



John "Jack" Leahy

June 24, 1933 - January 13, 2019

John T. "Jack" Leahy, 85, died on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019 at Advocate Condell Medical Center. He was born June 24, 1933 in Chicago and had been a Libertyville resident for the past 43 years. Jack joined the DePaul faculty in 1971 and served until his retirement in 2006. Best known for his long commitment to student-centered learning, Jack pioneered the teaching of business ethics for undergraduates. Jack was academic mentor to the SNL college from 1985-1987. From 1991-1998, Jack served as director of the foreign study program. Under his guidance, the program grew rapidly, established numerous study abroad programs, and oversaw faculty study trips designed to enhance multicultural learning. Drawing on his personal background as the son of Irish immigrants, Jack was a strong advocate for and instrumental in developing the Irish Studies Program, and taught a course on the "troubles" in Northern Ireland. In acknowledgment of Jack's contribution, the Irish Studies Department created an annual "Jack Leahy Award for Excellence in Irish Studies" from 2001-2003, Jack was faculty director of the Community Service Studies minor. In all of these educational efforts, Jack treated others with humanity and grace. Jack was active in the Illinois chapter of the American Association of University Professors, and served as its president from 1999-2000. Upon his retirement from DePaul, Jack received the Via Sapientiae award.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, M. Elayne Morrey; 3 daughters, Margaret Morrey, Bridget Morrey and Mary (Kevin) Grambush; 11 Grandchildren, Sarah, Daniel, Jordon, Nora, Elizabeth, Stanley, Marianna, Gabriella, Lee, Erin and Jacklyn; 6 Great Grandchildren; 3 sisters, Sister Mary Leahy, Sheila (Joseph) Ruskuff and Margaret (Richard) Frederick. He was the dear uncle of many and will be dearly missed by all of those who loved him.

He was preceded in death by his daughters, Ann and Patty Morrey.

Visitation will be from 3:00 to 7:00 pm Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019 at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) Libertyville.

A memorial service will be held at 6:00 pm during the visitation. Memorial contributions can be made to the Lewy Body dementia association at www.lbda.org/donate.

Info: 847-362-3009 or please share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 03:00PM - 07:00PM

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Burnett-Dane Funeral Home

120 West Park Avenue, Libertyville, IL, US, 60048

JAN **Memorial Service** 06:00PM

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Burnett-Dane Funeral Home

120 West Park Avenue, Libertyville, IL, US, 60048

Comments



“ I got to know Jack shortly after I arrived on the fifth floor of SAC (northeast corner). Those days we were mostly in SAC offices and bumped into each other at the elevator. I remember especially when he took over an office near the Philosophy offices. We had a chance to run into each other more often and exchange words. When he was hospitalized for his heart, I visited him -- somehow we got words out. I am sorry I am unable to join you to remember him further. -- Mary Jeanne Larrabee

Mary Jeanne Larrabee - January 19, 2019 at 03:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Leahy.



January 15, 2019 at 09:14 PM



“ I worked for Dr. Leahy at DePaul in the late 70s as his student clerical assistant in the Religious Studies Dept. I loved working for him, although I'm not sure I helped him do much more than type his papers. I remember him as being so kind and easy with a laugh. He appreciated my Italian heritage, always asking about my mom who was born there and trying out some Italian on me, although I didn't speak the language. And I'll never forget how hard he laughed when I described one of the professors who had stopped by to see him as the man who talked like President Kennedy. The things you remember! I have thought about Dr. Leahy over the years - I am thankful for his encouragement and willingness to extend a hand to a very green business major. No doubt he positively influenced many of us first generation college students at DePaul.
My sincerest sympathies to his family. Mary Lou Vainisi

Mary Lou Vainisi - January 15, 2019 at 06:14 PM



“ Jack was a good and kind man. I enjoyed working with him at DePaul University. My condolences to the family. Elaine Watson Beaudoin

Elaine M Beaudoin - January 14, 2019 at 10:13 PM



“ Gabriella and Marianna D'Alessandro purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of John "Jack" Leahy.



Gabriella and Marianna D'Alessandro - January 14, 2019 at 08:15 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Leahy.



January 14, 2019 at 06:41 PM