



Jack H. Blair

OCT 22, 1940 - APR 20, 2024



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 6
Tribute Wall	Page 7
Media	Page 10



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Jack H. Blair of Germantown, TN, passed away April 20, 2024.

My Dad, Jack Blair, was a spy.

He was also a fisherman, a Memphis Tigers Fan, and a loyal friend. He was kindhearted, giving and a goofball. The ultimate optimist who never turned down a free drink or a party. He loved telling stories, had a weakness for red headed women and enjoyed all kinds of music. He was a diehard Dallas Cowboys fan although the Tennessee Titans were a close second. He loved road trips and travel.

THE BEGINNING

But let's start at the beginning. His parents, Jack H. Blair Sr. and Virginia Taylor, met while working at Wonder Bread. Jack Howard Blair, Jr. was born on October 22, 1940 at Baptist Midtown in Memphis TN, three days before his future wife, Joy Elizabeth Patterson (more on that love story to follow). His parents divorced but not before producing two younger brothers, Robert and James. His mother remarried and soon Jack was helping his stepfather, Jimmy Hayes, at his hardware store. At the age of ten he was making deliveries, putting together bikes and learning a strong work ethic, a trait that would serve him well later in life.

School wasn't his strong suit, but he got through it. After graduating from Treadwell High School in 1958, he enrolled at Memphis State. After one semester, he knew college wasn't for him and joined the Air Force.

THE LOVE STORY

Before we get to the spy stuff, we must talk about the love story! Jack and Joy met in kindergarten and although they attended K-12 together, they orbited different circles. Think Sandy and Danny in Grease. She was a cute redhead with glasses who loved reading, animals and playing her French horn. He greased his hair, drove cool cars and considered himself a bad boy. After high school



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Jack got the courage to ask Joy out and to his surprise she said yes. They dated steadily until Jack shipped out to his first assignment, which was three years in Scotland. They made a vow to get married when he returned but until then they were both free to date and even though Jack did send Joy a ring from overseas, they both saw other people. They got married on January 19, 1964 and their only child, Jennifer Joy, was born on October 30, 1964. The family was complete and the adventures began.

ADVENTURES AND SPY STUFF

In the Air Force, Jack was assigned to military intelligence. With the cold war raging, he learned Russian and was sent to secure listening posts around the world. First stop, Scotland. Three years later, he returned to the US, married, and was stationed in San Angelo, Texas. Next stop, with family now in tow, was Ankara Turkey, then back to Texas, where he taught his fellow soldiers. After two years in Texas, Jack was deployed to Viet Nam. Upon his return the family spent four years in Anchorage Alaska. Next was three years on the island Crete in Greece and the final stop before retiring was at the National Security Agency (NSA) at Ft. Meade, Maryland. Jack's job was classified but essential to the security of the United States and her allies.

AFTER RETIREMENT

After spending twenty years in the Air Force, Jack retired in 1978. Jack, Joy and Jennifer moved backed to Memphis to be close to friends and family and Jack enrolled at State Tech on the GI Bill and got an associate's degree in the emerging field of computer science. This time his college career was successful, with a 4.0 GPA and various offices in student government.

His first job was at Buckman Laboratories but after a few years he moved on to an up and coming business named Inventory Locator Service. He came to the realization that he loved this new company, but he didn't love programming. Jack was too social to be stuck behind a computer all day. Lucky for him, ILS recognized what an asset he was and moved him to the position of Manager Office Services, a job he stayed in until his second retirement in 2007, after 22 years.

LIFE OUTSIDE OF WORK

It was at ILS that Jack met his best friend, Stan Farmer. They quickly became inseparable and when Jack wasn't with his family, you could find him and Stan getting into some mischief. They fished, attended sporting events and traveled together. For many years they were on a Memphis BBQ team (Jowls) at the World Famous Memphis in May BBQ Contest. One year, Jack won third



Obituary

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in sauce and Stan won the Miss Piggy contest. Friends for thirty-seven years, their escapades were legendary and too many to recount here.

FAMILY

Ret M/Sgt Jack H. Blair is preceded in death by his parents, Jack Blair, Sr. and Virginia (Kiki) Hayes. Also, by his stepfather, Jimmy Hayes and his youngest brother, James Blair. Joy, his wife of fifty-eight years left this earth a year before him, likely to make sure heaven would be ready. He leaves behind his aunt, Jane Godman, his brother Robert, his half sisters Brenda Lawler and Linda Waldon and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves his daughter, Jennifer, two dogs (Dancer and Sunny) and two cats (Apollo and Adonis). And his faithful friend, Stan.

TO HONOR JACK

The best way to honor Jack is to take a road trip. Travel somewhere new. Go to a concert. Raise a glass. Give a \$2 bill to tip.

Live life to it's fullest, like he did.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, June 21 at 12:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 1:00 p.m. all in the Riverside Chapel of Memorial Park. Inurnment to follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

To view the service online, click on the link below,

<https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/102068>

Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, 38119. (901) 767-8930.



