



## **SHEEHAN, Jack Ellis**

Jack Ellis Sheehan was a loving husband, a devoted "father and a true gentleman who lived in Montecito, CA and passed away on January 4, 2018 with his family by his side. He was born in 1927, the first of three children, to Clara and John Sheehan and raised in Mount Lebanon, PA.

After serving in the Army from 1945-1947 with a posting in the Philippines, he earned an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering (EE), summa cum laude, from Syracuse University and a graduate degree in EE from Carnegie Mellon University. His career at Exxon Research and Engineering Company (formerly Esso) in Florham Park, NJ spanned 35 years with retirement in 1987.

His work involved extensive worldwide travel with numerous long term assignments abroad including Cartagena, Colombia; Milford Haven, Wales; Ingolstadt, Germany; Calgary, Alberta, Canada; and his favorite Den Hague, The Netherlands. His love of history and passion for fly fishing were his ways to relax and let go.

Jack was destined to be with the love of his life, Marlene, from childhood when he was the handsome paperboy for her family, to being set-up on a blind date with each other in college, and married 5 years later. Thoroughly enjoying their lives together, and one of the fondest memories recounted by friends and acquaintances was of the two always walking together hand in hand. He cherished his two girls, "Dee" and "Debby," building a toy barn and snow forts, teaching them to throw a football and understand physics. After the girls left for college, he sent weekly hand written letters with stories of home, grander musings on life and pearls of wisdom. He will forever be remembered for his lively spirit and unconditional love:

A "Jack of all trades" and yet a perfectionist, he particularly loved working with his hands, building beautiful home additions and patios, meticulously creating and maintaining landscaping, as well as cooking gourmet meals for family and friends. He was an active church member while living in Bernardsville, NJ; Genesee, CO and Montecito, CA. And, he volunteered in numerous organizations including Habitat for Humanity, soup kitchens and Meals on Wheels. By all those whose paths he crossed, he is remembered as a kind and generous person, always "ready with a sharp wit and dry sense of humor, a warm smile and a twinkle in his eye. Above all, he will be remembered as a gentleman through and through.

Surviving Jack are his wife of 63 years, Marlene Sheehan and his daughters, Denise of Newport Beach, CA and Deborah of Summit, NJ. He is also survived by his niece, Susan Stewart, of Mt. Lebanon, PA and two nephews, Jim Stewart of Aspinwall, PA and Gordon Stewart of San Francisco, CA. He is predeceased by his parents, sister Joan and brother Jim.

A church memorial will be held at El Montecito Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March 1st at 1:30 pm. In addition, on Friday, March 2, a memorial reception will be held at Casa Dorinda from 3 - 5 pm. An impending storm may trigger an evacuation in Montecito, CA. If this occurs, the memorial service will be rescheduled.

Both memorials are in Montecito, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Jack's memory be sent to the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation.