

JACK LEWIS



JACK LEWIS When we look back on the life of Jack Lewis we will have much to remember. Put together a huge heart, an entrepreneurial spirit, a loyal friend, a great sense of humour, and a fabulous husband, father, and grandfather and you get Jack Lewis, one of a kind! Sadly, on January 22, 2010 at the age of 74, after an 18 month battle with cancer, Jack passed away peacefully at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. Cherishing his memory are his wife, Ruth; children, Cory (Nancy) and Tracey (Ray); grandchildren Kayden, Nick, Hunter, and Seth; Jack's sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Hugh Maginnis and their family; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Lothar and Christine Richter of Germany and their family; numerous cousins and extended family; and his many friends and colleagues. Jack Arthur Lewis was born in Winnipeg, MB on May 23, 1935, to Art and Edith Rose Lewis (nee Hunt). Jack spent his early childhood in Winnipeg, moved to Vancouver with his family, and then in 1967, returned to teach at the University of Manitoba. Jack was a long time member of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, and head coach of the Bison Men's Basketball team from 1968 to 1972. He took the program to national prominence. His overall record was 109-32. In addition, he was instrumental in bringing professional basketball to Winnipeg in the early 1990s with the Winnipeg Thunder. Jack's university career was twice interrupted. In the early 1970s, Jack was seconded by former premier, Ed Schreyer, to head up the Youth Secretariat. In the early 1980s, Jack followed his other passion and worked as Vice-President of Condominium Development for Shelter Corporation. To continue his work in condo conversions, Jack established Real Growth Realty Corporation, and returned to a half-time appointment at the university. While at the University of Manitoba, Jack was appointed Athletic Director, coordinator of the Recreation Internship Program, and as an Associate Professor, his contributions over three decades were many. Former students have often expressed their gratitude for Jack's guidance and support during their university years. In 1993, Jack was awarded the Canadian Association for Health Physical Education, and Recreation Fellow Award. He retired in May 1995, but returned to a post-retirement appointment from 1995 to 1997. Then, it became his turn to play. Fall and winter months would find Jack and his good friend, Joe, smashing it out on the racquetball court, and once, the snow melted, friends, John and Frank would join them on the golf course. When not golfing with the boys, Ruth would often play nine with him. The fifth hole at the Canoe Club honoured Jack with two holes-in-one. And there were witnesses. Family was very important to Jack. And in his later years, he took great pride in each of his grandsons and their accomplishments. Whether it was joining the boys on the golf course or in the pool, building forts or attending concerts, seeing their joy gave Jack great pleasure. He will be deeply missed at

all the hockey and soccer games. His grandsons will never forget Grandpa Jack's post-game talent of being able to pull a toonie out from behind their ears. Perfect timing, as always for the nearest canteen. Through real and computer travel, Jack stayed connected with family and friends from around the globe. Travel in Canada and the United States would often revolve around professional commitments or golf. Visiting Ruth's relatives in Hawaii or Germany and friends in Mauritius always included touring and exploring nearby countries. At all times, travel was for adventure or even, a good party. Jack was blessed with many friends. Their support before and during his illness, and after his death, will never be forgotten. They are indeed lifelong family friends. Throughout his illness, the staffs at CancerCare Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre were professional, considerate, and caring. Thank you. A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010, at the University Club (formerly known as the Faculty Club) at the University of Manitoba from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We welcome friends and colleagues to come and join us in remembering Jack on what would have been his 75th birthday (just shy by three days). Jack will always be remembered for his way with words, his tongue-in-cheek wit and his ability to capture even the most complex moments in a few insightful and well chosen words. So if Jack could be asked to comment on his own passing, he would likely flash his trademark grin and offer his usual, That's all folks! In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CancerCare Manitoba, 675 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3E 0V0. THOMSON FUNERAL HOME 669 BROADWAY, WINNIPEG, MB R3C OX4 783-7211 Condolences may be sent to www.thomsonfuneralchapel.com