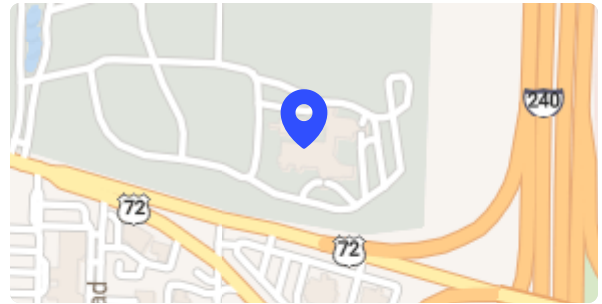
Events

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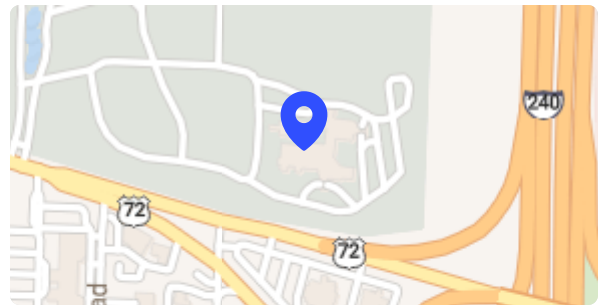
Visitation

- Friday, June 21, 2024**
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT
- Memorial Park Riverside Chapel**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



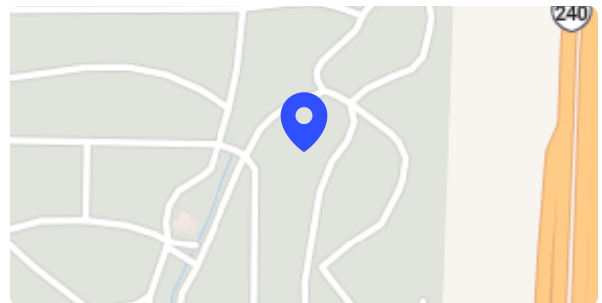
Memorial

- Friday, June 21, 2024**
- 1:00 PM CT
- Memorial Park Riverside Chapel**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



Cemetery Details

- Memorial Park Cemetery**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119
- (901) 445-8475**

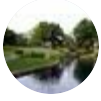




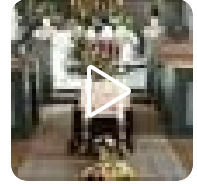
Tribute Wall

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Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Webcast Video**.



June 19 at 8:18 AM



Anonymous sent a Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet to the Blair family.



June 20 at 8:45 AM



Love, Meredith, Sherman, Nolan & Matilda planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jack.



June 20 at 8:45 AM



Anneke Scott & Ronald Khayat sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Blair family.



June 19 at 5:25 PM



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Stef Carlton posted:

It was a very sad day indeed when Jennifer let me know that her dad had passed. We had a friendship that had lasted since 1962. A very long time. I first met Jack on the same night I met my husband to be, at a party at a pub in Scotland....of course, where else? Jack was Bills best friend and I think they learned a lot from each other over the years. Their friendship continued until Bill passed in 2015. In fact Jack talked to him on the phone two days before Bill died and put a huge smile on Bills face from telling one of his many entertaining stories.I came to the US in 1964 to marry Bill and Jack and Joy were our best man and maid of honor. Then they opened their door to me so that I had a place to live. But it was what they both did because by then we were all friends. In fact we baby sat a month old Jennifer so that they could go eat Thanksgiving dinner. Joy and I were the wives of spies but our times together when the guys relaxed were numerous and always great fun. I think I tried to teach Jack the Watusi at one of many San Angelo clubs. We had fun trying.After Bill passed Jack kept our friendship alive by calling me every month or so, just to check in. I'm not sure if he knew just how much that meant to me but I hope he did. He was that friend, who cared and showed it.I miss you Jack and Joy. Y'all rest well. I love you. Stef

June 19 at 4:29 PM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Blair family.



June 19 at 3:51 PM



Christopher & Jennifer planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Jack.



June 19 at 3:51 PM



Anonymous sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Blair family.



June 19 at 2:44 PM



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Betty Crawford Blair Russell posted:

I remember the first time I met Jack and Joy. I married James called Jimbo. Jimbo had to go to the reserves not long after we married. I spent a lot of time at Kiki's and Jimmy Hayes home while Jimbo was away learning how to serve his country. I was there one day when Jack, Joy and Jenny came for a visit. Jenny was just a little over a year old and what a wonderful, lively little one. I will always remember how much her parents loved her. I have always remembered that day because they were all so friendly and treated me like family immediately. After mine and Jimbo's divorce they always kept me a part of the family. The whole Blair family was and still are a special part of my life. He loved life and He loved his family and he especially loved his daughter. Jack will truly be missed.

June 19 at 1:54 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Blair family.



June 19 at 9:07 AM



Media

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June 19 at 8:18 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jack by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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