



John Francis O'Leary

December 12, 1917 - September 30, 2012

Dr. John Francis (Jack) O'Leary of Bel Air, MD, pharmacology researcher, died Saturday, September 30, 2012 in his home. He was 94.

Jack was born in 1917 to John T. and Winifred Embert O'Leary in Punxsutawney, PA. He graduated there from Saints Cosmas and Damian Parochial High School. One of ten children, he was the first in his family to pursue higher education. After receiving his B.S. in biochemistry from Penn State University in 1942 he was employed by Keystone Ordnance in Meadville, PA in the manufacture of TNT for the U.S. Army. There he met Joyce Collier, and they married in 1944.

Jack and Joyce moved to Rochester, NY, where they started their family of seven children, while Jack worked as a research assistant on the Manhattan Project at the University of Rochester. There he received his M.S degree in 1946 and his Ph.D. in pharmacology in 1951.

After two years as a research pharmacologist at McNeill Laboratories in Philadelphia, Dr. O'Leary began a 25 year career at the US Army Edgewood Arsenal, MD, in the field of pharmacologic treatment of chemical warfare poisoning. In conjunction with this research he travelled internationally, authored over forty scientific publications, and was awarded a US patent on chemical agent treatment methods. Under two US presidential administrations he briefed the secret service regarding treatment and defense of White House

personnel against potential chemical poison assault.

After raising seven children in Bel Air, he was divorced in 1972, married Anne M. Kunkel of Baltimore, and they established a home in Queenstown, MD where they lived quietly and happily for twenty years. After Anne's death he married Johanna W. Allwine in 1995; she predeceased him in 2008. In 2010, he returned to Bel Air where he resided at Brightview Avondell.

Dr. O'Leary enjoyed music as a hobby and played piano and bass in various small bands. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Chemical Society and many other professional associations, including the scientific research society Sigma Xi. By virtue of receiving the Cold War Certificate of Recognition for Service, he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Dr. O'Leary is survived by his seven children: Patricia E. O'Leary of Walnut Creek, CA; J. Michael O'Leary of Encinitas, CA; Ellen M. Post of Pylesville, MD; Jane O'Leary of Catonsville, MD; Meaghan J. Baker of Fallston, MD; Maureen (Molly) Neal of Forest Hill, MD; and Daniel R. O'Leary of Cheyenne, WY. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, and by his beloved companion Marcy Boyle.

In addition, Dr. O'Leary is survived by two sisters: Gertrude Wambach of Port Townsend, WA, and Carol Marasco of Punxsutawney, PA. He was predeceased by two brothers: Robert F. O'Leary and Thomas J. O'Leary; and five sisters: Winifred O'Leary, Mary Weaver, Marcella Daugherty, Patricia Powers, and Katherine Meecham. His sisters considered Jack the rock of his family, and he loved being at the center of the many O'Leary family reunions.

A Funeral Mass will be at 11am on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 5319 Ocean Gateway, Queenstown, MD 21658 where burial will be in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Elks National Foundation, Scholarship Fund, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave. Chicago, IL 60614-2256.

Funeral arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Chester, MD. For online condolences, please visit www.fhnfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery

5319 Ocean Gateway
Queenstown, MD 21658

Previous Events

Service

OCT 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
5319 Ocean Gateway
Queenstown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *John Francis O'Leary*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *John Francis O'Leary*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *John Francis O'Leary*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. "Jack" O'Leary. Jack was a faithful member and at one time President of our NARFE (Nat'l. Assoc. of Active and Retired Employees), Chapter 1372. I will always remember our Xmas Party Meetings. Jack would bring his guitar and we would enjoy our "sing alongs". He was missed when he moved last year. I am sorry I did not know about the funeral service or I would have been there. He and Johanna were two of my favorites!. I will make an announcement at our Chapter meeting next week. Again - my sympathy to all. Helen Wallace, Chester,Md.*

Helen - October 03, 2012 at 01:54 PM



“ *Sincere condolences to the extended O'Leary family from Diane and Len Medura and their family.*

Len Medura - October 02, 2012 at 08:47 AM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



jane o'leary - October 01, 2012 at 09:55 PM

AW

To the O'Leary clan from one cousin in Rochester, NY (daughter of Gert O'Leary Wambach - Anne), what a marvelous picture and there is Uncle Jack, proudly sitting and basking in all your love. Uncle Jack cannot be captured in a few sentences so I will not try but he obviously lives on in all of you. I'm so glad we're related. Love, Anne Wambach

Anne Jennifer Wambach - October 04, 2012 at 07:54 AM

GP

I'm the nephew of Jack O'Leary and because of my interested in his work the CIA or some intelligent agency kidnapped me drugged me because they thought I knew something about his work which I know everything and I'm going to start talking about it the O'Leary family essentially let me be abused it's time I get my just dessert I want to love my family but I think you're all crazy if you believe for second stuff he did it's good for the world you're all crazy

Gerard Patrick powers - September 18, 2019 at 02:53 PM

MR

“ *Ellen and Family,*

I am very sorry to hear of your fathers passing, although we never had the pleasure to meet your Dad, we can see the care and love that is evident at Wyefield and in the family that we have met. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Michael and Tammy Rosendale

Michael Rosendale - October 01, 2012 at 02:26 PM

MH

“ *He is Gone*

*You can shed tears that he is gone
Or you can smile because he has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that he will
come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember him and only that he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what he would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.
By David Harkins*



Jane and the O'Leary Family,

*May the Lord keep you in the palm of his hand and may you find
comfort and joy in your memories and the love you share.*

*You are in our heart and prayers,
Mary & Patricia*

Mary M Hogan - October 01, 2012 at 12:46 PM

JO

“ *Jane O'Leary lit a candle in memory of John
Francis O'Leary*



Jane O'Leary - October 01, 2012 at 10:48 AM

JO

What a great man and a great life! And what a privilege to be his daughter.

Jane O'Leary - October 01, 2012 at 10:49 AM

JS

Our deepest condolences to the O'Leary family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. -Smith Family

Jim Smith - October 02, 2012 at 10:44 AM