



John "Jack" Lewis Progelhof

July 8, 1934 - March 22, 2022

John "Jack" Lewis Progelhof, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather passed away in Rockwall, Texas, on March 22, 2022, at the age of 87.

Born on July 8, 1934, to John Carl and Madeline Progelhof in West Orange, New Jersey, Jack was the oldest of two children. He was raised in West Orange and on the Jersey shore where he loved water activities swimming, fishing, and especially sailboat racing. He graduated from West Orange High School in 1952. Jack attended Newark College of Engineering and was president of the Interfraternity Council. He graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1956 and joined the DuPont chemical company starting at the Niagara Falls chemical plant. Except for a six-month tour in the US Army, Jack worked 37 years for DuPont in engineering and management jobs in Niagara Falls, Memphis, LaPorte (Houston), and Charleston, West Virginia where he served as Assistant Plant Manager.

In the summer of 1957, his friend at Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church introduced him to Virginia "Ginny" Graves, who was home for the summer from Miami of Ohio. They went sailing on their first date. In 1959, they were married at Bacon Memorial Presbyterian. Jack and Ginny were married for 62 years and attended Presbyterian Churches in the variety of cities they resided.

Jack owned two boats before he owned a car. Jack, with Ginny crewing, won the Celebrity sailboat class national championship in 1959. Jack won it again in 1964. When the family moved from New York to Texas, he could sail almost year around. He was very active in the Galveston Bay Cruising Association (GBCA) garnering many trophies and served as Bay Race Chairman and Commodore. His boys, John and Jeff, participated in the racing and family fun sailing. After a 3-year stint in sailing-starved Charleston, Jack and Ginny returned to the Houston area and joined Houston Yacht Club where he was an active member and Line Officer before and after his retirement. In 1996, Jack served on the Atlanta Olympic Sailing Race Committee.

In 1998, because John moved to the Dallas area where Jeff resided, Jack and Ginny moved to Heath, Texas, and joined Rush Creek Yacht Club. Jack was a very active member racing and volunteering. He opened his garage full of tools to many boat projects for others.

Jack was always a loving and supportive husband, father, and grandfather. He was eager to help on projects, support his family, including Ginny in the First Presbyterian Church choir, his sons in sports, and in earning Eagle Scout. He often shared a carton of Blue Bell ice cream with friends and strangers.

Jack will be missed by his wife Ginny, his sons and their wives, John and Nancy and Jeff and Erin, his six grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Jacks' Celebration of Life will be Monday, April 4 at 2:00 pm at Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall with Reverend Harry Meissner presiding. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to an endowment being established for an annual scholarship awarded to youth sailors with a financial need to attend Summer Sailing Camp. For more information, please see <https://rcyc.org/event/p7B4XjX0dn>.

The service will also be live streamed; please go to <https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorize.php?k=1648676051175677>

Previous Events

Gathering

APR 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location
2500 State Highway 66 East
Rockwall, TX 75087

Celebration of Life

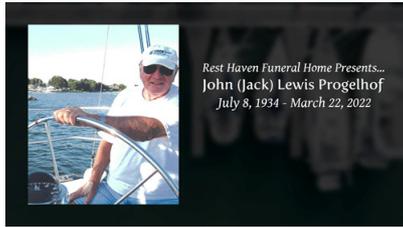
APR 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location
2500 State Highway 66 East
Rockwall, TX 75087

Tribute Wall



“ Rest Haven Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John "Jack" Lewis Progelhof



Rest Haven Funeral Homes and Memorial Park - April 04 at 09:33 AM

RJ

“ I first met Jack and Ginny when our J22 sailing teams traveled from Dallas/Heath to Houston for the circuit regatta at HYC. It became an annual tradition to stay with Jack and Ginny--with multiple teams of racers sleeping all over the house. In the mornings Ginny was always up before us and we were treated to a full breakfast at the long Progelhof dining table. After the racing and dinner we came home and were treated to Blue Bell ice cream--Jack would just keep pulling out flavor after flavor after flavor--good thing it was after we were all weighed in for the regatta!

Another one of my favorite memories was when Rob was racing his remote-controlled (RC) sailboat from the shore early one morning before a J24 regatta at which Papa Prog had, of course, volunteered for race duty. Jack was up early and his power boat was in the water ready to go. Rob's RC boat capsized in the middle of the RCYC harbor and Rob called Jack to say "Jack, there's a boat down in the harbor!" (deliberately failing to inform Papa Prog what KIND of boat). Papa Prog immediately came to the rescue and I could see him scanning the waters for a J24 capsized in the harbor and I won't forget his face when he finally saw the 36inch RC boat on its side. And, being Papa Prog, he didn't get angry he just silently pulled the little boat out of the water--and then told the story over and over that weekend.

And, of course, no conversation with Jack would be complete without at least one story beginning with "My son, Jeff...." or "My son, John...." and Jeff or John would roll their eyes. I can't remember any of the stories but I can hear Jack in my head saying those all-important first three words.

Papa Prog has crossed his last finish line and has surely earned a "bullet."

Robin Johnston - April 04 at 04:08 PM