



# John F. Speer

JAN 15, 1932 - SEP 7, 2014



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## **John F. Speer**

JAN 15, 1932 - SEP 7, 2014

**J**ohn F. Speer Jr., 82, of South Bethany Beach, Delaware, passed away Sunday, September 7, 2014 at his residence. He was born on January 15, 1932 in Staten Island, NY, son of the late John F. Speer, Sr. and Frances Speer.

John moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 1958 upon completion of his Masters in Agriculture Economics from Pennsylvania State University and named a Distinguished Alumni Fellow in 1981 by the university. He worked for the International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers and the Milk Industry Association for 30 years, retiring as President and CEO of both organizations in 1988 (which merged to form what is now International Dairy Foods Association).

John was involved in various industry organizations both domestic and international, served as President of the National Association Executives Club and was appointed by President Carter to the Natural Gas & Energy task force in 1978. He launched the annual Ice Cream for America celebration on Capitol Hill, now in its 32 year, and was responsible for creating legislation signed by President Reagan in 1984 establishing July as National Ice Cream Month and July 15 National Ice Cream Day.

After his retirement, John embarked on a second career in real estate before retiring permanently to South Bethany Beach, DE and Jupiter, FL. He became very involved in the South Bethany community and historical society, enjoyed golfing, spending time with family and meeting new friends.

He is survived by his cherished wife Celeste McDermott Speer; his four children of Fairfax County, VA - Christie (Roger) Price, John F. Speer III, Dawn (Taylor) Young, Cathy (Robert) McKinnell; and six grandchildren Kelly, Nicole, John Taylor, Courtney, John (Jack) and Decker, and two sisters, Hope Fagan (Tequesta, FL) and Sarah Walter (Chicago, IL).

A Memorial Mass will be held on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 1:00 PM at St. Anne's Catholic Church, 691 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930. Interment will be private.



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Arrangements are being handled by Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, 34874 Atlantic Avenue, Ocean View, DE 19970.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to: South Bethany Historical Society, C/O SB Town Hall, 402 Evergreen Road, South Bethany, Delaware 19930

Please sign John's online guestbook at this site.

PDF Printable Version



## Tribute Wall

**John F. Speer**

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MC

**Margie Cunningham** posted:

Speer Family - I am very saddened to learn of Mr. Speer's passing. He was always very kind and took time to talk everyone. Mr. Speer will be very missed by you and everyone who knew him. Margie (Keech) Cunningham

September 27 at 8:00 PM

GF

**Galiano Family** posted:

Speer Family: All of us share fond memories of John, and feel blessed to have known him. He did much to make North 2nd Street and South Bethany and the larger community better places. We have made a modest contribution to the South Bethany Historical Society in John's name. Galiano Family.

September 23 at 8:00 PM

JO

**Joanna** posted:

Hi Mr. Speer, It was a pleasure getting to know you during Fathers Day and I will never forget how sweet and generous you were to me and my mom. May you rest peacefully. -Joanne Calixto

September 22 at 8:00 PM

RC

**Ralph And Donna Carotenuto** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Celeste, and your family. May all your hearts remember all the wonderful times and be with you always. He was a kind and generous man to everyone he met. Our family will remember him fondly always.

September 20 at 8:00 PM

SM

**Scott & Belinda Mccall** posted:

Was an honor to have known John, will be missed.

September 17 at 8:00 PM



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BB

**Bob Boynton** posted:

It is with both sadness and celebration that I learned of John's passing. Celebration because he enjoyed a life well-lived and left a strong legacy. I had the pleasure of knowing him and working with him (from a distance) when John was leading the MIF and IICA. I remember him as a leader, forward-thinker, and friend to so many. He always treated me with kindness and respect and I learned a lot from him. May God bless and keep John and his whole family.

September 14 at 8:00 PM

KS

**Karen M. Stern** posted:

My love and prayers to all of you.

September 12 at 8:00 PM

RW

**Rose Walker** posted:

John Speer - the Leader of the Band, Mr. South Bethany. It was a privilege to have known him and an honor to call him my friend. He and his beautiful smile will be missed by everyone who knew and loved him. Heaven has gained another angel and a new star is shining on us at night to light and guide our way. Thanks, John. Rest in Peace my friend.

September 12 at 8:00 PM

GJ

**George Junkin** posted:

John will be remembered for all his contributions to the Town of South Bethany. Among them are his contributions to the Community Enhancement Committee relative to creating a "WOW!" factor for those entering South Bethany and the beautification of Ocean Drive by turning it into the Promenade. John will also be remembered for his contributions to the South Bethany Historical Society, especially the leadership he gave in the development of the history of South Bethany documented in "The Best Little Beach in Delaware." Three of his children have a place of honor on the cover of the book. John, thanks for all your contributions and for being a great friend. George and Barbara Junkin

September 12 at 8:00 PM



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TC

**Tony & Lora Caputo** posted:

We feel so privileged to have known "Johnny", and we never forget him. He was exceptional in so many ways, and he always brought a smile to our faces. He was a pleasure to be around, and in fact Tony wanted Johnny to be his older brother so we would have a good excuse to be around him more. God bless.

September 12 at 8:00 PM

DS

**Dawn Sweeney** posted:

Celeste and Family, We join you in mourning the loss of John here with us and in gratitude for his inspiring life. Dawn (Brydon) Sweeney and Family

September 11 at 8:00 PM

DL

**Diantha Lavoie** posted:

My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow.

September 10 at 8:00 PM

JR

**Jim&Betsy Richardson** posted:

Our prayers continue for you, beloved of John. We are so sorry for your loss.

September 10 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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