



## John M. Hanifan

February 22, 1947 - February 8, 2020

John M. (Jack) Hanifan, 72, passed away peacefully at home on February 8, 2020 after a long illness. Born in Albany, he was predeceased by his parents, the late John A. and Ethel A. Hanifan. He attended Public School 16, St. Patrick's grade school, and graduated high school from CBA (Christian Brothers Academy) in 1964. Jack attended Manhattan College, Hudson Valley Community College, and the University at Albany, graduating with a BA in History. While at the University, Jack studied under Dr. Richard Ellis in the Traffic Safety Program. Utilizing his education from the University program Jack taught Driver Education at Right Way Driving School and later began his teaching career at Hudson High School as the Driver Education teacher. Jack loved the students at Hudson High and became heavily involved in the Hudson High School football program in various positions ending eventually as Athletic Director. He taught Social Studies and math as well as Driver Ed and became a frequent volunteer for many high school trips and events. He retired from Hudson High School in 2002 after 32 years of service.

Jack was an avid sports fan from an early age, following his favorite teams the NY Yankees and his beloved Green Bay Packers. He attended many sporting events throughout the years and especially loved watching his son play football at his own alma mater CBA.

In retirement he was a daily follower and season ticket holder of UAlbany mens and womens basketball and their football program.

For most of his adult life Jack was deeply involved with motorsports beginning as a youngster with his father and uncle at Pine Bowl Speedway. His love of motorsports progressed to joining Mohawk Hudson Region of SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) starting with road rallies and autocrosses and moved on to road racing. Through SCCA and racing he met his great longtime friends Pete Smith and John Sheridan along with many other friends too numerous to name.

Jack held many official positions in SCCA most notably in the local chapter. His skills as a driving instructor were a perfect fit for racing and officiating the races.

Jack became a hunter at an early age learning from his father and uncle. He continued the sport with his friend Paul Collins and others for many years. He was a member of the

Watervliet Rod and Gun Club competing in their Skeet Shooting league.

He was a proud member and President of the CBA Fathers Association and was a driving force in creating the first CBA Golf Tournament. He remained a proud and loyal "CBA Brother" to the end. He was also a long time member of the Albany County Democratic Committee and a Ward Leader.

Jack had the natural gift of Irish gab inherited from his father bringing his wit and knowledge everywhere. History was another of his passions and when an opportunity arose he visited many of the historical sites he had studied, most notable were Civil War sites.

He led life as fully as he possibly could; meeting and making friends wherever he traveled whether it be a race, motor sports event, game or just to his local favorite diner, Jack's on Central Ave.

Jack is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, best friend and primary caregiver Lisa Hanifan (Van Guysling), their son Timothy, TJ, Hanifan, his brothers and sisters-in-law; Peter & Linda Van Guysling of Guilderland; Maryann McLaughlin of Gloversville; Mark & Patricia Van Guysling of Albany; Kit (Kathleen) & Paul Flood of Albany as well as many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held at the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Hall, where he was a member, on Friday, February 21st from 5pm until 9pm, 375 Ontario Street, Albany, NY 12208. All friends are welcome to share in his memory.

Contributions in Jack's name may be made to Community Hospice Foundation, 445 New Karner Road, Albany, NY 12205.

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Jack and I were high school friends and I was very shocked to learn of his passing. He was always a good friend and friend to many. I Will miss him as I'm sure you and all his family and friends will miss him too. Rest In Peace Jack I will miss you.*

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**James Michael Martin** - February 25, 2020 at 10:57 PM

GG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**greg goss** - February 20, 2020 at 06:02 AM

JK

“ *I have known Jack and Lisa for over 50 years and was best man at their wedding. I feel deeply saddened at losing this great friend, and my heart felt thoughts and prayers are with his family.*  
*John Kearns*

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**John Kearns** - February 19, 2020 at 12:21 PM

SK

“ If you're talking about someone you looked forward to running into during the course of the day: you're talking about Jack.  
If you're talking about a person with a striking sense of humor and wit: you're talking about Jack.  
While you're at it, if you're including in you're talking about said person that he's always there with a helping hand: again, you're talking about Jack.  
And...if you're continuing to chew about someone who could appear at your door with a clipboard and you actually find it essential: of course, you're still talking about Jack.  
Oh, and if you're talking about someone eager to assist in alleviating your squirrel problem - you gotta know: you're also talking about Jack.  
And if you ever talk about the epitome of the most perfect neighbor you could have had the great fortune to live next door to: you will ALWAYS be talking about Jack.

