



## John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.

February 1, 1929 - May 15, 2024

John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr. passed away peacefully on May 15th, 2024. Affectionately known as Mr. Jack by his friends and colleagues and lovingly known as "Pop" by his family. He was 95 years old. Born on February 1st, 1929, he was the son of the late Guyther Coppage Griffin and Alice Everett Griffin. He was the oldest of four sons.

Jack proudly told stories of his childhood, comparing the then and now. He was an avid outdoorsman who could be found outside in his garden or running his rabbit dogs that he was so proud of. He was very proud to have been one of the last graduating classes of Church Hill High School in 1946.

December 23rd, 1950, he married the love of his life Aretta M. (Rettsy) Griffin. They were married for 71 beautiful years.

In February of 1951 Jack answered the call to duty and served in the United States Army during the Korean War. Upon his safe return home Jack made a career as a well-known home painter until his retirement. He was a member of the American Legion Jeff Davis Post 36 in Centreville, MD and the VFW #652 in Millington, MD.

As a proud resident of Church Hill Jack had a vision of smart growth for his town and was elected as Town Commissioner and served until his death. Jack served his beloved town for 39 impressive years.

In 2009 Jack was honorably inducted into Municipal Officials Hall of Fame for his exemplary years of public service. In his younger years he shared his love and knowledge of baseball by coaching and umpiring for Queen Anne's

County little league.

Jack is survived by his daughter Jane Jensen and her husband Bob, his son John Paul Griffin Jr. and his wife Tammy. Grandsons John Beville and his wife Christy, John Paul "Jake" Griffin III and his wife Kate. Step-grandchildren Brian Jensen and Jennifer Nutley. Great grandsons Mason Beville, John Paul "J.P." Griffin IV, and several step-great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents Jack was preceded in death by his beloved wife Rettsy and his brothers Mernie, Harold and Buck Griffin.

Jack will always be remembered for his devotion to his community, his kindness and generosity towards others, his unique wit and undying love for his family. He will be missed by the many lives he touched.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Church Hill Volunteer Fire Co.

A funeral service will be held at 12 pm on Monday, May 20 at the Fellows Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in Chestertown, MD, where friends and family may visit beginning at 10 am. Burial will follow at Church Hill Cemetery, Church Hill, MD.

For online condolences please visit [www.fhnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Church Hill Cemetery

Cemetery Road  
Church Hill, MD

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 20. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

MAY 20. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - May 20, 2024 at 11:55 AM

MR

*My deepest condolences to the entire Griffin family. There is no one who was as special as Mr. Jack. He loved everything he did and was proud to serve as Town Commissioner. I worked with Mr. Jack for 23 years until I retired for health reasons. Mr. Jack became a substitute father to me. Every time Ms. Rettsy made butter bean soup, they both made sure I got a container. I have never had another bowl of butter bean soup that came anywhere close to hers! I think I can relate one "ism" that was very amusing. We were talking about "city folk" and how they weren't the brightest. He said was coming back to shore after crabbing & people in another boat asked him how he did. He said great. They then told him they hadn't caught any red crab, only blue. I'm sure he was laughing inside when he told them to keep trying! Obviously "city folk". It was my great pleasure to have been able to work for the kindest, lovable, intelligent & dedicated man. Mr. Jack was one of a special breed. Now he is with his wife and brothers in Heaven, looking down and watching over his family on earth. You will be missed greatly. Marie Rameika*

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**Marie Rameika** - May 22, 2024 at 08:23 PM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - May 17, 2024 at 10:21 AM

JR

“ *Janet Rochester sent a virtual gift in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



**Janet Rochester** - June 06, 2024 at 05:59 PM

MD

“ *Matt, Roxanne, Dylan And Trevor Dean lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



**Matt, Roxanne, Dylan and Trevor Dean** - May 20, 2024 at 09:40 PM

JE

“ *James Ewing lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



**James Ewing** - May 20, 2024 at 08:08 PM

MC

“ *I Don't Know What To Say About Mr. Jack In A Few Words! He Was The Wise Ole Owl Looking Over All The People In The Kingdom. All That I Can Briefly Say Is We All Miss You Terribly Rest In Piece My Lifelong Friend And Mentor!*

