



John "Jack" Manninen

June 11, 1946 - February 8, 2021

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John Richard Manninen, of Farwell MI passed away unexpectedly in his home on February 8, 2021.

John "Jack" was born June 11, 1946 to Fredrick and Rozella Manninen of Anvil MI. He was the youngest of 5 siblings. Jack grew up in a small mining town in the Upper Peninsula. He graduated from Bessemer High School going on to attend Gogebic Community College. While attending school there he competed in basketball and tennis along with becoming valedictorian. After obtaining his Associates degree he went on to his favorite alma mater, the University of Michigan. While working to receive his Bachelors Degree in Literature there he played tennis for U of M and tutored several athletes. He then went on to receive a Masters Degree plus at Central Michigan University.

He loved knowledge and went on to become a teacher at Sebewaing High School. Then, as the schools combined, he was a proud teacher and coach for Unionville Sebewaing Area High School for 32 years. He spent his time there teaching his love for American History, Economics, and coaching basketball. Not many have the opportunity to do what they love, but Jack did. He coached under his mentor and friend Oland Dunkel for several years before becoming the head varsity basketball coach at USA. He was a great coach that won a Regional Championship and making it to the Quarter Finals and even made it into the Michigan Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame for all his successful seasons.

Jack had several chapters in his life, after becoming a teacher he married his first wife Maria (Skiba) Callahan. While together they had five unique and amazing children that he loved dearly. He took the time to have an individual special relationship with each one. Even as they became adults and had moved to start their own families he always had a special place in his heart for each one and his beautiful grandchildren.

After his retirement he married current wife Staci Gaeth February 5, 2006 Superbowl Sunday in Las Vegas. They both had a strong love for sports from working down in Miami for the Dolphins football and the Marlins baseball team to coming back to Michigan to

coach boys varsity basketball in Farwell together. They had two dogs that they loved dearly and he would find any excuse to go for a truck ride and spoil them. After moving to Farwell into the woods, he soon found himself a hobby of making rustic log signs. A hobby soon became a business and many in the community have at least one hanging at their home. He kept busy with multiple jobs from driving the Amish bakery to market and walking and maintaining a nature trail and feeding the fish. Basketball season was Jack's absolute favorite time of year. From the first tip off of the season all the way to the finals the TV always had multiple games playing with much excitement and cheering. Jack was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Jack is survived by his wife Staci Gaeth, sons Todd (Andrea) Manninen Tyler (Jennifer) Manninen, daughters Stacy (Bob) Querback, Kelly (Steve) Haskill, Tara (Brandon) Allendorfer, grandchildren Hope and Grant Manninen, Adian and Brielle Querback, Ethan and Emily Haskill, Bennette Manninen, and Blaine Allendorfer and half sister Mary Heinrich, and brother George (Barbra) Manninen.

Preceding him in death was his parents Fredrick and Rozella Manninen, half brother Robert Manninen, and brother Thomas Manninen.

Due to Covid-19, memorial services are being planned by family to be held in Sebewaing, MI late spring/ early summer at USA school.

Memorial donations may be given to either the Patriot Pride or Athletic Booster Club at USA schools or Bay Shore Camp.

Comments



“ My fondest memory regarding my Uncle Jack Manninen involves the first A+ Grade given to a paper by anyone; much less a freshmen, Attending Saint Clair High School's Advanced Placement History Class.

My topic was the Cuban missile crisis and I had done an extensive amount of research for my paper. It was typed up on a PC atop my grandfather Fred's enormous work desk. I will never forget the grin across Uncle Jack's face when with red pen in hand he read through and then graded my paper. It needed work, and with the notes given by Uncle Jack, I adjusted the grammar, corrected the spelling, and fixed up the footnotes to meet his ideas for improvement. I turned the paper in the following Monday. I didn't think anything more of it.

When it came time later in the week to get our papers back and receive a grade I started to get nervous. Saint Clair's History teacher was also the most important coach on campus. He graduated with honors from University of Michigan. All the Seniors & Juniors had their graded papers. As the only freshmen in the class. Plus without a graded paper, I was getting more and more nervous.

Then the booming voice! Mr. Manninen did you write this paper? I could barely respond with the answer, Yes, I did. I managed to squeak out that my Uncle Jack took time to catch grammar and spelling errors, however I wrote the paper.

Looking right at me and then to the entire class of Juniors & Seniors, my advanced placement history teacher, Saint Clair High School's basketball coach smiled and gave me my paper on The Cuban Missile Crisis with a bold A+. The first A+ he had ever given out... & to a freshmen no less. It never would have happened without my Uncle Jack, his love of teaching, sharing knowledge, and his red pen, all helped me gain respect in that class and many others. I miss my Uncle Jack beyond words. - Mr. Scott Thomas Manninen

Scott Manninen - April 13 at 02:04 AM



“ There are no words to describe this man..always a smile on his face, a pep in his step and jokes and laughter for days.. I could not have been a teachers aide to a better teacher.. a great mentor/coach and friend.. he will be deeply missed. Many prayers to the family now and always

Pam Southgate - February 18 at 02:53 PM



“ Mr. Manninen, was full hearted. He was my best friends father. Who always was there to help and give us great advise. He was our coach, teacher, role model. I'm so thankful for his loving heart. He and his family took me in when I needed a home. He helped guide me on the path of starting college. Mr. Manninen , thank you for all you have done for me and many others. You were a light to many!

Jennifer Genant - February 17 at 11:36 PM



“ Mr. Manninen,

I thank you for everything you did as our coach and teacher growing up. You always made class and sports enjoyable and you will be truly missed.

Forever will I remember the summer that i painted your 'silo' in the back yard so that i could attend UofM basketball camp. Without you, that memory and unique experience would never have happened.

Your lessons in the classroom and on the court I often reference with my own children to live and be able to be a better person.

Chad Achenbach - February 15 at 08:13 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the passing of our friend from our early days at Sebewaing/USA Schools. I remember Jack as a consummate professional whether it be his teaching of American history and the topical audio tapes he would lend to his students for support, or his coaching of basketball to the many dozens of athletes that passed his way during the winter months of each academic year. Lost touch with him when our careers took a different path but will always remember this “Upper” for his enthusiasm for life and his “sharp as a tack” knowledge of history. Blessings to his family; rest in peace Jack. David & Sherene McCloy

David McCloy - February 15 at 01:48 PM



“ We will remember our dear friend, from all his stories and smiles he shared with us. He loved his dear wife Stacey and he told everyone he met of his love for her... He will be greatly missed by all his friends and his family... So blessed he came into our lives

Dan & Dan Holzer

Dawn Holzer - February 11 at 10:36 AM



“ Tonya Bellinger lit a candle in memory of John "Jack" Manninen



Tonya Bellinger - February 11 at 09:09 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss Staci and family

Tonya Bellinger - February 11 at 09:11 AM



“ Beth Lester lit a candle in memory of John "Jack" Manninen



Beth Lester - February 11 at 08:32 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss Stacy

Beth Lester - February 11 at 08:34 AM