*Lisa and TJ - Jack was so blessed to have received the comfort and peace of being home in his family's embrace. We love you and have you in our hearts and prayers.*  
*Your friends, Sally and Dolly Kipper*

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**Sally and Dolly Kipper** - February 17, 2020 at 04:34 PM

JK

“ To the Hanifan family;  
Please accept my prayers and condolences on the passing of Jack. I worked with him at the Democratic H.Q. when he was a Ward Leader. He was always a gentleman to deal with. My prayers are with you all.  
John Kearney

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**John Kearney** - February 16, 2020 at 10:09 PM

HB

“ We send our deepest condolences to the family I enjoyed working with jack as a wardleader of the third ward he was a good man and a friend he will truly be missed we are praying for the family

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**Hon Ronald Bailey** - February 16, 2020 at 07:35 PM

RT

“ My sympathy to the Hanifan family. A great teacher that will be missed. The very FIRST time I was behind the wheel of a car he was the one sitting beside me. Thankfully he had his own brake after I floored it and had a near miss with a town highway department steam roller ! MANY fond memories of cruising the area during class with Jack N., Dean Z. and Laurie W. all crammed in to one ugly green American Motors Matador ! Rest easy my friend and "always yield to that taxi driver" ! Bob Tomaso, Hudson High School Class of 1974

Robert Tomaso - February 16, 2020 at 12:37 PM

AH

“ My deepest condolences. My husband and I always smiled when we saw Jack tooling around in his little sports car, he always waved and sometimes stopped to chat. We d already missed him as his illness took over. He has already been missed, but not forgotten.

Alice Henry - February 16, 2020 at 09:54 AM

AH

“ My deepest condolences on your loss. My husband and I always smiled when we saw Jack fooling around in his little sports car, he always waved and sometimes stopped to chat. We were honored to know him, just a little bit. He s already been missed as his illness took him off the streets. I hope he catches up with my husband in the great beyond! God bless you! Alice Henry, #5

Alice Henry - February 16, 2020 at 09:49 AM

TP

“ Jack was a gentleman racer, always respectful of his competitors and a great instructor to the new comers. He will be sorely missed. Godspeed my friend. 🏁🏁

Trish Pellegrino - February 14, 2020 at 03:41 PM

SW

“ Jack was my Ward Leader and friend. He made me Deputy Ward Leader without telling me. LOL. Oh so many days and nights we spent at the polls. I am so sorry for your lose...for everyone's loss.

Suzanne Waltz - February 13, 2020 at 10:31 PM

WD

“ For several years I was a Saturday Jack’s Diner regular with Jack and several other VI and CBA boys. I always was appreciative they let a McCloskey kid into their group.

*Jack always brought his humor, insight and great memory of growing up in Albany to our weekly meets and he fondly resides deep in the memories of many from the old neighborhood.*

*W. Dennis Duggan*

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**W. Dennis Duggan** - February 13, 2020 at 09:21 PM

PO

“ Jack was always a lot of fun to be around. I really miss seeing him at the basketball games and trading stories. Lisa always had the right temperment when Jack would start a tale. Your family will be in my prayers. He will be missed.

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**Paul Oberting** - February 13, 2020 at 08:59 PM

AB

“ To the Hanifan Family,  
My condolences for your loss. I had him as a teacher and chaperone on many events. What great memories. He has touched so many of us from Hudson High.  
Thank you for sharing him with us. Allison Cozzolino Barnett

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**Allison Cozzolino Barnett** - February 13, 2020 at 08:03 PM

DO

“ RIP Mr. Hanifan.  
He was my Drivers Ed Teacher at HHS, an awesome teacher. I’m sure we gave him a few gray hairs when we drove on I-90. Condolences to the Hanifan family.  
Donna (Russo) Oneil  
Class of 1980 - Hudson High school

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**donna oneil** - February 13, 2020 at 07:25 PM

TS

“ To the Hanifan Family,

*I had the great honor of working with Jack at Right way Driving Center. He was such a great man with lots of knowledge and some great stories. We also had a family connection he went to CBA with my uncles Angelo & Tommy Siciliano. He will be sorely missed and I hope it is a comfort to know what a positive effect he had on all who he came in contact with and what knowledge he passed on to all who took his class.*



*Trish Simmons  
Rensselaer*

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**Trish Simmons** - February 13, 2020 at 04:44 PM

TW

*God Speed Jack; Our condolences to the Hanifan Family.. Jack was a great help to our family at SCCA events. We will miss you in presence but always will be with us in spirit  
Tom, Ann, and Bill Weaver Sayre PA*

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**Tom Weaver** - February 14, 2020 at 02:48 PM

PM

*To the Hanifan Family*

*I have fond recollections of Jack from our time at CBA in so many things we shared. Cheer leading the teams we supported was important to him. Time at the Valley (HVCC) and then years later as our sons went to CBA and we were in the Fathers Association. Too young, but while missed here he will be welcome for his final reward. God bless.*

*Peter Mason*

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**PETER MASON** - February 16, 2020 at 12:32 PM

PW

*I always admired Jack for the way he cared about the athletes at Hudson High school. Along with the coaching staff, he especially focused on helping the inner city kids that came from difficult home life conditions. He helped many kids find their way in life. Our sons played together at Central Babe Ruth and TJ your dad was always positive and upbeat about life. Truly just a real good man. I am sorry for your loss.*

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**paul weafer** - February 16, 2020 at 12:57 PM