

John Anthony Murphy Sr.

August 6, 1932 - January 9, 2021

John Anthony "Jack" Murphy's life began in Barberton, Ohio on August 6, 1932, and ended peacefully on January 9, 2021, at the age of 88, in Toledo, Ohio.

As a young Irish Catholic boy, Jack Murphy developed a love of people and competition, which made for a life full of family and friends. In fact, Jack spent many a day with his two brothers, Pat and Bernie, thinking about having a scrum with the youth of Akron's north hill, and eventually bringing home a broken nose. Over the years, it was to be broken at least three more times, hence the famous "Murphy nose."

Everything and anything purple meant Barberton Magic to him, and it's a guarantee that if Jack saw you wearing purple, it was sure to elicit a "Go Magic"!! Pat (Elaine) and Bernie (Jo) predecease Jack, but his sister Rosalie Danko (who did not involve herself in the scrums with her brothers), along with husband Bob, continue to call Barberton home.

Jack traveled State Route 224 to Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio in 1950 where he would become a Student Prince, play football, and meet the love of his life, Carol Company. Carol passed away in early 2020, and so Jack will now meet her daily for cocktail hour at 4 PM for eternity.

He honorably served his country during the Korean War, and recently participated in the Honor Flight to Washington DC. Jack was so pleased to be included in this group. Although he did not like to advertise this, Jack received his Master's degree from rival Bowling Green State University in 1959.

However, clearly his heart was with the Toledo Rockets where he would spend 18 years coaching in some capacity for the football program. He started as the defensive line coach, became the defensive coordinator and later the Head Coach. Winning was everything. Win, and the family would sit in the third pew on the right at Gesu 9AM Mass. Lose, sit in the back at St. Ann's for 9:30 Mass. The life of a football coach could be consuming, yet exciting. Game film, fresh from the developer was often delivered to the

house between 1 and 3 AM. He left Toledo for one year to be the Head Coach at Heidelberg and quickly returned to become the Head Coach at Toledo.

Jack is survived by four children: Karen Runyon, John (Jennifer), Linda Savercool (Tim) and Tim (Ann). Timothy David Murphy was considered the first touchdown of the 1971 Rocket season, so we celebrate TD Murphy's 50th birthday this year along with the great Toledo Rocket Football Team of 35-0. Jack's loss is deeply felt by his ten grandchildren: Matthew Runyon, Maggie Murphy, Karen Murphy, Jack Murphy, Megan (Tyler) Dodds, Michelle (Jack) McIntyre, Danny (Karlee) Yodzis, Leah Yodzis, Sam Murphy, Ryan Murphy and one great grandchild, Maeve McIntyre, born three weeks ago. He was preceded in death by one grandchild, Nathaniel Murphy. Many photos depict Jack lovingly spending time with his grandchildren. Jack's numerous nieces and nephews will miss his warm humor at family gatherings.

But this isn't the only family - his players, fellow coaches, UT administrators and sports writers consider him part of their family, as well. Jack considered coaching to be so much more than just playing a game. It gave him immense pleasure to be given the opportunity to mold men, academically and in their careers.

He earned many awards during his football years: Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year, Ohio College Coach of the Year, most valuable student athlete of the year at Heidelberg, and All-Ohio Conference athlete of the year, to name a few. He was inducted into the Barberton High School Hall of Fame in 1983, the Heidelberg Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Varsity T Hall of Fame in 1997.

In addition to being a successful coach - he was also an accomplished businessman with Seaway Beverage and Manager of Public and Governmental Affairs of Envirosafe Services of Ohio, Inc., in Oregon. Jack was adept at creating relationships, and many people have noted his honor, humility, honesty, thoughtfulness, and love.

He was involved with multiple community organizations including serving as Board of Directors for Easter Seal Society of NWO, Kiwanis Club, Oregon Schools Foundation Board and as well as serving as past President of the National Football Hall of Fame-Toledo chapter and President of the Oregon Development Foundation. At the request of fellow coach and close friend Carty Finkbeiner, Jack served on the TARTA board of Directors and was an advocate for paratransit services. In addition, Jack was the district chairman for the NCAA Rules Committee and is a past president of the Toledo Chapter of the Collegiate National Football Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Heidelberg College Fellows and has worked as a volunteer for various Heidelberg College fund

raising drives. He also worked as a volunteer in the Toledo area for The Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Jack continued his competitive ways in retirement, as he and Carol enjoyed golf, and Jack liked to let us know how much money he won in his weekly poker game. They enjoyed weekly dinners with friends at local restaurants, but always came back to their favorite, Shawn's Irish Tavern.

Jack loved being with his kids and grandkids at the lake, and sitting on the deck with Bud and Phyllis Schultz, lifelong friends from Tiffin. He and Carol spent every summer in Port Clinton on the beach at the summer cottage, where he continued his love of coaching while teaching grandkids to catch a football, play euchre, fish, and enjoy family, friends and life.

He leaves a big hole in many hearts, but great memories for all of us.

The family would like to thank the staff at Parkcliffe Alzheimer's Community for the considerate care they provided Jack during this last year.

Please join the family for a Covid-safe Memorial Tailgate to celebrate the life of Jack and begin the 50-year anniversary celebration of the Toledo 35-0 team. There will be a drive-through visitation in front of the rocket at the Glass Bowl Stadium, University of Toledo, Lot 10 this Saturday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We would like to continue Jack's dedication to scholar athletes and support the Jack and Carol Murphy Athletic Scholarship Fund. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to their fund: www.UTRockets.com/Murphy.

The Memorial Tailgate will be followed by a 1:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church, 4201 Heatherdowns Blvd. Toledo, OH 43614. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Funeral Ceremony

JAN 23. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Patrick Of Heatherdowns
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH

Tribute Wall

KC

“ My parents, Ruth and Hank Drake were good friends of Jack and Carol. They had many great times together. I remember their family coming over to Catawba Island for Fourth of July to watch the fire works with us. Always a good time.
Kathy Burnett Conley

Kathy Conley - January 26, 2021 at 06:01 PM

KR

Thanks Kathy.. now they're all together watching the fireworks and playing some bridge!

karen runyon - January 29, 2021 at 09:02 AM

SD

“ Rest in peace Jack. Lucky to have played for him and knowing him for so many years. His greatest influence on me came after playing days. What a class man, a mentor, a true coach. Love to the family! Steve Dartt

Steve Dartt - January 25, 2021 at 10:32 AM

CD

“ Jack was truly one of a kind. He had a way of making you feel that you were just the person he was hoping to see! There were no strangers around Jack. We are grateful for the many loving memories of visits to the lake. Memory Eternal

Cheryl Danko - January 24, 2021 at 07:30 PM

JF

“ To the extended family and many friends of Jack Murphy we send our heartfelt condolences. As a fellow coach of the 35-0 UT Rocket championship teams, Jack was both a leader and mentor of his staff and players. Jack will be missed but certainly not forgotten. Sincerely Jim and Kathy Flynn

Jim Flynn - January 24, 2021 at 09:37 AM

JF

“ Coach Murphy was a great coach and will never forget his everyday encouragement to make us better players. As a member of the first MAC Championship team God bless you Jack and to your family. John Flynn

John Flynn - January 23, 2021 at 06:54 PM

TK

“ Karen and family,

Your Dad, (Jack) was always so nice and friendly to us when we came to your home. When you held the decorating of the Bowsheer Homecoming Float at your home, he was always smiling to see so many of your classmates participating in the event. Both Jack and Carol always welcomed us into their home. With deepest sympathy to the Murphy family. May your wonderful memories of your Dad surround you with peace and comfort.

