



## John Anthony Rizzo

July 4, 2012

Wantage - John Anthony "Jack" Rizzo, age 83, passed away on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 at St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex. He was born in Wyckoff on April 30, 1929 to the late Margaret and Anthony Rizzo. As a baby and as he grew older, he spent many years visiting relatives in Connecticut. Throughout those years he was called "Jack," a name that remains to this day. As a young man, he attended Ramsey High School where he played football and was known as "Little Joe." The newspapers referred to him as a "tiny ball of dynamite." He enlisted in the Navy just before his high school graduation to serve his country on active duty in the Korean War. He served four years on the USS Harry F Bauer, a minesweeper and mine layer, patrolling hostile waters. After his enlistment, he moved to Sussex, where his parents lived. He worked for Cardinal Coat Factory which his father owned. Later he and a partner bought the business and renamed it M and J Factory. He later sold that business and became a partner in Franklin Chrysler Plymouth, a car dealership which was located in Franklin. The dealership eventually moved to Sussex and thus became Franklin Sussex Motors. During the many years that he owned and worked at Franklin Sussex Motors, he was quite active in his community and continually supported many local schools, fire departments, athletic leagues/teams, tricky trays, Sussex County Firemen Parades, and the list could go on and on. Jack also worked with or sponsored a very long list of area organizations and charity events, including the Sussex County Association for Retarded Citizens, the county United Way, and many golf

tournaments. He was Sussex County Chamber of Commerce 1985 Man of the Year, Sussex County Honors 1989 Honoree, Kiwanis Man of the Year in 1992, and received the Lee Iacocca Award for the preservation of the Statue of Liberty. Jack retired in 1997, but still continued to be active in the community. In his leisure time, he loved golf, but the last four years he was unable to play. He also enjoyed reading, taking drives, playing cards, visiting friends, and being with his family. Jack has held office and has been or still was a member in many organizations such as: Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Johnny Rizzo Memorial Foundation; Honorary Chairman of the Johnny Rizzo Golf Outing; one of the original founders of the SCARC Foundation; one of the originators of the Sussex Elks; one of the originators and charter member of Pochuck Valley Fire Department; honorary member of Hamburg Fire Department; former member of the Board of Governors at St. Clare's Hospital; Board of Trustees St. Clare's Hospital; former Chairman St. Clare's Foundation; Sussex County Chamber of Commerce; former board member of SCARC; past president/member Sussex County Dealers Association; National Automobile Association; NJ Automobile Dealers Association; National Federation of independent Businesses; chairman/co-chairman of the Dodge Open Golf Tournament; and the American Legion Post 213 in Wantage. Jack was predeceased by his son, Johnny in 1982; his daughter, Debra Schreiber in 1988; and his son, Thomas in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Dale; his daughter, Janice; three grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; his loving aunt, Bette Capodgli of Shelton, Connecticut; his sister-in-law, Joyce Lakhani of Florida; his cousins, niece and nephew and great nieces and great nephew. Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, July 9, 2012 from the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 10 a.m. at St. Monica R.C. Church, 33 Unionville Avenue, Sussex. Interment North Hardyston Cemetery. Friends may pay their respects to the family on Sunday, July 8, 2012 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made in Jack's memory to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude's Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

GL

“ Sincere condolences to the Rizzo family and to the St. Clare's community on the loss of this man who contributed of his time and efforts in the betterment of our local area. May he rest in peace.

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**Gael Lawlor** - July 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Hi Janice So sorry for your loss. We are praying for you. You were blessed to have such a special Dad and he will always be with you in your heart. Focus on the good times. This is not our home. Your Dad has gone to his eternal home and you will be with again some day in a place of peace and eternal joy in the presence of Jesus. "Death is not the end; it is only a beginning. Death is not the master of the house; he is on the porter at the King's Lodge, appointed to ope the gate and let the King's guests into the realm of eternal day. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. J.W. Jowett. See you soon. Love, Barbara and Charlie

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**Barbara and Charlie Collver** - July 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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**Barbara and Charlie Collver** - July 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Janice & Family, Our condolences to you & your family.*

*Tom & Diane*

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**Diane & Tom Baldsiefen/Carroll** - July 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GQ

“ *Sorry to hear about your dad. Give me a call 973-919-9563.*

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**Gene Quinn** - July 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Although it's been a number of years since I had the pleasure of working with Jack (via WSUS), I have many fond memories.*

*Above all else...he was always a true gentleman.*

*My thoughts are with you, Dale*

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**Peter M. Bardach** - July 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Uncle Jack. He was a great guy. Our sincere sympathy to Aunt Dale and the family.*

*Always,  
Tony & Patti*

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**TONY & PATTI RUCCIO** - July 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM