

OBITUARY

John 'Jack' Zweck

DOUGHERTY — It is with deep regret and a very heavy heart that we must announce the passing of our dear husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend, John Leonard Zweck, "Jack" to all that knew him.

Jack was born to Leonard and Eleanor (born McLaughlin) Zweck at their farm in Dougherty, Iowa, on Nov. 10, 1935. Jack, along with his sisters, Darlene and Margaret, and his brothers, Bob, Don and Joe, worked the farm with their father.

Before Jack graduated from St. Patrick's school in Dougherty in 1954, he began to show signs of the master mechanic and true craftsman that he would become throughout his entire life.

Jack entered the United States Air Force shortly after graduation in 1954. While serving his country as a jet aircraft mechanic, his nights were free to entertain his fellow servicemen as an accomplished jazz saxophone musician.

He and his combo "The Blue Notes" were members of the U.S.O. and provided a welcome diversion from the rigors of military life.

Jack left the service in 1958 and married his hometown girl, Gwendolyn Campbell, in Dougherty, Iowa on May 21, 1960.

Jack advanced his career in aviation by graduating from Lewis College in Joliet, Ill., in June 1961. That very month, Jack and Gwen's first child, Laura Ann, was born.

At this time, Jack became one of the first members of the Experimental Aviation Association.

In July 1961, Jack took a position with Pacific Aeromotive and moved his family to Burbank, Calif.

In November 1961, Jack truly became a westerner with a move to Denver, Colo., and embarked on a new career with Continental Airlines.

Jack and Gwen's second child, John Daniel, was born in 1962, followed closely by Kathryn Jolene in 1963, then Julie Rae in 1965.

Soon following a move to their new chicken ranch in Erie, Colo., in 1966, Shari Lynn arrived to round out the Zweck clan.

Jack dedicated himself to providing a safe, warm and enterprising life for his family at their farm in Erie. His examples nurtured an honest work ethic in each of his children that continue today.

When Continental asked Jack to move from his beloved Colorado in the early 1970s, he took a position with Branson Aircraft of Denver.

With the exception of a few year's stint at Frontier Airlines in the late 1970s, Jack worked with Carl Branson until he retired.

In 1975, he started a company called Aircraft Steel, which provided a valuable service to builders of experimental aircraft and a ready excuse to haul his family to many an exciting air show.

On Jan. 26, 1991, the missing piece to Jack's life puzzle was put into place when he took the former Kathy Kay Kitzman as his new wife, which further extended his family to include her sons, Shane and Wade Durben.

Together, Jack and Kathy formed Long's Peak Alpacas farm and from their home base at Erie, traveled America collecting, breeding and showing their beloved "babies." Their love for each other and their animals was clearly evident to all that encountered them. Their adventures proved to enrich their lives and add greatly to their ever-expanding circle of dear friends.

Jack's life embodied all that it means to truly be alive. His ability to pack more productive activity into one hour than most people can accomplish in one week was astonishing.

His strength, honesty and wisdom were always a pillar on which anyone was welcome to lean against. His ready smile and Irish humor was always present and ever endearing and proved to define his very character. Life was to be lived.

So, as we do greatly mourn the passing of our loved one and friend, and we will miss him dearly, we also all celebrate the memory of a life richly lived and a man greatly loved.

Well done Dad. Well done.

Services for Jack Zweck were held in Ft. Lupton, Colo., on Wednesday, Dec. 22, where Jack was buried overlooking his Rocky Mountains.

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