



Jack H. Rider

April 5, 1940 - February 21, 2020

MELBOURNE, FLORIDA - Jack H. Rider, 79, of Seaford, died Friday, February 21, 2020 in Melbourne, Florida.

He was born April 5, 1940 in Laurel, a son of the late George and Ruth Rider.

Jack graduated from Delmar High School with the class of 1958 and the University of Delaware with the class of 1962. He proudly served his country in the US Army. He spent a majority of his career as a civil engineer with Exxon Research & Engineering. In their younger years Jack, and his wife Barbara, lived in New Jersey where he served on the Florham Park Planning Commission and was instrumental in bringing the sport of soccer to the town. He also had periods of residence in Illinois, Maryland, Germany, Venezuela, and London in connection with his education, military and business assignments with Exxon. Jack & Barbara eventually returned to Delaware in 1996 after retirement. He spent some time as a volunteer for a youth advocate program. Jack enjoyed playing tennis and spending his winters in Florida. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by 4 children, Mark A. Rider (Cheryl) of Hamilton, VA, Terri A. DiSessa (Ken) of Randolph, NJ, Richard S. Rider (Lynne) of Morris Plains, NJ and Wade E. Rider (Jen) of Holland, PA; 11 grandchildren, Luke, Shea, Kyle (Alysa), Danielle, Mitchell (Katie), Casey, Eric, Zach, Chase, Dylan and Jake; a great grandchild, Gabriella; and brothers, Jerry Rider and Jon Rider. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Barbara E. Rider, who passed on December 21, 2012; and a sister, Joan Pochop.

A visitation for family and friends will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Short Funeral Home in Delmar, followed by a graveside service to be held at 1:00 p.m. at Springhill Memory Gardens in Hebron.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Delmar Alumni Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 184, Delmar, DE 19940.

Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com. Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar.

Cemetery

Springhill Memory Gardens

27260 Ocean Gateway

Hebron, MD, 21830

Events

JUL **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:30PM

18

Short Funeral Home

13 East Grove Street, Delmar, DE, US, 19940

JUL **Service** 01:00PM

18

Springhill Memory Gardens

27260 Ocean Gateway, Hebron, MD, US, 21830

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Short Funeral Home - July 18 at 09:50 AM



“ 81 files added to the album LifeTributes



Short Funeral Home - July 14 at 09:41 AM



“ It's with a very heavy heart that we add our tribute to Jack's memory. We only recently became aware of Jack's passing at the end of March, when I tried to contact him by phone. What a shock to learn about the terrible auto accident, that led to his untimely death. It's still hard for me to come to terms with the abrupt, heartbreaking way his life ended. We all know how precious & fragile life is, but this really hits home.

Jack's life intertwined with our lives for over 60 years. It started @ the U. of Delaware: in the freshman dorm, in the multiple classes we shared together (As we had the same Civil Engineering major) & the "friendly" competition we enjoyed between our respective fraternities. After Delaware, we went on to graduate school together at the U. of Illinois, where we developed the friendship that lasted a lifetime.

After Illinois, we both resided in northern New Jersey, where we built our careers & raised our families. We enjoyed many family picnics, outings & all manner of sports activities together. We also spent many Saturday evenings playing bridge until the wee hours, because neither one of us would call it a night until somebody "won", much to Barb & Gail's dismay.

Then after our respective "retirements" from the active work force, our lives intersected again. We both ended up spending our Winters in the vicinity of Vero Beach, FL. Consequently, we shared many enjoyable meals & leisure activities including our annual golf matches.

As noted above, Jack was a very competitive person, but for him it was as much

about the competition experience than it was about winning the prize. He also enjoyed playing the devil's advocate role ,when discussing politics & world affairs.Yet he was a very caring person who would help you in any way he could.For example,I remember him trying to help me start my car in 20 degree below zero weather while at Illinois. I also remember him loaning me his pop-up camping trailer & I also recall him crawling around in the attic of my Fla. Unit ,looking for leaks & mold after several big hurricanes

Most of all I'll miss his friendship,his down-home drawl & his infectious smile. This loss will linger for a long time,just as we continue to remember Barb's influence on our lives.

Finally,our thoughts & prayers go out to the Rider family.We can't imagine the grief & pain you are suffering ,as a result of your sudden loss.We can only offer our heartfelt sympathy,our prayers & point you to the miracle of Easter morning.

David & Gail Lee

David Lee - April 16 at 06:05 AM

 “ 3 files added to the album Jack's workmates annual reunions



Richard Plambeck - March 21 at 01:25 PM

 “ So very sad to hear this. My deepest condolences to Janet, and Jack’s family. Jack was a kind and gentle soul. He will be greatly missed. We enjoyed playing pickleball with Jack and Janet. May you find peace in Jack’s memories.

Nancy Bard - March 08 at 09:12 PM

 “ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Larry Allen - March 02 at 11:02 AM



“ Wonderful pictures Larry.

Nancy Bard - March 08 at 09:14 PM



“ We were so saddened to read of Jack's death in our newspaper today. Jack and I worked together in the same section & division at Esso (now Exxon/Mobil) in NJ for several years during the early parts of our careers. He had been organizing annual reunions of several of us from the division for many years after we retired. Barbara and I moved down to lower Delaware 5 years ago and we lived only a few miles away from Jack, and one of our granddaughters is now a sophomore at his alma mater, UD. We'll miss his laugh and great, albeit somewhat offbeat, sense of humor.

Richard Plambeck - March 01 at 05:08 PM



“ I was very saddened to learn that Jack had passed away. We basically grew up together on the Rider Farm and had many laughs together as we loaded tomatoes on the farm wagons. I am so sorry and I offer my condolence to the family. We also served as Army Officers on active duty.

Lieutenant Colonel Melvin Smullen (Ret) & wife Jackie

Melvin Smullen - March 01 at 10:17 AM



“ Jack and I established our friendship over 62 years ago. We were roommates our freshman year at UD, and both pledged Sigma Nu Fraternity that Spring semester. We also roomed together in the fraternity house for several years. After college, we went our separate ways, living far apart for many years, but managing to connect many summers during vacations with parents and family in Sussex, and especially enjoyed watching our kids play together on the beach at Fenwick Island. In 2005, I returned to my hometown of Laurel to marry. Jack, Barbara, Nancy and I enjoyed spending a good bit of time together. We belonged to the Seaford G&CC, and had dinner together weekly at the club, along with Galen and Joann Brosius. Dinner was followed by cards and board games at our homes. We were also introduced to “Rider Rules”. Jack had rules for board games, cards, golf, Tennis, Ping Pong, Billiards and Pickleball, just to name a few. Jack and Nancy, both smart as whips, were extremely competitive, and loved to beat each other, especially in cards and board games. Jack always volunteered to keep score, and he managed to win quite often. We were speaking with Jack's kids about this at one of Jack's annual summer crab feasts a few years ago, and we were strongly advised to “never let Jack keep score!”.

Soon after that, Nancy started keeping score (much to Jack's chagrin), and

amazingly, Nancy, Barbara, Galen and even I started to win more often. Just saying...

Nancy and I love Jack, and will miss him greatly. It helps us to think that he will be getting caught up with his wonderful Barbara and also his good friend Chuck Cullen.

Larry and Nancy Allen

Larry Allen - March 01 at 08:14 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Jack. He was a wonderful neighbor. We really enjoyed Jack's yearly crab feast. Jack had such a wonderful family. We enjoyed seeing all the children and grandchildren coming to visit their dad. Jack know you will really be missed. Barbara was such a lovely lady. I know she welcomed you with open arms. We will truly miss you. Prayers going out to the family.

Shirley Massey - February 29 at 04:30 PM



“ It was with great sadness that we learned of Jack's passing . My husband and I enjoyed playing pool, shuffleboard and socialising with Jack and Janet. Please know he will be missed by his many friends in Whispering Palms
Suzanne & Steve McCombs

Suzanne McCombs - February 28 at 11:24 AM