

JOHN F. "JACK" BENSON



Age 86, of New Bern, NC, passed away at his home on January 30, 2024 after suffering a long battle with Vascular Dementia.

Jack is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Joanne Brennan Benson and their dog, Finnegan. Jack and Joanne relocated from Pittsburgh, PA to New Bern in 2015 where Jack was President of the Fairways West HOA. Jack enjoyed living on the golf course and

walking their dogs where he socialized with all of his neighborhood friends.

He is also survived by his three children from his first marriage, Audrey Smith (Dana), Julie Rakes (Mark), and Scott Benson; as well as his three stepdaughters, Amy Shay (Todd), Patty Spencer (Chris), and Holly Plagman Robinson. Nine grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews will miss him dearly. He is survived by his sisters, Marjorie Benson and Barbara Hartman.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Betty Benson; and his brother, George.

Jack was a 1959 graduate of Duke University where he was a member of the Duke University Golf Team, the Student Body President, and a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Jack served in the Navy during the Cuban Crisis. He owned Benson & Sons, one of the finest real estate companies in the South Hills and was part of the group that started the West Penn Multi-list. His passions were Duke basketball and golf. Jack was an excellent golfer winning numerous championships including: 1958 West Penn Four Ball Champion, two-time WPGA Father/Son Champion, seven-time Valley Brook Country Club Champion and Senior Champion four times, and he was the 1997 Medal Play Champion.

Joanne will hold a memorial service for Jack when he is laid to rest at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies at a future date. Details to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the EMS of New Bern-Craven County Rescue Squad, 252-633-2717.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb