

Jack Sandifer Griggs

1923 - 2017



Jack was born in Mexia, Texas on February 25, 1923 to Louis Amos “Curly” Griggs and Cynthia Clariiece Sandifer. He grew a love for tennis in college and had just made the basketball team at East Central College in Ada, Oklahoma, when war was declared. He left school and joined the Marine Air Corp, earned his wings, was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant, and flew numerous missions in Corsairs while stationed in the Pacific.

After the war he earned a B.S. degree in petroleum engineering at Oklahoma University 1949 where he also won Big Six Conference tennis titles. He drove a Model A to Chicago with his tennis partner to compete in the nationals.

Jack had known June Barnett as childhood friends, a friendship that grew, and continued with many letters during Jack's military service. After the war the Barnetts had moved to Wichita where Jack and June were married in a double ceremony with June's sister Kathryn, and Bill Cruce. Jack and June moved to Hill City, KS in 1950 where Jack worked in the oil patch for Barnett Drilling Co. Mr.

Griggs eventually became President of Barnett Drilling, Inc. After Dick Barnett retired, he bought Barnett Drilling, Inc.

Jack and June later moved to Wichita where they made a permanent home and became a part of the community. There, Jack founded his own company Griggs Oil Inc where he built a successful career and kept office hours until months before his passing. He also was president of Big Horn Drilling, Inc. Mr. Griggs drilled mostly in the Hugoton Field in Central Kansas and in the Panhandle of Texas.

Jack was an active member of Bulls & Bears, Grumpy Old Men, the Petroleum Club, the Society of Professional Engineers, the Kansas Geological Society, the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Assoc. (KIOGA), Millbrook Lodge in Hill City, the Scottish Rite, a founding member of Metropolitan Baptist Church and later a member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

He played competitive golf and tennis (until he was 87) at Wichita Country Club winning championships in both and won the city four-ball title. He drove Meals on Wheels for 19 years until the age of 90. He remained an active member in the Oklahoma University Alumni Assoc. Jack and June took their children on many grand vacations where Jack was always one of the kids. A natural athlete, he taught them all to water ski, snow ski, and play tennis or golf. He continued his enthusiasm for flying with a Beech Bonanza he used for business and travel. A high point for Jack was in 2011, when he was accompanied by Nancy on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC.

Jack was a loving and encouraging father who taught by example. He made everyone around him feel important and special and those who knew him remember a man of strength, character, generosity and kindness. A man of humility and reserve, the only way to know of his accomplishments in life was to learn of them from others.

SOURCE: <https://www.downingandlahey.com/obituaries/Jack-S-Griggs?obId=14787213>