



# Jack L. Fox

JUL 17, 1934 - APR 20, 2009



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 8



## **Jack L. Fox**

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**J**ack Fox, age 74, of Centerville, Iowa, passed away April 20, 2009 at Mercy Medical Center in Centerville, Iowa.

Jack was born July 17, 1934, the son of Charles and Anna (Kauzlarich) Fox in Jerome, Iowa. Jack was raised in Centerville and graduated from Centerville High School with the class of 1952. Jack married Josephine Widmar on May 21, 1955 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centerville. He began his employment with the Rock Island Railroad in Chicago, Illinois. Jack spent five years with the railroad before returning to the Centerville area where he began working for John Deere in Ottumwa, Iowa. Jack worked for John Deere from 1953-1986, retiring as a supervisor for the company. Upon his retirement from John Deere in 1986, Jack went to work for Johnson-Lange Funeral Home as a funeral assistant. He was a dedicated member of the Lange Funeral Home family and helped numerous families during their time of grief. Jack will be greatly missed by his friends at Lange Funeral Home.

Jack was known by most people as being "larger than life." He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed the company of others. In his spare time, Jack loved gardening, as well as fishing in his pond. Jack thoroughly enjoyed singing, especially "Amazing Grace" and the "Croatian National Anthem." He sang at funerals for several families throughout his funeral service career. Jack was very active with his grandchildren and great grandchildren by teaching them songs, swimming in the pool, fishing, hunting, playing games, taking rides in the truck or on the motorcycle, and also in the Boy Scouts.

People who knew Jack understood that his greatest hobby of them all was making wine. He had a strong passion for all aspects of wine making. Whether individuals wanted to sample his wine or desired tips on how to make it, people developed a sense of understanding on Jack's passion for his favorite hobby.

Jack was a devoted member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centerville. He sang



## Obituary

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in the church choir for many years. Jack was also a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

Jack is survived by his wife Josephine Fox of Centerville, Iowa; children, Debbie (Lyle) Hodges of Moulton, Iowa and Rita (Steve) Baker of Springfield, Missouri; four grandchildren, Angela (Russ) Ocker of Centerville, Iowa, Jeremy Hodges of Los Angeles, California, Ryan Hodges and Danielle Davison of Centerville, Iowa, and Alex Baker of Springfield, Missouri; two great grandchildren, Sydney and Jaxson Ocker of Centerville, Iowa; five siblings, Leonard (Bernie) Fox of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Tom (Joan) Fox of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Betty Riedel of Ottumwa, Iowa, Judy (Pete) Young of Fall Mills, Virginia, and Jane (Les) Hanneman of Edmond, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Charles Jr.

Mass of the resurrection will be held 11 AM, Thursday, April 23, 2009 at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Centerville, Iowa with Father Dennis Schaab, Father Joe Miller C.P.P.S and Father Joe Nassele C.P.P.S officiating. Burial will follow at Oakland Cemetery in Centerville, Iowa. Visitation will be held Wednesday at the Lange Funeral Home with family present from 6-8 with a rosary at 5:30PM. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to the St. Mary's Catholic Church and may be left at or mailed to the Lange Funeral Home 1900 S. 18th St., Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be left online [www.thomaslangefuneralhome.com](http://www.thomaslangefuneralhome.com).



## Tribute Wall

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**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 11:25 AM



**Thomas Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 11:42 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dean Josephine, Debbie, and Rita I am so sorry for your loss. I think I am still in shock, as I am sure you are too. There are so many good memories of Uncle Jack, but I think his infectious laugh and his stories of his youth with my dad told in Grandmas front room will forever be with me. I will miss his BIG hugs and loving smile. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and your families. Love, Todd and Tammy (Fox) Hingtgen Posted by Tammy Hingtgen April 22, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Josephine and Family Our most sincere condolences to you and your family. Jack had the quickest smile a person could have, and could make you smile just being around him. He was one of those rare individuals who could take life's lemons and make lemonade (or maybe wine). Jack will be sorely missed by anyone who had the good fortune of knowing him. We're truly sorry. Jerry and Judy Power Posted by JERRY AND JUDY POWER April 22, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Josephine, Debbie, & Rita.. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all of you and your families during this time of grieving. I know what you are going through since my mother past away in Feb. If it wasn't for Jack being at the funeral home to remember the things he and I did when I would come over to visit it would have been a lot harder time. We discussed when we were wrestling and some how his toe got broke. And when Brent and I left all the frogs in the bucket for you guys to have frog legs and he came out to find them all in the front yard..I felt that he was one of the best people that I have ever met in my life I will always have a special place in my heart for Jack..Words just don't say enough of the things and hearts that Jack touch. He will be missed very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. Posted by Glen & Lisa Wood April 22, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. I remember always seeing Jack with a smile on his face at church. Mom always thought a lot of Jack too. He will be missed. Posted by Crystal (Ryan) Lee & family April 23, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To Josephine and the entire Fox family. Please accept our sincere sympathy for your loss of a wonderful person. I always enjoyed talking to Jackie when we would go down to Centerville. He and my mom had a lot of memories to share. My mom is sorry she couldn't be there for the funeral, please accept our apologies. God Bless, Betty Richardson, Cathy Gleason, Robin Taylor, and Stevie Richardson Posted by Cathy Gleason April 24, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Josephine and Family, I'm so sorry for the sudden loss of your husband, Jack. I had the pleasure of talking with both of you at my uncle's funeral (Francis Vidmar) and enjoyed our conversation about our family history. When I received the call that Jack had passed away I just couldn't believe it. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. I feel so fortunate I had the chance to share some stories and memories with both of you. May God Bless you, Carolyn (Vidmar) Erickson Posted by Josephine and family April 22, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Rita, Know that we are holding you and your family up in prayer. It's rough losing your loved ones, but hold dearly the wonderful memories you have been blessed with. I have always felt it is an honor to love and be loved. Posted by Pam Chesbro April 21, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Rita, We are thinking about you and your family. I am so glad I was able to get acquainted with your Dad even though it was in the emergency room after Alex had his bell rung in football! What a great man who had all his priorities straight. I could tell he really enjoyed working at the funeral home. We should all be so lucky to have had such a great Dad. We know it is going to be tough for you and we are here to support you through this tough time. Posted by Laura McCaskill April 21, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Josephine and family, I extend my most sincere sympathy. Jack was a wonderful man. I only knew Jack for a short time but I am a better person for knowing him. He was a lover of life and all it had to offer. He cherished his family, friends, and church. What a great man!! Take care and God Bless you all. Loren Pence Posted by Loren Pence April 20, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Please accept our sincere sympathy and prayers, and may your loving memories give you peace. Posted by Dennis & Bev Sisul Laurson April 20, 2009

January 4 at 7:00 PM



## Media

**Jack L. Fox**

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**Thomas Funeral Home** shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 11:42 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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