



Jack Browne

August 21, 1925 - December 14, 2009

John "Jack" Marshall Browne was born on August 21, 1925 to William and Frances (Sanschultte) in Wadena, MN. He passed away, unexpectedly, at the age of 84, on December 14, 2009 at his winter home in Rio Verde, AZ, with his loving wife at his side. Jack graduated from Wadena High School, and attended St. John's University after WWII. He served in the Pacific Theater in the United States Army beginning in 1943 until his honorable discharge in 1946. On April 22, 1950 he was united in marriage with Alvida Marie Berg in Minneapolis. Jack was a prominent businessman in Wadena, joining his father, W.J. Browne, in banking in 1950. He later became the owner and President of the Wadena State Bank, which was sold to his sons in 1995. He was passionately involved in the development and betterment of the community. Jack was instrumental in getting Tri-County hospital built in 1973, and in building the St. Ann's Parish Center in 1996. He and his wife, Alvida, established the Browne Family Foundation in 1999 to benefit the Wadena community. He served 25 years on the Wadena Golf Board, 32 years on the Tri-County Hospital Board, and 30 years as treasurer on the Wadena County Fair Board, along with memberships in the Lions Club, Elks Club and Knights of Columbus. He received the Wadena Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Award in 1975. In his early years, Jack loved to duck hunt and later became an avid golfer. He enjoyed watching all sporting events, especially basketball. Jack loved spending time with his family and was proud of the accomplishments of his five children. Jack was preceded in death by his

parents, William and Frances; an infant twin sister; brothers, William Jr. and Donald; sisters, Gertrude Benda, Elizabeth Elkjer, Isabel Winkel, Mary Ann Wruck, and Dorothy Spang. He is survived by his wife, Alvida; sons, Christopher "Kip" (Kay), and Jeffrey (Kathy) both of Wadena; daughters, Barbara "Barb" (Ken) Kosovich of Billings, MT, Rebecca "Becky" (Brit) Miller of Billings, MT, and Sarah (Mike) Montgomery of Orinda, CA; and grandchildren Sarah, Ryan and Marissa Browne, Kevin, Matthew and Courtney Kosovich, Wiley and Jeremy Miller, John and Annie Montgomery, and Andrew and Kelsey Browne. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on December 21, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena, with Father Donald Wagner as celebrant. Honorary pallbearers will be William Anderson, Dr. Duane Ness, John Conzemius, Luther Nervig, Al Wensman, and Jerry Szczech. Pallbearers will be Jack's seven grandsons. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Wadena. Military honors will be provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, of Wadena. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Wadena Area Food Shelf or the Browne Foundation.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ *Browne family,
Jack will be greatly missed. Our prayers go out to your family.
Jason Merickel and Monica Luna*

Jason Merickel and Monica Luna - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Sorry to hear about Jack's passing, I only now found out. He always called me Pinz, the former golf hustler. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

Mike Baron - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

OK

“ *Vida and family,
It was so disappointing to hear of Jack's death! We have been friends for many years and were classmates in high school. Jack was one of the very first kids I met in Wadena. (We were both 9 at the time). My family hadn't moved there yet but I was visiting my aunt and uncle, the Bigelows. I'm so very sorry for each one of you! I understand your grief because of going through it so recently! Fortunately we can share our memories with our loved ones!*

This has been my first opportunity to write because I'm in Charleston, S.C. spending the Christmas season with Jim and Laura.

My most sincere sympathy to you, Vida, and your children!

Okie Krause - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ We all have our favorite memories of, moments with and stories of Jack, but our time together on the Tri-County Hospital Board stands above the rest. As you might expect, everyone knew exactly where Jack stood on every issue, and he was not afraid to say what he was thinking no matter what the issue or whose feathers got ruffled. What I most admired about him was how he was always the champion for those most in need. Those at the top of the wage scale didn't get a lot of sympathy during negotiations, but if you were a service worker or a cook or a cleaner Jack fought for you more than you will ever know. And as outspoken as he was in the boardroom on these types of issues, I never once heard him say anything publicly in an attempt to bring attention or credit to himself. Jack was a fine man who loved his community and who I trust is now watching the ultimate basketball or football game where there are only winners and never a loser!

Steve Nelson - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ So sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I spoke with Jack at the Historical Society German Dinner and as usual he asked me how things were going at the Historical Society and what was new because of his genuine interest in the Society. He did so many great things for the Historical Society. I enjoyed being his stenographer at the bank in the 60;s. He was so kind and I enjoyed working for him. I have many fond memories from that experience. Jack is one true legend and a fine stately man. He has done so much for the community. I will miss him as will many. My condolences to the Browne Family. Sandi

Sandi Pratt - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Sorry to hear of Jack's sudden passing away. I enjoyed working with all the Browne family in the late 50's and 60's. He will be greatly missed in the community. My sympathy to your entire family at this difficult time.

Janice Thalmann

Janice Thalmann - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ We had some great parties together and our boys grew up together. It was the first bank we did business with when we came to town.....

The Brownes have done a lot for the town of Wadena and will always be remembered.

