John Talbot

Obituaries

John Watson (Jack) Talbot

1921 - 2015 LA JOLLA, CALIF. John Watson (Jack) Talbot died from pneumonia and congestive heart failure on March 13. Up until a week before his death, he was his old self walking the hills of La Jolla and doing his route downtown every day. He had an enthusiasm for life right up to the end. Jack was born in Washington, D.C., on September 4th, 1921 to Mildred Watson Talbot and Leland Crowell Talbot. Leland Talbot was secretary to Congressman Allen Tate in the Senate. When the stint was up, the family moved back to their home in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. As a youth, Jack was an active Boy Scout, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout as a teen. During his time as a scout, he helped clear the slopes for what was to become Bassquets Ski Area. Jack was an active young man playing tennis, golf, skiing, and playing hockey. He later was a member of the semi-pro hockey team. The High Tavern Jerkies, and taught hockey at Darrow School which he himself had attended. One of his students was Peter Conrad, future astronaut. Jack graduated from Williams College, majoring in geology and geophysics. He was tickled several weeks ago when, at age 93, he would be on the team for this year's alumni game. Captain of the LCS (L) (3) 13 boat in the Pacific. The members of the crew had fought the Braine - DL attack by enemy fighters. After the war, Jack became a member of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company. He was general agent in the agency in Pittsfield as well as a Chartered Life Underwriter, Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow. He was top producer for many years. Jack was an active member of the Berkshire community, serving on the boards of Darrow School, the Country Club of Pittsfield, the Richmond Congregational Church, and the Pittsfield Kiwanis Club. He won the golf tournament at the Pittsfield Country Club in his 20s and went on to win the PCC tennis tournament several times. He loved to organize charity games with the members of the Pittsfield Country Club in the winter. In 1975, he and his wife, Angela, packed up and moved to La Jolla, Calif., where Angela had lived during high school and where much of her family lived. At age 55, Jack started the first agency of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company west of the Mississippi in San Diego and later became an independent broker. He kept his license active until his death. Jack was just as active in La Jolla and San Diego as he had been in western Massachusetts. He joined the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla, serving on the board and as President and as a delivery person for Meals on Wheels until two weeks ago. He was an active and beloved member of the Congregational Church of La Jolla. As a member of the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, Jack competed in many tennis tournaments. It was his goal to play in the over 80s tournament, but macular degeneration kept him from achieving that goal. He and his family loved to roller blade on Mission Bay and to snorkel in the ocean on a regular basis. At many La Jolla Christmas Parades. Jack and his friends and family could be seen roller blading for Meals on Wheels. Two books were written by Mr. Talbot. Marketing Insurance in Six Decades published in 1991 and, Angela, about the life of his wife, in 2000. He leaves behind his son, John (John) Talbot, daughter-in-law, Sondra Johnson, Maurice Taylor Talbot, a special friend, M. Steven Wood. Memorial service will be held in Pittsfield on Sunday, March 22. A service of Celebration of Life will be held in Massachusetts sometime next fall. Donations may be given in his name to the Kiwanis Club of La Jolla.

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