*Thinking of you all at this difficult time,
Tina and Dave Kaighin*

Tina Kaighin - January 21, 2021 at 08:52 PM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - January 21, 2021 at 06:33 PM

JA

“ *Jack and Carol were neighbors of ours on Watercrest for more than 20 years. Jack was a gentleman and an all around nice guy I played ridge with Carol right up to a couple of months before she died. My husband played poker with Jack at our club house. He always had a good time with Jack When I would pick up Carol to play bridge, Jack always had a smile on his face. He and Carol will be greatly missed.*

Our sympathies to the family of Jack Murphy

Janet and Bob Pitzen

Janet - January 20, 2021 at 01:12 PM

RP

“ To the family of Coach Murphy:

Coach was an impact person in my life. From the support and encouragement of doing your best and staying with it through my playing days, in helping secure my first coaching job, and by staying in touch for a lifetime. He lived the life of the true Rocket commitment. A great coach, mentor, person I was blessed to be a part of his life. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Coach Jack Murphy.

Rich Pivoriunas

Rich Pivoriunas - January 19, 2021 at 08:53 AM

RM

“ Jack Murphy was one of the great, college football coaches. I enjoyed watching the Rockets extend the winning streak. It was a treat to be a student during those exciting times - T-O-L!

Condolences and prayers to the family. May God Bless.

Richard McKibben - January 17, 2021 at 06:20 PM

TC

“ To Tim, Ann and the Family of Jack Murphy:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Coach's passing. He was a consummate gentleman, terrific coach and wonderful friend to all of us in Northwest Ohio. He will be greatly missed!

May God be with you all during this time of great sorrow.

Tom Crothers - January 17, 2021 at 10:47 AM

SS

Sorry to read of the passing of Jack Murphy. Was at Heidelberg with Jack. He was my pledge boss. He was a senior and I was a freshman. We played football together. He was coach at Toledo when I was coaching at Bowling Green High School. Lots of great memories. Stu Stearns

Stuart Stearns - January 17, 2021 at 11:51 AM

SE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sean - January 16, 2021 at 08:11 PM

KA

Thanks Sean Miss your dad too!

karen - January 17, 2021 at 10:26 AM

MF

“ Jack was a great man and I learned a lot about him reading that obituary. What a great tribute that was. Jack was one of the nicest fathers of my friends. Good times at the lake! I remember him soliciting my husband, Pat's, services to lay the carpet at the lake. He had to do a lot of cutting and patching on that job. But we all got a good deal with beers and being hosted at the lake! Rest In Peace, Jack. You will be missed!

Mary Forshey

Mary Firshey - January 16, 2021 at 11:31 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



megan coyle - January 16, 2021 at 08:55 AM

KG

“ My condolences to the entire Murphy family. I have very fond memories from years and years ago. I even remember when "TD" was born, I purchased a BGSU onesie to give to Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, as my Mom worked at BGSU at the time, so we always teased about UT and BGSU. The world lost a good one when you passed. Rest in peace Mr. Murphy and hold Mrs. Murphy's hand now forever. Sending condolences, prayers and hugs to the family! -- Kathy Geisbuhler

Kathy Geisbuhler - January 15, 2021 at 04:34 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



karen - January 15, 2021 at 03:59 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



karen - January 15, 2021 at 03:44 PM

MY

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Megan Yodzis - January 14, 2021 at 05:53 PM

DY

“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



Danny Yodzis - January 14, 2021 at 05:18 PM

DY

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Danny Yodzis - January 14, 2021 at 05:17 PM

DY

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Danny Yodzis - January 14, 2021 at 05:16 PM

LY

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Leah Yodzis - January 14, 2021 at 05:02 PM

LY

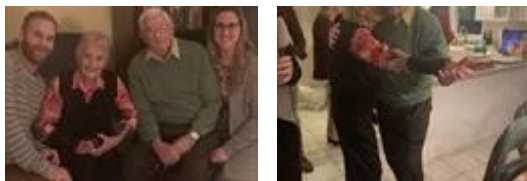
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Leah Yodzis - January 14, 2021 at 04:57 PM

MM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Michelle McIntyre - January 14, 2021 at 04:56 PM

MM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Michelle McIntyre - January 14, 2021 at 04:47 PM

CO

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Coyle - January 14, 2021 at 12:10 PM