



# John Darien Rodgers

AUG 4, 1937 - SEP 19, 2022



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## **John Darien Rodgers**

AUG 4, 1937 - SEP 19, 2022

**J**ohn “Jack” Darien Rodgers passed away peacefully in his sleep, September 19, 2022. He was 85.

Born August 4, 1937 at home on Fishbach Street in Pottsville, Pennsylvania to Sam and Emily Rodgers, as a boy Jack enjoyed climbing trees, pretending to fly planes and playing war games with neighborhood kids. He attended Middle River school from 1st to 3rd grade and remembered listening to war news on the radio and the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt - watching the casket of the 32nd president draped in a black cloth, pass by on a train car, as he watched from a nearby field.

Jack would attend Pottsville High School football games with his father Friday night as a boy, and walked at times, more than a mile to school. That exposure to football would bloom into a passion for athletics and physical fitness that Jack carried with him all his life.

In junior high school, Jack played football and took his passion for the sport to high school, where he was a half back. He was a member of the student council and sang in the junior choir at the local Methodist church and in high school met his lifelong friend Jerry Malik.

Football was Jack’s ticket to the University of Delaware, where he received a scholarship to play under Tubby Raymond. He lived in Brown Hall, with Dave Bloodsworth and Tom Murray. He made many friends at the University of Delaware, like Wayne Smith, Bob Dunn and Dave Bloodsworth.

It was at the University of Delaware in 1958 where Jack met his wife, Alise Coverdale, whom he loved dearly. Pledging Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity as a freshman, early in their relationship, Jack and his fraternity brothers gathered around Alise’s window at Smyth Hall and sang to her as part of a pinning ceremony - they were engaged in November of 1959 and married for 62 years.



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Jack was a member of the University of Delaware's Reserve Officers' Training Course and graduated in 1959 as a Second Lieutenant. He left for Army Transportation School in 1960 for an eight week program, before leaving for Fort Meade, Maryland to complete his training. Upon returning to Newark from Fort Meade, Jack drove to North Wales to be in Jerry's wedding to Sydney as best man. Jerry would serve as Jack's best man, when he married Alise at the Newark Methodist Church on Main Street, August 13, 1960.

Jack had an illustrious military career, taking Army courses in Wilmington on the weekends while teaching Anna P. Mote in Marshallton. Alise would often pack him two lunches for his commute. He was a member of Wilmington's 7th infantry division, the 300th Transportation Group Headquarters Helicopter Maintenance Group and Indiantown Gap's 28th infantry division. He fulfilled his military obligation in 1967 at the rank of Captain.

Jack taught 10th grade world history and 11th grade U.S. history, and additionally was the 7th grade football coach. He eventually moved to the high school's coaching staff. Jack was the Social Studies Department chairman at Boyertown High School for several years and helped organize class trips to Washington, D.C. He taught a Civil Defense course to seniors and served as the President of the Teacher's Association, where he helped negotiate teacher contracts.

Jack was an active member in his church, he and Alise serving as charter members of the St. Luke's Methodist church in Boyertown. The church did not exist before Jack and Alise helped organize the congregation to meet at Fairview Chapel, where Jack taught Sunday School. He served as chairman of the administrative board at St. Andrew and later became chairman of the Council of Ministry. Jack and Alise helped organize weekend retreats and encouraged the congregation to form small groups which met at home on a monthly basis to discuss scripture.

In Oley, Jack enjoyed swimming in his pool, the hot tub and working in the garage where his family enjoyed hearing his joyful whistle as he tidied and pattered around. He passed on his love for the outdoors, fishing and hunting to his sons, Jack and Mark, who would often use their backyard as a starting point for their outdoor activities.

In 2001, Jack and Alise moved to Rehoboth Beach, and spent their winters in Naples, Florida and made many friends including Richard and Eva, who invited the couple to their home country of Germany. Jack and Alise spent time touring several countries in Europe, including Paris and parts of Wales. In Rehoboth, Jack was a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church, Schuylkill



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Historical Society, the Sussex County Genealogy Society and the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society.

Jack was a warm, compassionate man who always put his family before himself. He was eager to lend a helping hand to complete strangers and shared whatever wisdom or advice he could at every opportunity. He selflessly gave to his church, family and alma mater and will be deeply missed by his family and community.

