



John "Jack" Cookfair, III

January 11, 1946 - March 10, 2020

John R. "Jack" Cookfair III, 74, was born in Buffalo, NY, raised in Tiorunda, Cheektowaga, NY, passed away on March 10 at Crouse Hospital. He graduated in 1963 from Cleveland Hill High School, served four years in the US Air Force, and received his Bachelor's degree from Canisius College. He worked for many years in Buffalo, managing political campaigns, before moving to Syracuse, forming his own business, Cookfairmedia.

John is survived by brothers, William (Patricia) and James, of Buffalo, sisters, Judith (Patrick Blackwell) of New Mexico and Jane Smith of Tennessee, and numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be planned in the near future in Syracuse and Buffalo.

Comments



“ I was sorry to hear of Jack’s passing. My brother Jim and I grew up with your family. Jim and Jack were very good friends as was I with Judy. Jim passed away two years ago today. I know Jim enjoyed his friendship with Jack. I’m so sorry for your loss.
Judy Woods Kerl

Judy Woods Kerl - March 26 at 11:09 AM



“ I knew Jack from the old neighborhood. meet Jack at Crystal Beach years later. had a few beers together. Had a good time there at our cottage(the crystal lodge) Sorry to here he passed. he will be missed.

Keith Burley - March 19 at 11:03 AM



“ I met Jack in early to mid 1980s when he was hired as an account executive for an ad agency I worked for. He introduced me to politics which was funny because I was in my mid 20s and had never even voted. He gave me a quick Political 101 course, and I learned Political 102, 103 and beyond from observing him. I immediately fell in love with the business. I followed him to the Legislature, then to Cookfair and Associates, then Cookfair and Carey, then Cookfair and Spector, and maybe even some time with First Tuesday Communications at the start. We partied hard - mostly at Mother's Restaurant, but worked even harder. I had no life between August and Election day, but it didn't matter one bit because he made life and work so fun and so interesting. And what a great crew of friends he had ... Hank Land, Jimmy Adel, John Salerno, Harry Spector - just to name a few. He was the best boss in the world. I don't know where I would be in my career without his 15+ years of mentoring. Jack - you are amazing. I will never forget you. My sincerest condolences to the family.

Gloria Boron-Pembleton

Gloria Pembleton - March 16 at 02:37 PM



“ Jack's obituary in the Buffalo News was OK but it did not capture his puckish nature and the sharp knife he wielded in his attack ads. He took such joy in what he did. In 1979 he wrote about eight letters, each by a community leader supporting my candidacy for city court judge. He was sitting in a bar giggling as he imitated the language of each person. It worked. It began my career of 36 years in the judiciary. We talked about it over the years. He took such delight in the election he helped me run. He died too soon. I expected him to feast on the Democratic legislative office holders over the bail reform laws in the November elections. Jack was a person I

was so happy to know and I will miss him greatly.

Timothy J. Drury - March 15 at 07:00 PM



“ Cookfair Family,
I met Jack during Mr.Pirro's campaign and remained friends thereafter. A really good guy & fantastic in his world of running campaigns for people.His Big Smile was great too.
Rest In Peace old friend and may God Bless you & your Family.



RobbieWells/LasVegas - March 15 at 01:49 PM



“ To Judy Jane and Bill and families: heard the sad news and just wanted to offer condolences. Many happy childhood memories. Jackie was one of the funniest people I knew, and our family camping trips were always a wonderful and crazy experience. My best regards to all. The years have flown by.

Tom Karl

tom karl - March 15 at 02:53 AM



“ I met Jack in early 1973 in Albany. We worked together over the years in many political campaigns.
One great campaign was 1987 winning Nick Pirro's primary for Onondaga County Executive. Jack was a special friend. A good person.
Memory Eternal Jack!

Fred Pheiffer

Fred Pheiffer - March 13 at 10:15 PM



“ I knew Jack from his many years as a member of Drumlins Country Club. He was quite a guy, always good for a good laugh and story. We shared many rounds of golf together and a few beers after the round. We lost contact with each other over the years but when I read of his passing, remembering him and our time on the golf course brought a smile to my face.
To Jack's family, I am so sorry for your loss.

Phil Boyle - March 13 at 05:58 PM



“ I had the pleasure of taking care of Jack in a few of Syracuse's eateries. He was ALWAYS very pleasant and generous to me and all those I worked with. I was very sad to hear of his passing. RIP, Jack, you were one of a kind and will be greatly missed...

Jon Karp - March 13 at 03:27 PM



“ I have the fondest memories of Jack always as I had the pleasure of meeting him while working at Rico's Ristorante. I can remember him coming into the travel agency I worked at purchasing tickets for him and his friends to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Always first class as he would say nothing but the best for my friends. I will always remember his 50th surprise birthday party at the restaurant as you could tell how much he was loved by friends and family. You were a good man Jack Cookfair and may you rest in peace.

Florence Pikulinski

Florence Pikulinski - March 13 at 12:55 PM