



John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood

August 28, 1931 - September 12, 2018

Jack Kirkwood was born in Sioux City, Iowa on August 28, 1931. He was raised by his mother Wilhelmina "Toots" Kirkwood in a boarding house during the depression and World War II. He graduated from Sioux City Central High School in 1949. Jack joined the Iowa Air National Guard in 1950 and attended the University of South Dakota and Creighton University before being activated during the Korean War. During his service he was stationed at Dow AFB in Bangor, ME; Lowry AFB in Denver, CO; and England AFB in Alexandria, LA. Jack was discharged Honorably in 1952 at the rank of Corporal.

While on a two-week leave in 1951, he was engaged to Marilyn Margaret "Frankie" Gilman of Sioux City, IA. They were married on April 19, 1952 at the Dow Air Force Base Chapel in Bangor. After his service they returned to Sioux City and started a family.

Jack returned to school under the GI Bill at the University of Iowa, graduating with a Political Science degree in 1954 and earning his law degree in 1957.

Jack was a member of the Iowa and Nebraska Bar.

He embarked on his professional career with AT&T and Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, serving many management positions in the plant and treasury departments (including a stint as a telephone operator during a labor strike in the late 1960's). Upon retiring from the phone company, he worked at Creighton University's Life Long Learning Center and was the Career Planning and Placement Director until his retirement in 1993. His work took

him and his family to live in cities across the Midwest including Sioux City, Iowa City, Denver, Kansas City, Springfield (IL), Chicago, Omaha (twice), Des Moines (twice), Fargo and Valley.

Jack enjoyed fishing, especially with his uncles in his youth and his sons and grandsons in later years; He was also fond of mushroom hunting, gardening, woodworking and carving; His passion, however, was his art. While he developed word-working skills early in life, he began to draw and paint watercolors in his retirement. He was generous with his art and continued painting until his death.

He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, the Telephone Pioneers of America, Downtown Omaha Kiwanis, Serra Club and American Legion Post 58 in Valley. He served on the board of the Valley Volunteer Fire Department and was member of the Kearney State College Foundation board. His love of art matured as a founding board member of the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney.

Jack was preceded in death by his half-brother and dear friend, Don Kirkwood and half-sister Carol Malone. He is survived by five Children: Lynn (Randy) Pettit of Clive, IA; Betsy (Kim) Elder of Paxton, NE; John Kirkwood of Hudson, WI; Mike (Lisa) Kirkwood of Story, WY; Dave (Candi) Kirkwood of Omaha; and Cheryl Hamilton of Hudson, WI. Twelve Grandchildren Ryan (Kelly) Pettit of Crystal Lake, IL; Abbey (Chad) Gilroy of Johnston, IA; Andy (Amanda) Elder of Neligh, NE; Tyler Pettit of Des Moines, IA; Colby (Jenna) Pettit of Clive, IA; Matt (Motika) Elder of North Platte, NE; Katie (Devin) Mueller of Lincoln, NE; Kelsey Kirkwood of Hudson, WI; Jessie (Aaron) Boettger of Denver, CO; Michaela Kirkwood of Hudson, WI; Sydney Kirkwood of Omaha, NE; and Jack Kirkwood of Omaha, NE. Great Grandchildren Taylor and Mason Pettit; Harrison and Nolan Gilroy; Hannah and Ali Elder; Mackenzie and Ava Kate Pettit; Beckett and Blakely Elder. Nieces Kyra, Kirstan, Molly, Melissa. Nephews Cris, Curt, Stan, Rick and Bill.

Faith and Family were most important to Jack. He believed that his family is his treasure, but his only attachment is to God.

Survived by wife Marilyn "Frankie"; children Lynn and Randy Pettit of Des Moines, IA, Betsy and Kim Elder of Paxton, NE, John Kirkwood of Hudson, WI, Michael and Lisa Kirkwood of Amherst, NE, David and Candi Kirkwood of Omaha and Cheryl Hamilton of Hudson, WI; 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews; Visitation with family receiving friends Sunday 5 to 7 PM with a rosary at 7 PM at St. John's Catholic Church in Valley; Mass of Christian Burial Monday 11 AM at St. John's Catholic Church; Interment Omaha National Cemetery Tuesday at 9 AM; Memorials to the Church or Valley Rescue Squad

Cemetery Details

Omaha National Cemetery

14250 Schram Road
Omaha, NE 68138

Previous Events

Graveside

SEP **18**. 9:00 AM (CT)

Omaha National Cemetery
14250 Schram Road
Omaha, NE 68138

Tribute Wall



“ *John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *My condolences to the Kirkwood family. Jack was employed in the career placement office at Creighton and was so helpful guiding me through a process which lead me to find my first job, and it was a great one. Thank you Jack. May you rest in peace.
Laura Olderog, Creighton alumna, 1988*

Laura Olderog - September 19, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ *John sorry to hear about your loss - My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family - Mike McGlade Go Lopers!*

Michael McGlade - September 18, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 18, 2018 at 12:05 AM

DK

“ Frankie & Family,
We just got word this evening that Jack passed away. So sorry we missed the rosary/funeral last night and today. We would have been there had we known.
So glad we had the honor of knowing him through the years.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you!
Denny & JuLee Kallenbach

denny & JuLee Kallenbach - September 17, 2018 at 08:30 PM

TN

“ Tim and Nancy Norwood purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.



Tim and Nancy Norwood - September 16, 2018 at 10:18 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.



September 16, 2018 at 08:41 AM

JS

“ Thinking of you today, Marilyn. My sincere sympathy.
Judy Stransky

Judy Stransky - September 15, 2018 at 09:58 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 15, 2018 at 01:13 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I have wonderful memories of working with him and spending time with Frankie and family. May he rest in peace. Dick Eyler*

Dick Eyler - September 15, 2018 at 10:30 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 14, 2018 at 05:44 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 14, 2018 at 12:11 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 14, 2018 at 11:33 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 14, 2018 at 10:21 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Reister Kirkwood.*



September 14, 2018 at 09:57 AM



“ *We send our deepest sympathy. You know how we will miss him. You are all in our prayers. Blessings, Bob and Gerri*

Bob and Gerri Nordell - September 14, 2018 at 06:41 AM

SC

“ Our dear friend, Jack, had a great sense of humor, twinkle in his eyes, always caring and helpful, enjoyed debating with Jim, beautiful artist, appreciated nature's flowers, insects, beauty and fruits (especially cherries). We will forever miss him but will forever remember the positive, enjoyable impact he's made in our lives! We count ourselves lucky and are thankful that we've enjoyed all of these years of life with Jack and Frankie. Love you all. Jim, Susie, Luke, Ali and Gavin

Susie Clinton - September 13, 2018 at 09:50 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Susie Clinton - September 13, 2018 at 09:00 PM

KM

Love this picture!

Katie Mueller - September 14, 2018 at 09:29 AM