



John Marshall Lyon

June 10, 1943 - October 7, 2020

John "Jack" Lyon died peacefully in his home in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 7, 2020. He was 77 years old.

Jack was born on June 10, 1943 in Ottumwa, Iowa to Clyde and Virginia Lyon. He and Linda, the love of his life, grew up together, graduated from high school together, and went to the University of Northern Iowa at the same time. Jack enlisted in the Air Force in 1962 and served at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. They were married in 1967 following Jack's discharge.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree in German at the University of Northern Iowa, Jack was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to further his studies in German. Together with Jack teaching German and Linda teaching elementary school, they taught at schools in the US (California, Iowa, and Illinois), Germany, and Japan, until their retirement in 2003. In retirement, they have lived in Phoenix, Arizona and Galena, Illinois. They enjoyed traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Jack will be remembered as a dedicated teacher with a wry sense of humor and a love of travel, foreign language, and history. He is survived by his wife Linda (nee Helwig) Lyon, brother and sister-in-law Michael and Ann Lyon, sister and brother-in-law Mary Ann Lyon and Dave Rowden, along with nieces and nephews and generations of students who will treasure his memory.

No memorial is scheduled at this time, although one is tentatively planned for spring.

Comments



“ Jack and Linda have been friends for such a long time We consider them family We met in Yokosuka Japan, Linda was our sons 5th grade teacher during volunteering in the classroom and conversation it was discovered we both had homes in Arizona! We have shared meals, graduations, births, and special events To choose a single memory is very difficult because there are so many. We may have physically lost Jack but Heaven has gained a special angel. We hope to continue to share times with Linda and know that Jack is always there in our hearts and memories

Thom and Jeri Deane - October 16 at 01:49 PM



“ Jack and Linda were more than just friends they are family. We met Jack and Linda while stationed in Yokosuka Japan Linda was our sons fifth grade teacher in conversation that we both had homes in Arizona we soon became friends and have only grown closer through the years There is far too many Memories to name one. We have shared many meals, graduations, births and events. Jack will always be a part of our lives and remain in our hearts forever. We hope to continue making memories with Linda We May have lost Jacks physical being but Heaven has gained a special angel. Our hearts may ache today but will always smile with memories.

Thom and Jeri Deane - October 15 at 01:15 PM



“ Last week when Linda wrote me that Jack had passed a great sadness filled my heart. A sadness because I knew that a wonderful and unique person who had had such a positive and long lasting impact on my life was no longer there. How is that possible? When you meet a teacher that changes your life they will always be that "Hr. Lyon" and you never really think of them as ever aging or passing. You remember them as they were when you were a student and all those experiences. To my person, I graduated from LP high school in 1979. I was a new girl in town with no family or friends nearby and a freshman at a brand new school. It was just my mother and I and my mother chose LaSalle as she wanted me to be able to go to a good high school and get a good education. She made an excellent choice. When school started I did not know anything about foreign languages and just knew I did not want to take French. So, why not German? From the first day of class I knew I liked Hr. Lyon and it was the start of a wonderful relationship with me and the German language being guided by an interesting and inspiring teacher. I ended up taking German for the full 4 years and was very honored in 1979 to receive the German Award. During those 4 years Hr. Lyon was not only a teacher he was a mentor that sensed when things were not going well and took the time to talk to me and help me through it. No other teacher ever did that. I will always be thankful for his caring and being such a "mensch". Normally after high school graduation you move on and that is the end of the story. Well, not exactly here. I had never really thought I would ever use my German except for maybe when one day I might travel to Germany on vacation. I was very sad I could not go on the class trip in the summer with Hr. and Fr. Lyon but it was not even an option as I knew we did not have the money for me to go. After graduation I ended up studying Data Processing at IVCC and did not have in my busy schedule room for advancing my German. I probably thought I would never really need it. Well, as fate goes, things turned out quite differently. I ended up eventually taking a job with Siemens in telecommunications in Boca Raton, FL. German was not a job requirement but boy did it help when we were working with our colleagues in Munich. I made it to Germany for the first time I believe in 1984. Our headquarters were in Munich and as it turned out Jack and Linda were at that time in Stuttgart. I remember meeting Jack there (he is now Jack, not Hr. Lyon) at the park and we spent a few hours catching up. I was able to proudly tell him that I was actually using my German Award which was a German/English dictionary signed by him. I eventually ended up with 4 overseas delegations with Siemens that lasted well over 11 years. In 1999 I married a German colleague and decided to transfer permanently to Munich. It was a great honor in 2003 when I was invited to Ramstein with my husband to attend the retirement celebration of Jack. It was at that time that I was finally able to present a gratitude letter to him to tell him how much being in his class and learning to love the German language had made an impact on my life. I truly believe I would not be happily living in Munich today if it had been from the inspiration of that one special teacher. What though in retrospect is the most important to me is that I was able to tell him that in person. I can write it here now but he is unfortunately gone so this is not for him. It is for passing on that memory to those of us left. It has reminded me to remind others that you should not wait and instead always tell people while they are alive how much they mean to you. Over the years I came to know Linda too and I must say they are the most wonderful and caring couple I have ever known. My deepest sympathy. Auf Wiedersehen Hr. Lyon, ich werde dich nie vergessen. RIP Pamela Thompson

Pamela Thompson - October 15 at 11:41 AM



“ George Gonzalez lit a candle in memory of John Marshall Lyon



george gonzalez - October 15 at 01:27 AM



“ Some of my best times were shared with Jack and Linda. I am so glad that I knew him and send my most sincere hugs and prayers to Linda. What a wonderful life you shared together.

Jennifer Grasela - October 14 at 08:59 PM