his own sailboat and Jack learned to sail early—a sport he later enjoyed with his own boat in New Orleans and Nashville.

He studied Psychology/pre-med at Tufts University in Boston and then proceeded to focus on medicine at Albany Medical School in Albany, NY. While working a summer job at the Mohonk Mountain House, Jack met Mary Edwina Parker (Edie). They married a year later on December 20, 1958 and began a journey of more than sixty years together.

Jack carried out his internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and in the US Public Health Service. Further medical training in Urology was completed in New York City at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital and at the U.S. Public Hospital on Staten Island.

After their first two sons, Dan and Russ, were born in Staten Island, Jack and Edie returned to New Orleans for an additional two years, where Rob was born. Jack spent eight years of active duty in the U.S. Public Health Hospitals for the Coast Guard, which he remembered with pride. In 1970, now with three sons, Jack and Edie moved to Nashville, TN, where he maintained a private practice in urology for thirty years. His interests included cycling, hiking, fishing, hunting, woodworking, and music (orchestral and choral).

Music was a big part of Jack's life, even though he never pursued it professionally. He was especially fond of the classical music from the Romantic period, and visitors might hear symphonies or operas booming from the sound system when they dropped in. After several years playing the French horn for the local symphony, he began participating in the Sewanee choir with Edie,



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and he continued singing later with the Heritage House choir in Brentwood. Once he retired, among many other activities, Jack he studied and became a park ranger, volunteering and leading nature tours with the Friends of the South Cumberland State Park in Monteagle, TN. He also pursued a lifelong interest in carpentry, and the workshop he had maintained for many years in Nashville was expanded at their house in Monteagle. Jack could often be found working on woodworking and furniture projects for family members and was always happy to pass on these skills to his children and grandchildren. Jack and Edie celebrated 60 years of marriage and companionship in 2018. Towards the end of her life, Edie began to suffer from progressive vascular dementia and they moved into the Brentwood Heritage Home. In the summer of 2019, Edie moved into the Somerfield Nursing Home section. Unfortunately, the Covid epidemic hit the following year and senior facilities were particularly vulnerable. Although she did not get sick, Edie's last months were spent in mandatory isolation--difficult for her, Jack and the whole family. The quarantine was lifted in March of 2021--only weeks before she passed--just in time to allow in-person visits by her 3 sons, wives and 11 grandchildren. After the loss of Edie, Jack was beset by health problems--a longstanding case of prostate cancer and advanced stenosis in his lower back. But while recovering from a difficult spinal surgery, he was visited by Donna Huff, the pianist for the Heritage House choir. They struck up a friendship and soon a second romance blossomed in both of their lives. They went on several cruises and would meet every morning for breakfast and coffee. He became great friends with her cats, Jenny and Josie. "I don't know what I've done to be so lucky," he would say.

In the Fall of 2024, at 88 years, he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Treatment options were discussed, but within two weeks he passed in the early morning of September 6, 2024, attended by Donna and his grandson, Joseph Paine Furman. He is survived by sons Dan (Kim), Russ (Kathryn), Rob (Carrie) and grandchildren Hunter, Spencer, Miles, Mary Haynes, Emma Claire, John Parker, James Preston, Joseph Paine, Lucy Mae and Tallulah Jane.



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He will be missed by many. On the many paths that he chose to walk, he left colleagues, friends, family (and even Donna's cats) enriched by his positive presence and his warm and steady embrace of life's joys and trials. He was a paradigm of a wise and thoughtful citizen, a caretaker, a father and grandfather. The world could use more people like Jack.

Arrangements entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5110 Gallatin Pike, Nashville, TN 37216, 615-865-1101, www.springhillfh.com.




Events


John "Jack" Furman

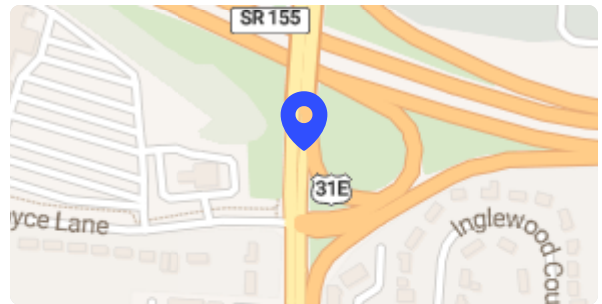
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Graveside


 **Monday**, December 30, 2024

 11:00 AM CT

 **Historic Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville TN 37216



Cemetery Details

 **Historic Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville TN 37216





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John "Jack" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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