Marion & Lisa Chance - May 19, 2024 at 11:35 AM

JS

*I got to know Mr Jack when I covered the Church Hill commissioners for the local newspapers. What began as a professional relationship became a friendship. He was a gentleman and I am fortunate to have known him.*

Jack Shaum - May 20, 2024 at 09:14 AM

BH

“ *Billy & Dorothy Hollingsworth lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



billy & dorothy hollingsworth - May 19, 2024 at 09:41 AM

JC

“ *John And Jaye Clough lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



John and Jaye Clough - May 18, 2024 at 03:53 PM

LF

“ To all of the Griffins. My sympathy and condolences go out to the entire family. Jack was a good man and will be missed by the community

Larry Faulkner - May 18, 2024 at 11:40 AM

RL

“ Beautiful video tribute to a life so well lived.  
May God continue to bring your family peace  
and comfort in the days ahead!  
Love, The Lewis Family



Rebecca Lewis - May 17, 2024 at 08:20 PM



“ John Paul, we are very sorry for your family's loss. Our prayers to you all. Bucky and Tammy

Matt Larrimore - May 17, 2024 at 08:19 PM

DN

“ Donna Nelson North lit a candle in memory of  
John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



Donna Nelson North - May 17, 2024 at 04:47 PM

BC

“ *Our sympathy to the family of Mr Griffin. John & Billie Carroll*



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**Billie Carroll** - May 17, 2024 at 03:38 PM

TM

“ *Tina Mayr lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



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**Tina Mayr** - May 17, 2024 at 01:20 PM

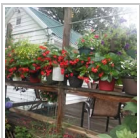
NL

“ *Sending my thoughts and prayers to Jane and her family .*



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**Norma Lord** - May 17, 2024 at 10:32 AM



“ *Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



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**Sherrie Jacobs** - May 17, 2024 at 09:04 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to Jane for the loss of her father.  
Ruth and Jon Hodgson*

Ruth Hodgson - May 17, 2024 at 07:53 AM

DB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the entire family. He  
was a wonderful man.*



David and Diane Baxter - May 16, 2024 at 07:36 PM

JC

“ *Judy Cahall lit a candle in memory of John  
Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



Judy Cahall - May 16, 2024 at 07:29 PM

PJ

“ *Paul And Dawn Jones lit a candle in memory  
of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.*



Paul and Dawn Jones - May 16, 2024 at 06:48 PM

GP

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - May 16, 2024 at 05:46 PM

GP

*Our prayers and blessings are with the family during the loss of Mr. Jack. He surely was an Icon in Church Hill and loved his Town and Community. My thoughts will be with you on Monday. Cannot attend the funeral, as I have a viral lung infection. Prayers will be with the family. God bless and hold onto the wonderful memories. Gene and Lynda Palmatary*

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - May 16, 2024 at 11:03 PM

JS

“ Janet Seward lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



Janet Seward - May 16, 2024 at 05:39 PM

JL

“ John M Larrimore lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



John M Larrimore - May 16, 2024 at 05:31 PM

JC

“ June Clark lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



June Clark - May 16, 2024 at 03:39 PM

DS

“ Deborah Scott lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



Deborah Scott - May 16, 2024 at 02:52 PM

DS

*I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Jack's passing. He was such a staple to the town of Church Hill. He gave so much of his time to the various committees and served with dedication as mayor. He will be greatly missed. My father used to say that they were the last remaining members of their boyhood generation. Time passes, but their memories will remain with us. God be with you all.*

Deborah Scott - May 16, 2024 at 02:56 PM

RJ

“ Ronnie And Rhonda Jewell lit a candle in memory of John Paul "Jack" Griffin Sr.



Ronnie and Rhonda Jewell - May 16, 2024 at 02:39 PM

AA

“ *Janie, Bob and Family; John Paul, Tammy and Family, we are so sorry for your loss. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with all of you at this most difficult time. Take care and cherish the memories.*



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**Albert and Barbara Allen** - May 16, 2024 at 01:02 PM