



John L. Rourke

September 12, 2006

John L. (Jack) Rourke of Camillus passed away Tuesday, September 12th. He was born in Saugerties, NY on July 4, 1919. After graduating from Saugerties High School, and later from SUNY Canton, with a degree in Industrial Chemistry, he did graduate work at Syracuse University, Colgate, and the Harvard Business School. Jack worked 55 years, starting as a chemist for the Solvay Process Company in Solvay, NY (which after a number of mergers became Honeywell International Corp.) and then in various management positions, eventually retiring as their Technology Manager after they closed the plant in Solvay in 1995. He also held various technical and managerial positions in Kings Mountain, NC, and Moundsville, WV. He spent the war years at Solvay's North Carolina Plant as their plant chemist extracting a mineral containing the metal Lithium which was vital to the war effort for use in the batteries of submarines and later in the Hydrogen bomb. A former member of the American Chemical Society, Jack was a charter member and director of the Iroquois Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the National Rifle Association. He was an ardent fly fisherman and avid hunter. He was a communicant of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Camillus. Jack was predeceased by his wife Ruth in 1984; a son Michael B. Rourke, and grandson Michael John Rourke. He is survived by three children: John L. (Larry) Rourke III of Honeoye, NY; Cheryl R. Weiler of Macungie, PA; and Kathleen E. Rourke of Trumansburg, NY; 4 granddaughters; and 7 great grandchildren. Calling hours are 6-8 PM Friday at B.L. Bush & Sons, 10

Genesee St, Camillus. The funeral Mass will be 10 AM Saturday at St. Joseph's Church. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Box 7, E. Syracuse, NY 13057. Please sign the guestbook on www.BLBUSH.com

Tribute Wall

CO

“ I am not sure whether the family will receive this so many years after Jack's passing, but I am in the process of writing a memory about "my first boss" as part of a StoryWorth project, a gift from my youngest daughter. Jack was my first boss from 1981 - 1986, and was an important figure at the start of my professional life. I am so pleased to have had the chance to look back fondly on my association with Jack, and to be able to think about the conversations infused with pipe smoke, having a whisky in the office with the plant manager (Mark White) after we avoided a strike. May he continue to rest in peace.

Christopher O'Leary - January 16, 2021 at 11:13 AM

KR

I just happened to look back at my dad's obituary and read your tribute. It is nice to know he helped you on your career. I remember his strike stories and am not surprised at the mention of whiskey and pipe smoke in Mark's office. Best of luck with your story project.it will be a wonderful gift for your family. ~Kathleen Rourke

Kathleen E. Rourke - September 04, 2022 at 08:21 PM

HF

“ Please extend our heartfelt deepest sympathy to the John L. Rourke family on his passing, Sept. 12, 2006. Helen and I have known the Rourkes for more than 57 years. I worked with Jack at Solvay's Willis Avenue facility and also in Moundsville, WV for many years. We maintained contact with Jack, through the years during our return trips to Syracuse to visit family. We have lost a dear friend indeed.

Helen and Joe Falcone - October 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ I know your father was a strong central figure in your family. Peace and may his memory be strength to you all.

Deena Rambaum - September 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LZ

“ David and I send you all our deepest sympathy on the death of your dear loved one. We know what an important person Jack was to all of you. You were all fortunate to have had him as part of your life and he was fortunate to have had such a wonderful loving family. With our thoughts of all of you. Lois and David Zebelman

Lois and David Zebelman - September 14, 2006 at 12:00 AM