



John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr.

January 17, 1942 - July 27, 2024

Jack, 82, died suddenly of natural causes at his beloved up-north retreat, "Villa Vino", in Deerwood, MN on Saturday, July 27, 2024.

Born to John and Gertrude Farrell in Chicago on January 17, 1942, the oldest of five brothers and one sister. He attended Fenwick High School, Oak Park, Illinois, and then studied pharmacy at Butler University.

Jack began his business career at Gold Seal Co. in Bismarck, ND as a "Mr. Bubble" salesman. Jack bought Haskell's in 1970 at the beginning of what was to be the wine explosion in the US. He took the ball and ran with it, giving Haskell's the international reputation it has today. His bucket list was full, having traveled the world seeking new wine values. He touted these wines for over 50 years on his "Entertaining Ideas" weekly radio show on WCCO. He dispelled the myth of wine snobbery and became a mentor to many in the industry. He was named retailer of the year in 2019 by the industry's Market Watch Magazine.

Jack was the founder & member of many wine societies including the Chevalier du Tastevin in both MPLS & Naples, FL., the Chaines de Rôtisseurs, the International Wine & Food Society, Amateur Chefs, & the Long Meadow Hunt Club. He served on the boards of Minnesota Orchestra, the Basilica Landmark, Vocal Essence and Patron of the Vatican Arts Museum.

His generous heart compelled him to assist countless other charitable organizations, churches & causes. He was a longstanding member of the Minneapolis Club, Naples Yacht Club, the Minnesota Breakfast Club, and past member of the Minikahda Club.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Kevin and Jerry. Survived by wife of 58 years, Cathy, sons: John (Sue), Brian (Ann), Ted (Laura) and Beau (Christie); 9 fabulous grandchildren: Adam, Maddie (Matt) Gallagher, Molly, Allison, Teddy, John Charles, Lovey, Patrick, & Asher; 3 brothers: Terry (Anne), Marty (Sharon), Michael; sister, Patricia Kozma; & many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial at Basilica of Saint Mary 11:00 am, Friday, August 23. Visitation one hour prior to service. Reception to follow at the Minneapolis Club. Bow ties are admired, but not required. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Basilica Landmark, Minnesota Orchestra, Vocal Essence or donor's choice.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Uncle Jack - I have many extremely fond memories with you throughout the years.

Your presence and character will be remembered and carried on through the hearts minds and spirits of all who knew and loved you.

I'll never forget you.

Chris Farrell - October 25, 2024 at 11:48 PM

LS

“ Lori & Paula Stevens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..

Lori & Paula Stevens - August 31, 2024 at 11:09 PM

LD

“ I remember going on a wine trip to Italy with Jack in the 90's. We did a white truffle hunt too. Jack put the trip together and it was great. Forever thankful.

Larry DAmico - August 23, 2024 at 02:52 PM

MS

“ Michael S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..

Michael S. - August 22, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..*



August 22, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ *Maddie Nash & Natalie Arnold purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..*



Maddie Nash & Natalie Arnold - August 21, 2024 at 09:30 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..*



August 21, 2024 at 12:02 PM



“ *Johnson Brothers of MN planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..*

Johnson Brothers of MN - August 21, 2024 at 12:02 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..*



August 20, 2024 at 04:24 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Francis Farrell Jr..*



August 15, 2024 at 05:18 PM