



## John David Dortch (Jack)

June 9, 1939 - March 2, 2024

John David Dortch (Jack) went to his eternal rest on March 2, 2024, following a hard-fought battle with pulmonary fibrosis at his home in Chambersburg, PA.

Born June 9, 1939, to James and Gladys Dortch in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Jack formed lifelong connections with classmates from Parkrose High School (Portland, OR) and Oregon State University. Always a planner, Jack led the original card stunts in Reeser Stadium and was the mascot, Benny Beaver, at numerous sporting events. He made lifetime friends within his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta. He graduated Class of 1962 at Oregon State University. ROTC formed his primary occupation as a US Army Infantry Officer. He proudly and profoundly served his country, with two tours in Vietnam, many moves across America, and found his favorite posting in Germany. Jack was awarded the Silver Star with Oakleaf Cluster and two Purple Hearts. He received additional recognition from the Pentagon Joint Chiefs, the Department of State, and the Old Guard.

Jack retired from the United States Army and entered the private sector in 1984 and applied his skills to Wells Fargo Alarm Services in New Jersey, New York City, and southern California. His expertise in negotiation and business leadership tactics were utilized to great effect as he managed labor negotiations, equipment installations, and long-distance commuting.

Always a great teammate, Jack found camaraderie and purpose in Rotary International during retirement. Jack was an active member in Ludlow, Vermont; Ludlow, England; and Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He enjoyed the OKEMO Mountain timed bicycle race, the Franklin County Cyclists, winter boot collections, walkathons, international student exchanges, Chicken N Stuff dinners, and tree planting. Jack contributed passionately to the Rotary exchange in Brazil, Tsunami Relief, coordination for delivery of an ambulance to Indonesia, and the Rubber Duck Race.

As a husband, father, and grandfather, Jack was devoted. There was never a practice too early, a trip too far or an errand too many. He was always ready with a drink, Chapstick, and snacks.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Katherine Ann Primrose Dortch; daughter Katherine Marie Dortch McCorry (husband Tom); son John Patrick Dortch (wife Laurel); sister Roberta Jones; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Jack's family will be holding a Memorial Service at 10:30 AM on April 5, 2024, at: Trinity Episcopal Church, 58 S 2nd Street, Chambersburg, PA.

Graveside services will be held with military honors at 10:30 AM on May 3, 2024, at: Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, 200 Duell Road, Schuylerville, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Rotary International or Army Emergency Relief. Condolences may be expressed at [www.sellersfuneralhome.com](http://www.sellersfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 5. 10:30 AM (ET)

Trinity Episcopal Church  
58 South Second Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

## Graveside Service

MAY 3. 10:30 AM (ET)

Gerald B.H. Soloman Saratoga National Cemetery  
200 Duell Road  
Schuylerville, NY 12871

# Tribute Wall

AR

“ *Halfway down the trail to Hell,  
In a shady meadow green  
Are the Souls of all dead Troopers camped,  
Near a good old-time canteen.  
And this eternal resting place  
Is known as Fiddlers' Green.*

*Marching past, straight through to Hell  
The Infantry are seen.  
Accompanied by the Engineers,  
Artillery and Marines,  
For none but the shades of Cavalrymen  
Dismount at Fiddlers' Green.*

*Though some go curving down the trail  
To seek a warmer scene.  
No Trooper ever gets to Hell  
Ere he's emptied his canteen.  
And so rides back to drink again  
With friends at Fiddlers' Green.*

*And so when man and horse go down  
Beneath a saber keen,  
Or in a roaring charge of fierce melee  
You stop a bullet clean,  
And the hostiles come to get your scalp,  
Just empty your canteen,  
And put your pistol to your head  
And go to Fiddlers' Green.*

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**Army Emergency Relief** - April 03, 2024 at 07:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Sellers Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - March 11, 2024 at 09:57 AM

VR

*When I look out my apartment window, I will miss seeing Jack riding his bike, helmet and outfit. Vera Reber*

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**Vera Blinn Reber** - March 23, 2024 at 11:41 AM

CA

*Jack was such a special friend to Warren and aided him in so many ways when Warren was in the nursing home. Jack learned to drive the Menno Haven van and got him to Rotary meetings at the Orchards. He also worked very hard to fulfill Warren's dream of having many of the trees, at Menno Haven, labeled - a project undertaken by boy earning his Eagle Scout. He will be missed.*

*Carol Leach*

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**carol** - April 05, 2024 at 01:31 PM

CK

*I worked for Jack in the late 80s at Wells Fargo in Lyndhurst, NJ, and I'm remembering him today as a special boss with a wonderful disposition. RIP Jack, fare thee well in heaven after a life well lived!*

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**Charles Kirby** - December 25, 2025 at 11:00 AM