



## Jack Spencer

November 22, 1930 - March 17, 2021

Jack Harris Spencer, 90, passed from this world Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at his home in Sun City Center, Florida with his beloved wife, Barbara, by his side. Born November 22, 1930 to Charles and Myra (Wade) Spencer in the Ozark Hill town of Manes, Missouri, Jack's life and persona was defined by the difficulty and struggles of growing up during the Depression. Possessing a constant and persistent drive to create solutions where needs were present, he demonstrated that early on by becoming the teacher of his childhood one room school house at the age of 18 in Manes. He followed that by 3 years of military service in the United States Army during the Korean War. Upon completion of his service, was honorably discharged with the rank of Master Sergeant. At the age of 33 Jack began his career as a Field Agent with Lynn Insurance in 1963 based out of Brentwood, North Carolina, and finished as the Executive Vice President of Operations for the Western United States and Canada. He retired from Lynn Insurance in 1995. Strengthened and guided by his devout Catholic faith, Jack always saw the possibilities of what could be. While living in Brentwood, he witnessed the struggles of families searching for opportunities to participate in youth sports. His solution was the creation and cofounding of the Brentwood Recreation Association, an organization that opened the pathway for many left unserved. During that time he was also the youngest member elected as President of the Exchange Club, a local service organization. Upon his retirement in 1996, he and his wife, Barbara, moved to Ocala, Florida and became members of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church. A member of the Knights of Columbus throughout his adult life, retirement put his participation into overdrive. Planning, organizing, and running Knights breakfasts, soup kitchens, Brothers Keepers, thrift stores, and volunteer shifts at the local hospital were weekly activities. His devotion to community service took a faith filled leap when he and Barbara, at the age of 72, embarked on Missionary Service in both the Dominican Republic and Uganda. Spending 2 years in the Dominican Republic and 8 in Uganda, he directed the construction of 27 new homes in the mountain region of the Dominican, and, a church, 450 student school, clinic, convent and 40 person teacher residency in the Blessed Trinity Community in Nalwayo, Uganda. Jack and Barbara were awarded the " Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice" Honor from the Vatican, for a life time of dedication and works "For Church and Pope". Jack was lovingly referred to as "Papa", and

to quote the words of his grandchildren, "I know that God has brought into his Kingdom a man who devoted his life to living in the image of Christ. Thank you for teaching me what it means to dedicate your life to God and family." Rest in Peace. Jack is survived by his wife Barbara, sister Betty Lou (Robert) Kelsey; sons Paul (Cathy) Spencer, Michael (Julia) Spencer, John Spencer, daughters; Barbara (Michael) Ryan, Geri (Tom) Henry, grandchildren; Sara Spencer, Erin Spencer, Jackson Spencer, Elise Henry, Shelley Henry, Spencer Henry, Caitlyn (Thomas) Conroy, John Ryan, Matthew Ryan, Shelby Spencer, Charlotte Spencer, Vivian Spencer, Jacob Spencer, Anna Spencer, and great grandchildren; Luke Booth and Jack Ryan. A Visitation will be held at 9:00 am on Friday, March 26, 2021 at Sun City Center Funeral Home, followed by a memorial service at Prince of Peace Catholic Church at 11:00 am, located in Sun City Center, Florida. (Floral arrangements should be sent to Prince of Peace Catholic Church, must be sent on this day by 10:00am). In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Jack Spencer to Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, attn Father Pat, 5 S.E. 17th Street, Ocala, FL 34471 (in memo Uganda Fund).