



# John M. Vessels Jr.

JAN 15, 1941 - JAN 9, 2023



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## **John M. Vessels Jr.**

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**J**ohn "Jack" M. Vessels Jr., age 81 of Milton, DE, passed away at home on Monday, January 9, 2023. He was born on January 15, 1941, in Lewes, DE, son of the late John M. and Sarah (Frick) Vessels.

Mr. Vessels graduated Lewes High School, Class of 1959. He continued his studies at the University of Delaware, obtaining a bachelor's degree in English literature. After graduating Mr. Vessels worked for Sears, first at Price's Corner then worked as customer service manager in King of Prussia until 1974, when he returned to Lewes and begin his next career where he made furniture in the 18th century manner. His interest in colonial architecture led to restoration of several homes in Lewes and his development of Shipcarpenter Square, where he personally oversaw the moving and restoration of numerous houses. He was named by the Cape Gazette "one of the main authorities of historic home restoration in Coastal Delaware". Jack Vessels was responsible for the moving of the Fisher-Martin House in 1981, during the 350th anniversary which now serves as Lewes Chamber of Commerce. Other interests included bird carving and oil painting. He was a member of the Cape Artist for several years.

In 2014 the greater Lewes Foundation awarded Jack one of two of its annual community service awards. He served as president of the Lewes Chamber of Commerce and helped found the popular Lewes Garden Tour. He was also a member of Lewes City Council for 9 years and a member of the Delaware Land Trust.

A member of Lewes Presbyterian Church, Jack served on the Board of Trustees and was an Elder. Jack led a men's bible study for several years. Jack treasured his family and was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Those who know him cherished his friendship and will sorely miss him.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings: William Long Vessels, Geraldine Vessels Kennedy, and Mary Elizabeth Vessels. Mr. Vessels is survived by his wife of 47 years, Michele (Mickey) Vessels; his children: William Steven Vessels (Toni), and Deborah E.



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Chorman (Bruce); his grandchildren: Karen Zubrowski (Jon), Sarah Chorman (Shayne), and Bruce Allen Chorman, Jr.; his great grandchildren: Ellie, Charlotte, Lucas, and Ashlyn; his beloved dog, Dora, the fox terrier; and numerous nieces and nephews.

There will be a memorial service for Jack at Lewes Presbyterian Church in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Mr. Vessels' memory to Lewes Presbyterian Church, 133 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



# Tribute Wall

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**Cathy Johnson** posted:

Mary and Jack hugging and scratching each other's backs, before she departed to go north, back to the U of Del. campus. They were each other's biggest cheerleaders.

June 30 at 8:54 PM



**Cathy Johnson** posted:

Mary and Jack hugging and scratching each other's backs. I miss Mary, like my sister. Jack was her biggest fan!!!

June 30 at 8:52 PM



**Carole Gibson** lit a candle in honor of John.

is In loving memory of Jack. I met Jack in his 10 grade at Lewes High School and fell in love.He was a wonderful,caring and kind person.I will miss him always. May God bless his family. Carole Ritter Gibson



January 19 at 9:29 AM



**Diane Savage Thompson** posted:

Dear Mickey, I am so sorry to learn of Jack's death. I so enjoyed his company, especially when Mary and I would hang out together in Lewes and stop by your home behind the David Hall House. A lot of time has passed and I know you had a wonderful marriage with Jack. Much love to you. Diane Savage Thompson

January 14 at 9:12 PM



**John W. Dean li** posted:

Bill, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. He was quite a craftsman and left his mark in a wonderful way on the town of Lewes. We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.John W. Dean IIMilton, DelawareUSA

January 14 at 4:18 PM



**Jennie Lawson (Ellis)** April 15 at 6:47 AM

JackHe will never be forgotten because he has touched Lewes forever. sending my love and prayers to Nikki and the family. Love, Jennie.



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GC

**George Chambers** posted:

My condolences to Mickey!! I didn't know Jack very well but I remember his father when he would come to our house to fix the TV! I will never forget the day I was able to visit with him at his shop in their home on Kings Hwy in Lewes. Geraldine was in my class at Lewes High School. See you in the spring, Mickey!

January 14 at 9:53 AM

PE

**Peter** lit a candle in honor of John.

Thoughts and prayers Mickey Peter hallock

January 14 at 3:34 AM



JC

**John Collier** posted:

My sincere condolences to Mickey and family. I was fortunate to learn a great deal about local historic architecture from Jack.

January 13 at 3:23 PM

MR

**Marie Reed** posted:

Reedy and I send prayers and hugs

January 11 at 2:02 PM



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BB

**Bob Bryan** posted:

Mickey, Bill, Deb. You guys are in my thoughts and prayers while my mind is wading through tree forts, tropical fish, chess, cribbage, Easter egg hunts, etc. Love you! Bob Bryan

January 11 at 6:18 AM

CB

**Charlotte Adkins Bastian** January 23 at 5:27 AM

Mickey, I was so sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I know you two were a good match and had a very happy marriage. When Jim and I moved back to Lewes I contacted Jack because I needed help with a very old family piece and he immediately came to my rescue. He was such a talented man and contributed so much to our community. He loved his children and you so much and I pray that you all will find peace and treasure the memories in the days and years ahead. Charlotte Adkins Bastian

WA

**Wendell Alfred** January 18 at 10:57 AM

Micky, Mike and I are sad to learn of Jack's passing. Jack always had a smile and kind words whenever we got to speak with him. God Bless you and your family and know that you are in our prayers. Mike Clemmer and Wendell Alfred

BW

**Bob And Carol Wright** January 14 at 11:17 AM

Mickey, Bob and I send our sincere condolences to you and your family. We pray your memories bring you much comfort during this time. May God provide you with strength to move forward.



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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