Jack leaves behind his beloved wife, Alise Rodgers, sons John “Jack” Rodgers II, wife Kathy and Mark Rodgers, wife Amy and grandsons Brett Rodgers and John “Jack” Rodgers III.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 11:00 AM, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 19285 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE, where freinds may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Azheimer’s Disease Research online at [brightfocus.org/stopAD](http://brightfocus.org/stopAD), or checks to the fund can be made payable to Alzheimer’s Disease Research at 2251 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg Maryland 20871. Additionally, donations can be made out to Epworth United Methodist Church at 19285 Holland Glade Rd., Rehoboth Beach, DE, or the University of Delaware, at UD Gifts Processing, 83 E. Main Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, DE 19716. Donors can write “IMO Jack Rodgers” in the memo line.

Please sign the virtual guestbook locate on the tribute page.

**FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3PM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.**



# Events


**John Darien Rodgers**

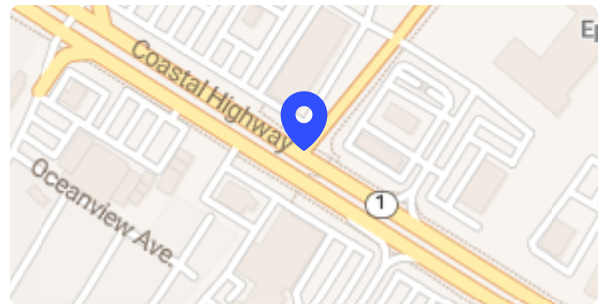
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## Visitation

 **Tuesday**, September 27, 2022


 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Epworth United Methodist Church**  
19825 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach DE

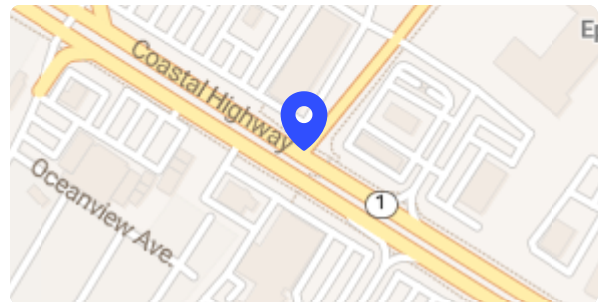


## Funeral Service

 **Tuesday**, September 27, 2022

 11:00 AM ET

 **Epworth United Methodist Church**  
19825 Holland Glade Road, Rehoboth Beach DE





## Tribute Wall

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DW

**Diane Willoughby** posted:

I first met Jack and Alise 9 years ago when I became their Springpoint Choice Care Navigator. It has been an absolute honor to have known Jack these last 9 years, and I am very grateful to know the Rodgers' family. Jack will be missed! Rest in Peace...Your Care Navigator, Diane Willoughby

September 27 at 1:26 PM

JS

**Jim Stauffer** posted:

Mr Rodgers was my home room teacher and I also had him for a history teacher in the mid 70's. One day he notice that I had a book about the Molly Maguires. Well we had many talks during the school year. He said some time I needed to go to Mauch Chunk and visit the courthouse where some of the men were hung. Many years later my wife and I did just that & I thought of him. For a short time in my life he was a positive influence to me. One never knows what random acts of kindness that Mr Rodgers shared to his many students , friends and family Thank you Jim Stauffer

September 26 at 2:39 PM

JM

**Joe McGlinchey** posted:

Being a fellow Schuylkill County native on the BASH faculty, Jack was always a respected and admired teacher by both his students and his colleagues. He and I had many conversations about Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven and running. My prayers go out to his family. Joe McGlinchey

September 26 at 3:48 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Rodgers family.



September 25 at 7:27 AM

LM

**Lesley Misko** posted:

I am very sorry for your loss. Jack was one of the most respect-worthy people I have known. May his memory be a blessing to you all. - Lesley Misko

September 24 at 5:08 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Rodgers family.



September 24 at 2:20 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Rodgers family.



September 24 at 8:55 AM



**Sydney And Jerry Malick** posted:

We have so many wonderful memories of our dear friend Jack..... trips with Jack and Alise to Wellsboro with the special hidden stick, trips to England and Germany and 4th of July picnics. We will miss Jack and send love to Alise. We will be with you in spirit on Tuesday.

September 24 at 8:35 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Rodgers family.



September 24 at 8:00 AM



**Doris Weigner** posted:

We have many memories of times with Jack and Alise over the years; times on the beach, Christmas parties at their place, cutting down a tree in their front yard, Boyertown football games, etc. He will be missed. Love to Alise.

September 21 at 5:02 PM



**Doris Weigner** posted:

Mike remembers the time he and some of his classmate turned Jack's desk around before he came into the classroom. They also switched everything on his desk.

September 21 at 4:43 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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