



John Mattis

February 12, 1937 - April 7, 2009

John L. "Jack" Mattis, 72 of Fort Collins, Colorado, formerly of Ashfield, Massachusetts, died April 7, 2009, surrounded by his loving family. Born on February 12, 1937 in Pittsfield, MA he was the son of the late Joseph F. and Margaret (Kinney) Mattis. He grew up in Plainfield and Windsor and graduated from Dalton High School in 1956. After High school, Jack enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served four years. Following his Air Force stint, he began his family in East Longmeadow where he worked for H.P. Hood, Frito-Lay and The Springfield Republican Newspaper. He enjoyed coaching basketball and baseball and was an active volunteer with the East Longmeadow Recreation Department for many years. After his years as a "milk man" and "chip man," Jack returned to his roots in the hill towns where he owned and operated Elmer's General Store in Ashfield. While living in Ashfield, Jack enjoyed being involved in various aspects of town government. In his free time, Jack played golf as often as possible and was a long time member of the Ashfield Golf Club. Jack joined the Charles Spellman Lodge, A.F. & A.M. in East Longmeadow, now the Meadows Lodge and later joined the Mountain Lodge of Shelburne Falls where he rose through the ranks; became a 32nd degree Mason; and eventually became Past Master in 1999. He was also affiliated with the Melha Temple of Springfield where he was active with the Hadji Unit. Jack is survived by his three loving children, a son, Jeffery J. Mattis and his wife, Mary Jane of Ringoes, NJ, a daughter, Beth VanInderstine and her husband, Mark of Ft. Collins, CO. and daughter Wendi Hogan and her husband, Mark of East Longmeadow; MA; his sister, Marilyn Gallagher of Hancock, MA; sick grandchildren, Amy and Joseph Mattis, Kristin Fryman and Justin Van Iderstine and Timothy and Caitlin Hogan; three great-grandchildren, Kiley, Grady and Klaytyn; his aunt Leona Parsons; uncle Lawrence Kinney, both of Hinsdale, MA; 2 nephews and 2 nieces; cousins and his beloved dog, Dolly. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Shiners Hospital for Children; 516 Carew Street Springfield, MA. 01104. The Fisher House c/o Albany V.A. Medical Center, 113 Holland Ave., Albany N.Y., 12208. The family invites all who would like to join them for an Evergreen Service, by the Mountain Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Shelburne Falls at Hill Cemetery in Ashfield at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 23rd, 2009.

Comments



“ Jack was always a great friend sorry for your loss he will always be remembered

Danial Turner - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Hey Jack I hope you enjoyed your time in CO. I remember all the good times in Ashfield. Even thou you were the "competition down the street", we all got along. Our heartfelt prayers go out to your family at this time. RIP old friend.

Mike Fontanella - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm very sorry to hear of Jack's passing. He was the first person to welcome my family to the neighborhood five years ago. It really confirmed for us that we had moved to the right place. He always had something kind and funny to say when I'd be out working in the yard or happened to be within earshot of the mailbox. I've missed seeing him en route during his illness and I am sure I am not alone in that.
Tracy Derrig-Herland

Tracy Derrig-Herland - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Mr. Mattis was my basketball coach for 5-8 grade travel in town. I have fond memories of travelling in the Frito Lay truck and the station wagon to games that my parents couldn't make due to other family sport commitments and I was lucky enough to have a ride by John. In my opinion he was responsible for the development of many of the players who went up through the ranks and competed for the boys East Longmeadow High School varsity basketball team in the late 1970's and the accomplishments we had. Sometimes the legacy a person leaves behind is not always immediate but can bear fruit generations down the line. Although I played basketball in High School and in College, the fruits of John can be seen through all the years of coaching that I did and his influence on me affected my step son and daughter who each played 4 years of Varsity basketball in High School, and one who received a college scholarship to play basketball in college. Also in 7 years of recruiting, coaching, etc in AAU girls basketball over \$1,000,000 worth of basketball scholarships were awarded to girls I helped coach, with most of the knowledge that was instilled in me by John. Although I have run into Wendy in town on occasion I would also like to say hi to Jeff and that my prayers are with the family.

Craig Walker - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My sympathies to the Mattis family on John's passing. There are people that you remember from your youth and Mr. Mattis was one that left a positive impression.

Dwight Walker - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Jack,
you are in my prayers

jon m mattis - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Jack's entire family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

The Richard Sprague Family - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM