

# HERMAN E. "JAKE" FUNK



Herman E. Funk, known affectionately as Jake, took his final flight into the great beyond on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Born on December 3, 1934, Jake grew up in the metropolis of Braddock Hills.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra (Datres). He is survived by his daughters, Rev. Dawn Lynn (Doran) Check and April (Hank) Churilla; five grandchildren, Jacob Check,

AJ (Kim) Check, Travis Churilla, Bryce Churilla and Regan Check; his sister, Audrey Funk, and many nieces and nephews.

While we mourn the loss of our beloved aviator, we can't help but chuckle at the memories he left behind.

Jake was also preceded in death by his parents, Jacob H. Funk and

Dorothea (Leech) Funk; and his siblings, Vivian "Patsy" Toomey and Charles White.

Jake was a man of many talents, spending his working days at Mine Safety Appliances, where he undoubtedly made the workplace safer and maybe even a bit funkier. He took great pride in seeing the MSA apparatus on TV firefighters. But Jake's true calling was in the skies, not underground. Jake proudly served his country in the United States Navy for over five years. For fifteen years, he fearlessly led the charge as the Fire Chief of the Braddock Hills Volunteer Fire Company. He also served as the mayor of Braddock Hills for four years.

When he wasn't putting out fires, Jake could be found soaring high in the sky, not in a real plane, mind you, but in his beloved radio control airplanes. He had a knack for building these flying contraptions that defied gravity, much like the way he defied expectations throughout his life. Jake was a member and past Master of the Free Masons Infinity Lodge 546.

His request was to be cremated and buried in a JIF peanut butter jar. While we can't honor that completely (peanut butter is expensive!), there will be a Memorial Visitation on Thursday from 3-6 p.m. at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**, 1111 Monroeville Ave., Turtle Creek, PA 15145, (412) 823-9350, where a Funeral Service will be celebrated Thursday at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation of Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Animal Friends, 562 Camp Horne Rd., Pgh., PA 15237 or Alzheimer's Association: Pittsburgh Chapter, 2835 E. Carson St., Suite 200, Pgh., PA 15203.

So, as we bid farewell to our fire-fighting, plane-flying fellow, let's remember Jake with a smile. May his final flight be filled with laughter and turbulence-free. Fly high, Jake – you've earned your wings.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

