

## John "Jack" Lakus

June 30, 1940 - February 5, 2016

John "Jack" Lakus age 75 of Mentor, formerly of Cleveland, Northfield, and Slavic Village, died Friday February 5, 2016 at Hospice House, Cleveland. He was born June 30, 1940 in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Mr. Lakus was a former athletic director, assistant principal, and wrestling coach as well as a biology and science teacher. He taught at Mayfield, Nordonia, and St. Ignatius before retiring from Riverside High School in Painesville.

Jack was a graduate of Bowling Green State University. He achieved a master's degree in biology and coursework toward his Ph.D. In 1993, he was recognized by GTE as a Gift Fellow in the Growth Initiatives for Teachers Award Program for the Advancement of Secondary Mathematics and Science.

As a wrestling coach, Jack coached the very first state champion for Riverside High School in 1988. Mike Richner, the state champion, is now the wrestling coach at Riverside High School. After retirement, he volunteered to help his son's wrestling team at Wickliffe High School for several years.

Jack was a member and volunteer of The Holden Arboretum. As a licensed bird bander, he assisted with the bluebird project as well as many other events at The Arb. An avid outdoorsman since his youth, Jack loved fly fishing and

anxiously awaited the run of the steelhead.

Jack was a trained therapy dog handler through Therapy Dogs International. He found great reward in taking his golden retriever, Chip, to Lake East Hospital and other places where he could give comfort.

He was a U.S. Army veteran. As a tank commander, he was stationed at Ft. Hood in Washington.

Survivors include his wife of 18 years; Christine (Panning) Lakus, son, Scott Lakus, step-daughter, Dr. Lauren Raymer Heller (Derrick), grandson, Charles Lakus, sister, Gloria Yeager (James), dogs: Poppett and Mojo.

Preceding Jack in death is his first wife, Connie Saranita Lakus, parents, John and Mary Lakus, and his therapy dog: Chip.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held at 1pm on Saturday February 13, 2016 at Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, Ohio 44060.

The family will receive friends 4-8 pm on Friday, February 12, 2016 at the funeral home. Bring your favorite "Jack joke."

Private family inurnment will be in All Saints Cemetery, Northfield, OH.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Holden Arboretum, 9550 Sperry Rd, Kirtland Hills, OH 44094 or Hospice of the Western Reserve 17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland 44110.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

480 W. Highland Rd.  
Northfield, OH 44067  
(330) 467-7951

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 255-3401  
ajs@brunners.com  
<https://www.brunners.com/>

## Celebration of Life

FEB 13. 1:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 255-3401  
ajs@brunners.com  
<https://www.brunners.com/>

# Tribute Wall

MJ

“ To the family of Jack Lakus, My thoughts and prayers go your way hoping that it helps with the loss of such a great man. Jack was a great neighbor for years on the court. .I leaned a lot about a lot of things in life. Jack and his family was a main reason why the court was so awesome. Due to my recent surgery I can not attend this Fri. and Sat. but I will always remember Jack with the utmost respect. Scott you were blessed to have the parents that you had .  
Mark Jacobson  
former springwood ct.

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**Mark Jacobson** - February 12, 2016 at 11:23 AM

LH

“ So sorry to hear this. Jack and I were competitive friends as wrestling coaches. He was always a first class coach and human being. Very proud to have known him.

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**Larry Hoon** - February 11, 2016 at 05:40 AM

TC

“ The Campbell School of Business at Berry College purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John "Jack" Lakus.



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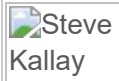
**The Campbell School of Business at Berry College** -  
February 10, 2016 at 01:44 PM

LV

“ Mr Lakus was my favorite teacher because he was one of the great ones who knew how to teach! I loved Biology because of him!!

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**Lori Vivod** - February 10, 2016 at 09:09 AM



“ *Mr. Lakes was a great teacher. Thanks for the great memories. RHS class of 1997*

Steve Kallay - February 09, 2016 at 11:24 PM

T1

“ *Mr. Lakus was a great teacher and coach. He cared for all his students and athletes. Sending prayers of peace to his family, friends, and all the lives he inspired over-the-counter years.*

Tonya Farmer Niemeyer, RHS Class of 1990 - February 09, 2016 at 09:49 PM

T1

*"Over the years"*

Tonya Farmer Niemeyer, RHS Class of 1990 - February 09, 2016 at 09:51 PM

JG

“ *I had Mr. Lakes at Riverside on the 1980's. He was always cracking jokes and was a great role model for his students. He will be greatly missed.*

Jeff Gromack - February 09, 2016 at 09:37 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of John "Jack" Lakus.*



February 09, 2016 at 04:48 PM