



Jack Katona

November 2, 1939 - November 28, 2024

PRINCETON – Jack Katona, 85, of Princeton, died Thursday, November 28, 2024. Born November 2, 1939 in Kimball, he was the son of the late Andrew Katona and Anna Bohin Katona.

Jack was a 1957 graduate of Welch High School. He continued his education at Concord College, earning a degree in education. Jack devoted his entire career to the McDowell County Board of Education, beginning as a teacher and coach at Berwind Junior and Big Creek High Schools. His leadership skills led him to administration, where he spearheaded numerous programs, ultimately retiring as Supervisor of Secondary Education.

Jack's passions extended beyond his professional life. An exceptional athlete, he played on Concord's WVIAC conference championship baseball team in 1961. His love for sports continued as he served as basketball referee and baseball umpire. Jack was also a ham radio operator, tennis player and avid golfer.

His commitment to his community was evident through his active participation in church, where he taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. Jack's impact was felt far and wide, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 58 years, Pollyan Butler Katona; three children, Mark Katona of Roanoke Rapids, NC, Karen Rainey and her husband David of Daniels and their children, Catherine, Emily and Heather, and Toni Katona of Staunton, VA and her son, Jackson; and one brother, Andrew Katona, Jr. of Princeton.

A cryptside service will be conducted at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, December 14, 2024 at Woodlawn Memorial Park Mausoleum Chapel in Bluewell with Pastor Jason Spade and Pastor Andrew Maynor officiating. Friends attending the service are asked to meet at the mausoleum chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to Bowers Hospice House, the National MS Society or First Baptist Church of Princeton.

Arrangements by Bailey-Kirk Funeral Home in Princeton. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.bailey-kirk.com.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

3578 Coal Heritage Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Previous Events

Cryptside Service

DEC 14. 12:00 PM (ET)

Woodlawn Memorial Park
3578 Coal Heritage Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall

MZ

“ I graduated from Welch High School with Jack...He was a wonderful person, and I will never forget him...My deepest condolences to his family..

Maria DiMasa Zucco

Maria DiMasa Zucco - February 02, 2025 at 12:30 PM

DB

“ My cousin Jack. What can I say? I remember as a little boy his love for life and his passion for golf. He was always kind and helpful. I recall as a teenager I joined a local actors group, The Footlighters, and was thrilled and surprised when he had also joined. Many rehearsals for the play , PICNIC, later we did a spot on performance, according to us. LOL

I'll miss him and cherish those memories and yes, Mark, all of our childhood antics.



Danny Bohin - December 14, 2024 at 08:05 AM

DB

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Jack will be missed by all of us. Our prayers will be with you in your hours of sadness. We love each of you!

Delano & Barbara

Delano & Barbara Butler - December 09, 2024 at 12:42 PM