



John C. Taylor

August 2, 2018

John Cowdery Taylor (Jack), husband, father, grandfather, (and passionate peruser of periodicals) passed away August 2nd, 2018 after a long and interesting 94 years of life.

Jack was born in 1923 in Shanghai to Walter and Anne Taylor during the two decades his father spent as a missionary chemistry professor in China, fondly remembering his early expatriate years throughout his life. He first arrived in America to attend Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia in 1938. Moving on to Princeton University in 1941, his college career was interrupted by WWII. Jack flew 35 combat missions over Germany with the 8th Air Force's 452nd Bomb Group, serving as a navigator on a B-17, before returning to graduate in 1947, as part of the Class of '45. Many of his closest lifelong friendships were formed after his return to Princeton, particularly singing the university's a cappella group, the Nassoons. Jack's first career as a sales representative in the steel business lasted 13 years, and led him to Buffalo, New York where he met Wende Bennett. After a sometimes long distance courtship, they married in 1958, and welcomed daughter Wende in 1960. Son Jonathan followed in 1964 during a brief residence in Chicago. With a young family in tow, Jack relocated to West Hartford, CT in 1966 to begin work at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft's commercial jet engine division. Over the next 26 years, he represented Pratt & Whitney to airline clients in the United Kingdom and Middle East, particularly relishing travel to call on clients in the British Isles. In West Hartford, Jack also became a mainstay at St. John's Episcopal

Church, where he was a long-time lay reader, served on the Vestry, and had a long run as one of the Three Wise Men in the annual Christmas pageant (always Balthazar). After arriving in Connecticut, Jack also began singing with 'The Spare Parts,' lending his distinctive bass vocals to the local a cappella group for nearly 30 years.

Retiring in 1992, Jack stepped up his volunteering, working with Meals on Wheels, The American Red Cross, and CRIS, Connecticut Radio Information System, where he read newspapers for blind listeners across the state. Jack was predeceased by his wife, Wende, and his sister Anne Taylor. He is survived by his sisters Harriet Taylor, of Gainesville, FL, and Wickham Henkels, of Auburn, Alabama; daughter Wende Wheeler of Longmeadow, MA, son Jonathan Taylor and daughter-in-law Stefanie Taylor of Los Angeles, CA along with grandchildren Annie and Ben Wheeler, and Elby, Sadie and Xander Taylor. A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, August 28th at 11 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to St. John's Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06119.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

DO

“ I wish Jack Taylor's family the best. His was a life well lived. I always enjoyed talking to Jack and his classmates at Nassoon reunions. The group would have never celebrated decades of song without him and the post-war stalwarts.

David Ogden '89

David Ogden - August 29, 2018 at 03:48 PM

JB

“ Uncle Jack (“Dirty Jack” in looser moments) was one of our father’s best friends. Together with Dad (Jim Buck), Ed Knetzger, Og Tanner and others, they helped re-form the Princeton Nassoons in 1945 after the War... and became lifelong friends. Uncle Jack was sister Cackie’s Godfather, occasionally looking in on her “spiritual growth” — we were in Philly, and he was not! — as he and Wende were regular visitors when the Suburban Squires and Spare Parts gathered in a “Spring Sing” a cappella jamboree. During one Taylor family visit, 30+ years ago, Mom and Dad acquired a new puppy... and promptly named her Wende!

The last we saw the two of them was at Dad’s memorial service in March 2011. Sadly, we lost touch thereafter. Mom was very sad to learn this news (and of Wende’s passing in 2017), as were we. REST IN PEACE the BOTH OF YOU! We will always love you. Elia Buck, Cackie Rogers, and Jim Buck

Jim Buck - August 25, 2018 at 10:36 PM

CA

“ Wende,

*A King indeed. Just tonight I learned of your dad's passing - I am both saddened but smiling at the same time. What an extraordinary life - and one so well lived. With memories aplenty left behind, he will not be forgotten. I know one king who has greeted his arrival in heaven heartily. Sending love tonight to you and your family. I will be on the west coast on the 28th, but with you in spirit. Hugs. -
Cathy*

cathy - August 19, 2018 at 09:22 PM