



John L. "Jack" Shelton

June 25, 1946 - June 30, 2021

John L. "Jack" Shelton, 75, of Centralia, passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

He was born June 25, 1946 in Sparta, Illinois, the son of John H. Shelton and Norma (Glenn) Shelton.

Jack is survived by his sister: Jeanne Ann Berger of Centralia; his nephew: Joshua Berger and wife Amanda of Centralia; his niece: Amy Therrian and husband Justin of Breese; two great-nephews: Aiden and Adler Therrian both of Breese.

He was preceded in death by his parents: John H. and Norma Shelton and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Jack lived all of his life in Centralia. He graduated from Centralia Township High School and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Jack was an English Teacher at Centralia High School for 33 years and retired in 2001. He was a past CHS Activities Director, Student Council Advisor, Associate Workshop Director and the past Executive Secretary of the Kaskaskia's District of Student Councils. For 52 years, Jack volunteered as an athletic game worker at Centralia High School. Jack was a member of the Illinois Association of Student Councils. He was also an Illinois Advisor of the Year for the IASC and Advisor of the Year for KDSC. Jack was an avid St. Louis Cardinals Fan. He cherished the time he spent with his family and friends.

Funeral Services for John L. "Jack" Shelton will be held Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 11:00 AM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. Burial will

follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia. Visitation will be held Monday, July 5, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, American Kidney Foundation, and the Centralia Humane Society and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Shelton Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Facebook Page.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **5**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

Funeral Service

JUL **6**. 11:00 AM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ *My dear friend Jack,*

Thank you so much for reaching out to me in 1987 at the Student Council Conference in Chicago. It was a wonderful trip to spend time with you in Centralia to see first hand what life is like in rural Illinois. I will forever remember the trips we took to the St. Louis Arch and the Helicopter ride. I remember how much of a celebrity you are in that part of the State when that one woman in Springfield remembered you as a former student when we took a trip to our Nation's Capitol building. I appreciate your hospitality and that special dinner we shared at the Centralia House in 2018. Taking those long train rides to and from Chicago gave me time to reflect on the important friendship of my life.

You are a true asset to the town of Centralia. Teachers should always be remembered for imparting knowledge to the future generations of society. I will always cherish the book you gave me (Warriner's) ENGLISH GRAMMER AND COMPOSITION 4th Course and the words of friendship you wrote inside.

Rest in Peace my friend. I pray the Good Lord receive you and may you sit in a seat of honor (as the Student Council Advisor) in Heaven.

In celebration of your life,

*Robby V. Jeanne
Charles A. Prosser High School
Student Council President 1988*

Robby V. Jeanne - March 06, 2022 at 11:16 AM

RL

“ I was filled with a profound sadness when my Mother shared with me the news of "Coach's" passing. I am sorry that I cannot attend the Celebration of Life this morning for "Coach" Jack Shelton, but I have so many, good memories of Coach and his influence on my life, that went well beyond my years at CHS. As my favorite, all-time English teacher at CHS (sorry, Miss Peterson), he instilled in me a love for the language and all things literary. He was the one who introduced me to Shakespeare no less. Whether it was Student Council, Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, school play and a host of other activities, he lived out his vocation as one who instilled a love of learning into the hearts and minds of countless CHS students. He was a "molder" of young leaders, and to this day, I have never forgotten him nor his influence in my life. One of my most treasured books in my library, is one I received from Coach for my CHS Graduation in 1975, from my favorite author, Jesse Stuart no less. He had inscribed, in addition to his best wishes, "best luck in your career as a writer". I am hoping to this day, that thanks to Coach's teaching and mentoring, my weekly writings convey a message of hope, encouragement and in some small way, inspiration, in the lives of those who read my words. I think of those immortal words written by Cervantes and placed on the lips of the man of LaMancha, Don Quixote:"I seek to add a measure of grace to the world.". Coach Jack Shelton certainly did that and more in his life of service to both young and old alike. The Liturgy of the Church reminds us, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; they shall rest from all their labors and their good deeds shall follow them." I thank God for the life, witness and service of "Coach" Jack Shelton: educator, mentor, a literati par excellence, servant of God, and our friend and loved one. "Good night, sweet prince, and Angels sing thee to thy rest"

With My Deepest Gratitude,

Rev. Robin Lyons

Winchester IL

CHS Class of 1975

Rev. Robin Lyons - July 06, 2021 at 11:27 AM

VM

“ Mr. Shelton will always be fondly remembered for his High School English Class. I was one of his many students. I will miss you Mr. Shelton.



Victoria Migliore - July 03, 2021 at 04:38 PM

BL

“ Singing Credence Clearwater Revival’s “Bad Moon Rising” at a CHS student convocation in May of 1974. The students we surprised that their teachers could be so cool 😎. Mr Jack became their “Hero” that day. And he was mine as well!

Bill Lipman - July 03, 2021 at 05:20 AM

RL

You guys did the classic, CHS version, "There's a bathroom on the right", Mr. Lippman. I was in the crowd that night!
Robin Lyons

Rev. Robin Lyons - July 06, 2021 at 11:29 AM

CN

“ Jack was a good friend of mine during those HS years. I eventually moved from the area and only occasionally bumped into him at CHS games over the holidays. Those were brief but pleasant reunions. He was fun to run around with, and of course he'd always have those cool cars like the Trans Am. He was a good mentor to me and I'm saddened to hear of his passing.

Craig Niermann class of '78

Craig Niermann - July 02, 2021 at 10:29 PM

CP

“ Mr Shelton was one of my favorite teachers at CHS. He sparked my love (and understanding!) of Shakespeare. He had the patience and the dry sense of humor that connected with us high schoolers. One of the best educators I've had including college.

Clarissa Pierceall

Clarissa Pierceall - July 02, 2021 at 08:31 PM

KC

“ For our 4 years of High School he was "Mr. Shelton" to each of us. Not merely an English teacher, but a role model; a mentor; an enthusiastic Orphan fan. He taught us how to be salesmen working the football concession stand on Friday nights & challenged our creativity to design Epic Prom themes each Spring. The list goes on and on.

15 years post HS his smile was every bit as bright when I walked up to buy tickets at the Holiday Tournament game. He quickly corrected my "Hi! Mr. Shelton" to: "You can call me Jack!" Jeanne, Jack may have left this life suddenly but trust the friendships he developed and the light he has left within so many people remains. Prayers for your family that Jack's heart now is at rest in peace.

Class '73 Karen (Burge) Chianakas

Karen Chianakas - July 02, 2021 at 05:45 PM

MB

“ Jeanne and Josh so sorry to learn of Jack's passing. A true fixture at CHS. Always with a smile and there to help when I'd see him at ballgames. Prayers for all.

Marsha, Gabi, Emma and Jennifer

Marsha Collins Bundy - July 02, 2021 at 09:06 AM

BF

“ *Jeanne. I'm so sorry to hear of Jacks passing. Sending prayers for strength during this sad time to you and your family.*



Brenda Ferrari - July 02, 2021 at 08:05 AM

AM

“ *Mr. Shelton was was an incredible teacher. He impacted the lives of countless students (myself included) with his kindness, caring nature and humor. His classes were notoriously tough but so incredibly valuable for those interested in developing excellent writing and communication skills. He had high expectations for his students, but was unfailingly fair. I am convinced that I was successful writing paper after paper in college and graduate school and going on to a writing-intensive career because of skills developed and refined in his courses. More than 20 years after my graduation from CHS, I still remember him and his classes with great appreciation, and I know I am not alone when I say he will be greatly missed -- but never forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Shelton. Rest in peace.*

Amy L. H. McCaig - July 02, 2021 at 12:29 AM

JM

“ *Rest in Peace my English teacher
You were an awesome teacher. Class of '73
Judith L
Meeks*



Judith Meeks - July 01, 2021 at 10:01 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John L. "Jack" Shelton.



July 01, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ Jack was an awesome guy. As sponsor of the Student Council, Jack hired me and my DJ company many times to do dances at Centralia back in the day. Most were in the old cafeteria. He was always so great to work with. We shared many stories and laughed a lot. I saw him most recently this past season at the Orphans ticket window, doing what he loved, selling tickets to Orphans games. Jack will be missed. He left a positive impact on so many people.

Randy Olson - July 01, 2021 at 04:36 PM



“ Condolences & prayers sent to his family. Sorry for your loss. Thinking of you in thoughts & prayers.
Sincerely, Donna (Roper-Queen)
& Allen Wooters



Donna (Roper-Queen) & Allen Wooters - July 01, 2021 at 04:33 PM

SH

“ Mr. Shelton is such huge part of my memories at CHS and even as an event ticket taker thereafter. He was a great teacher and asset to the school. I recently was reminiscing of when he and Vicki Oliver sang “There’s a Hole in my Bucket” at a school assembly. What a fun memory that is! And of course I had the pleasure of treating his “meaner than snot” cat as a patient! 😊. RIP Mr. Shelton.

Shawn Monken Hartmann - July 01, 2021 at 02:52 PM

MW

“ Jack was a positive influence on me in ways that seem immeasurable. The simplest, most concise way I can express my sentiment is to say that he is the reason I became an English teacher. His influence on hundreds of other students and community members has become his legacy.

Mary Walker - July 01, 2021 at 02:26 PM

LS

“ Jack was a great man. I will miss working all the ballgames with him. RIP Jack. The games won't be the same with you not there.

Lisa Sloat - July 01, 2021 at 01:14 PM

DW

Deepest condolences to the Shelton family. Jack was the type of educator that you remember for a lifetime. He took a sincere and genuine interest in his students and was a wonderful student council leader. Rest in peace.

David Wooters - July 09, 2021 at 07:58 AM