Our sympathies to "Al" and the family.

Don & Violet Anderson - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Vida & family,*
I was so sorry to hear of the loss of Jack. What a great, fun guy with a beautiful, loving family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
God bless,

Janet

PS. Thanks for sending those beautiful girls out to Montana for school!

Janet Reiter - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NV

“ We were so sorry to hear of Jacks passing. We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to you, Alvida, and your entire family. Jack was a wonderful person, and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Nestor & Evelyn Vorderbruggen - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

D(

“ To the Browne family,

There was no one quite like Jack. We enjoyed the privilege of knowing him. His sense of humor, his caring for others and the love for his family and community were remarkable. We know how much he will be missed and especially by Vida.

Love, Dave & Wynn Ford

dave & wynn (miller)ford - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ My fondest memory of our reunion last summer was a great conversation I had with Jack about his life, and my mom and how important that connection was to both of them. We ended by promising to golf and by him thanking me for the chat. I owed him a round and a thank you back. I missed that opportunity, in this life, but I will not miss this chance to tell all of the Brownes how much I admired Jack and how cool I think your whole family is. Your strength for each other is inspiring and will help you through this time. Your nephew, cousin and friend Matt Winkel

matt winkel - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ My dear Aunt Vida and wonderful cousins. God bless you during this difficult time. Uncle Jack was a wonderful man and made a difference in so many lives. What better legacy? God bless and comfort you all. Love Ann

Duff Howard - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ The Nelsons love the Brownes, we always have and always will. Jack always made us laugh. He loved to tease me everytime I came over, usually it was about my latest date. The eight of us grew up together with the Browne kids and we have lots of good memories - Barb and I are still having fun making more. We will all miss that great hearty laugh! Sending our love to you all, the Nelsons

Marilyn Nelson Morgan - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Uncle Jack, you will be missed! We always loved visiting you. You were always so kind and kept us laughing with your jokes. May you rest in peace in our Lord loving presence. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Aunt Vida and my dear cousins. Love and God Bless you, Mary Elkjer Steele

Mary Steele - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Thanks for being a good friend of my Dad's. I know he looked up to you and will miss you. Rest in Peace and comfort to your entire family as you will be missed.

Jerry Szczech jr - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Dear Sarah and Mike...
We are so sorry to learn of your dad's passing. It seems like it wasn't that long ago that we were talking about our parents and realizing that they were kinda similar. I know how much you enjoyed your visits with them, even trekking to Fargo, ND!
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
It was just a year ago that we went thru this with Bob's Mom.
Warmly,
candy and Bob

Bob and Candy Bowsby - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Browne Family,
We are sorry to hear of Jack's passing.
He will be greatly missed by all.
Jack is a Wadena legend.
Thoughts and Prayers,
Mark & Camille Stone

Mark & Camille Stone - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to the Browne Family. My memories of Jack are seeing him on the sidelines of every sports event that I can remember while growing up in Wadena. He is a person who gave much back to the community in many ways, and will be missed.

Thomas and Cathy Schloeder - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Our condolences, Kip. May God bring you peace and rest during this difficult time for your family. Blessings,
Glenn Fearing & Donna Mayo-Fearing

Donna Mayo-Fearing - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I have many fond memories of the Browne family. I'll share two of them.

In the late 60's the MN Vikings were very good. So were the LA Rams. I was 13-14 yrs old and a die hard Rams fan. It seemed every year the two teams met in the playoffs and for some reason the game was blacked out in Wadena. Jack would host a party at their lake home on Big Sand. There we could get the game. It seemed to me each year the Rams had the game in hand, and every year the Vikes somehow pulled it out. I took alot of good natured ribbing.

My other memory is of Jack being Santa Claus during the Holidays. One year he came to our house and did his Santa routine. My older brother Greg eventually proclaimed, "You're not Santa, you're Jack Browne!"

My condolences to the Browne family.

Jebb - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Grandpa was always a caring, funny, and loving guy! He taught be so much and was a legend and friend for the community of Wadena. He will be truly missed but his soul will be present with us wherever we go. Thank you for all that you have taught me and what you have done for community of Wadena. We will always love you, and you will missed greatly. Rest In Peace. Love You!!

Andrew Browne - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ We are so sorry!! Jeff, we just talked to you at the bank before we left for AZ! How fast life changes. We are praying for your family. Take heart that God will give you strength and love. Phil 4:19

Bob & Bev Krusemark - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Browne family. The stately gentleman will be greatly missed.

Kevin and Sara Ross - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ 12/14/09

The Browne family:

So sorry to hear about Jack's passing. I saw him not too long ago and he looked well.

I remember Jack as the golfer and the great sports backer for Wadena High School.

He also called me LARS and when he would see me he would ask how I was and what I was doing for work these days?

A nice man who did many wonderful things for the community as well. He will be missed. You have many excellent memories of a real genuine caring family man. We all lost a very good guy for Wadena and Central Minnesota.

My thoughts are with all of you during this difficult time.

Mark Larson

Mark larson - December 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM