John "Jack" W. Rall Jr.

November 16, 1930 - January 1, 2023

John William (Jack) Rall Jr, age 92, of Kearney, died in his sleep on Sunday, January 1, 2023 at Edgewood Vista Memory Care Center in Columbus, Nebraska. Memorial services will be Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney with Father Charles Peek. Burial will follow the service in the Kearney Cemetery with military honors provided by the Kearney American Legion Post #52, Kearney V.F.W. Post #759 and the Nebraska National Guard Funeral Honors Team. Lunch will be served following the burial. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to the City of Kearney Park and Recreation Department for trees. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of local arrangements.

Jack was the oldest of five boys born to Virginia and John William (Bill) Rall Sr. on November 16, 1930, in Kearney. He graduated from Kearney High School and then Kearney State College with a teaching degree. He never went on to teach but proved to be an invaluable resource for all his children's questions about geography. While in college, Jack worked at Swan's Furniture in Kearney. He later bought the business from the Swan family and continued to run it until his retirement nearly five decades later.

Jack served in the US Army during the Korean War and was stationed in

Puerto Rico where he learned to enjoy cerveza and to disdain plantains. Throughout his life he was active in the Kearney Jaycees, Fort Kearny Wildlife Association (President 1959-1961), Sertoma Club, Elks, Boy Scouts, Kearney Goodfellows, National Furniture Association, Kearney National Guard, Kearney City Park Board, and the Good Samaritan Hospital Volunteer League.

Jack married Ruth Alexander on May 29, 1961 in Grand Island. Together they raised three children: Theresa, Steve and Betsy. He was a devoted and loving husband and father, who learned to do some household chores alongside his children. Jack enjoyed reading and working outdoors, being especially fond of planting trees. He was athletic and loved baseball, choosing early to be a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan who finally got to Fenway Park for the first time in 1983 to see the Red Sox beat the Yankees in extra innings. He spent uncountable hours working on his lawns and gardens, first being fondly known as the Canna King of 4th Avenue and later planting so many trees at “Ralls Ranch” a plumber visiting for the first time commented “not everyone can live in a fricking park!” Jack had a close group of friends with whom he played poker and traveled to Canada annually to go fishing.

Jack is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters, Theresa (Quito, Ecuador) and Betsy (Craig Potthast, Columbus); grandchildren, Lance (Adrienne) Rall and his children Aurelia, Aidan and Declan (Kearney), Logan (Theresa) Rall and his children Jack and Sage (Waverly), and Erin Burr (Kearney); daughter-in-law, Kim (Jeff Burr. Kearney); brothers, Jim (Donna) Rall (Lincoln) and Joe Rall (Kearney); sister-in-law, Sharon Rall (Kearney); and many nieces and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by his son Steve and brothers Jerry and Marvin.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN **14**. 9:30 AM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
https://www.hlmkfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

John "Jack" W. Rall Jr.

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM

1 file added to the album Memorial Service

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services - January 14, 2023 at 12:30 PM

SB

What a sweet kind man...bought most of our furniture over the years from Jack...and he was always so thoughtful. Of recent fun memories of Jack and Stan talking about RED SOCKS and eating ice cream at CH. Blessed to have known him...and such a sweet amazing family!!!!! Blessings to each of you as you remember happy days! Sue Bigg

Susan C Bigg - January 12, 2023 at 03:25 PM

DB

My sincere condolences to the family of Jack Rall. I became friends with Jack upon opening my medical clinic in 1979 and purchased all of the waiting room chairs and tables. This led to many years of going to Swans Furniture store for our new home and Jack was always the nicest, most patient and calming person. He was a delight to work with and I always left his presence feeling better about the kindness of people. He will be missed. May His Memory Be A Blessing.

Dr Steve Bennett - January 11, 2023 at 07:13 PM

MF

Mary & Jim Woestman's Kids and Families purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of John "Jack" W. Rall Jr..

Mary & Jim Woestman's Kids and Families - January 10, 2023 at 12:31 PM

PM

Betsy, I didn't know your dad but I do pray for you and your family at this time. May perpetual light shine upon him...may he rest in peace. May your family find strength with each other and remember the good times with him.
Pat Marquis

Pat Marquis - January 07, 2023 at 11:32 AM

HU

My condolances to all family members of Jack Roll , When I first met Jack Roll and Mrs Roll the year was 1982 , while I was a student at Kearney and a cllasmate of Theresa Roll. Away from my family Jack and Mrs Roll always welcomed me so warmly I always felt at home. He had a big heart and a big acceptance about others. I will never forget the day he let me drive his Cadillac. He was a great guy. Jack "Mr Roll" I will miss you rest in peace and thankyou for all you had done for me. I know you will be in the heaven say hi to my grandfather. Haluk Ulusoy From Turkey - halukulusoy1@gmail.com

HALUK ULUSOY - January 07, 2023 at 03:26 AM

JS

Jack was a great guy we r all going to miss him I loved joking with him laughing with him he will be missed so much

Jamie Schooley - January 06, 2023 at 08:21 PM

LG

Jack was such a neat guy enjoyed taking care of him Always joking we will miss him alot Laurie Garretson

Laurie Garretson - January 04, 2023 at 11:00 PM