



Mr. John D. "Jack" Durant

April 29, 1929 - June 7, 2017

DEERFIELD/CLARK MILLS - Mr. John D. "Jack" Durant, age 88, formerly of Deerfield and currently of Clark Mills, passed away on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Center with his loving family by his side.

Born in Utica on April 29, 1929, John was the son of the late Michael and Madeline (Schwertfegder) Durant. Raised and educated locally, he continued his studies at Utica College of Syracuse University. A veteran of the United States Army, Jack proudly served his country with honor. At one time, he was wed to the former Shirley Smith. He was blessed with a second union on August 18, 1979 when he married Clara Mae Humphrey-Metzler with whom he shared 37 years.

Jack's work career was centered at the WKTV television station where he held the position of News Director for over 30 years, the position from which he retired. Jack was a family-oriented man blessed with a giving heart. He enjoyed spending time with his loved ones and celebrating special family occasions. He attended the sporting events of his kids and the younger generations, and he was their greatest fan. He supported the NY Yankees and the NY Giants. As a member of Historic Old St. John's Church, John served as an usher and was involved in many parish activities.

John is survived by his wife, Clara Mae; his son and daughter-in-law, John and Rosemarie Durant of Loudonville, NY; and his daughter, Heather Sharpless of Maryland. He was blessed in sharing the love of Clara Mae's

family including, Geri Lynn Metzler of Clark Mills, Dory Metzler of New Hartford, and Linda Metzler of Remsen. He also leaves his grandchildren, Jaime Durant, Alyssa Durant; Sarah Sharpless, Hallie Sharpless; Steven W. Metzler Jr. and fiancée Briana Button, Kristen Metzler; Allison and David Vore, Erin Metzler and fiancé Paul Muzio, and Nicole and Nicholas Gudyka; his great-grandchildren, Greta; and Cadence; and his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, in-laws, and many special friends. He was predeceased by his sons, Richard J. Metzler III, and Steven W. "Otto" Metzler, Sr.

In keeping with Jack's wishes, there will be no public visitation. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend John's funeral service and Celebration of Life which will commence on Tuesday morning at 10:00 at Historic Old St. John's Church where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Abe Esper with Military Honors conferred by the United States Army. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of the service. In lieu of floral offerings, expressions of sympathy in the form of donations may be made to the Historic Old St. John's Memorial Fund; envelopes will be available at the service. Interment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727