



JOHN O. SHIRK

November 10, 2011

John O. Shirk, 68, of Lititz, PA, died of respiratory failure on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. Born in Kokomo, IN he was the son of the late John S. and Mary Osborne Shirk. He was married to Mary Ann Fasnacht Shirk for 44 years.

John graduated from Manheim Township High School and Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and Int'l Affairs where he received his B.A. and the University of Pennsylvania where he received his law degree. John joined Barley, Snyder, Senft and Cohen in 1969 and became a Partner in 1973. He was a Managing Partner from 1983-1993. He served as General Counsel for Franklin and Marshall College.

John has been currently serving as a board member on the Lancaster General College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Fulton Bank and Fulton Financial Corporation; Irex Corporation; Lancaster Newspapers and other Steinman Enterprises; Eastern Insurance Holdings, Inc.; and Pennfield Corporation. He was a former board member and past board president of Lancaster General Hospital and Lancaster General Corporation, United Way of Lancaster County, Economic Development Company of Lancaster County; EDC Finance Corporation of Lancaster County; founding board member of Lancaster Alliance, and past board member of Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Educators Mutual Life Insurance Co., and the Horst Group.

He enjoyed fly fishing, horseback riding and hunting and was a strong steward of the family farms in Lancaster County.

In addition to his wife, John is survived by his daughter Caroline L. Shirk of New York City, NY, a son, Mike Shirk and spouse Andrea Shirk of Lancaster, a grandson, Tyler Shirk of Lancaster; two sisters; Marolyn Davenport and spouse Jim Wilson of Lancaster; Mary S. Blakinger and her spouse Chuck Blakinger of Bryn Mawr, PA, and a brother, Dr. Art O. Shirk and his spouse John Gatto of Malden, MA. He was preceded in death by a son, Artie Shirk.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to a Memorial Service celebrating John's Life at Barshinger Center at Franklin & Marshall College, 612 College Avenue, Lancaster, PA on Monday, November 14, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. with The Rev. Randolph T. Riggs officiating. The family will receive friends at The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremations Services, Inc., 528 W. Orange Street (at the corner of Orange & Pine Sts), on Sunday, November 13, 2011 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. A private family interment will take place in The Shirk Family Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in John's name to The John O. Shirk Memorial Nursing Scholarship, Lancaster General College of Nursing and Health Sciences, for nursing students residing in Lancaster County. Attn: Development Office, 410 N. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 or The Faculty and Staff Endowed Scholarship Fund at Franklin & Marshall College, Office of College Advancement, Attn: Special Gift Accounting, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003.

Tribute Wall



“ *JOHN O. SHIRK*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Mary Ann*

Jean and I send our condolences and prayers for your loss as well as the community of Lancaster. You have had your share of tragedy and I know that you will come through this as the person you are. God Bless.

ernie wood - November 14, 2011 at 12:42 AM



“ *My first day of working for John coincided with a personal crisis that had me struggling to concentrate on the several million dollar real estate settlement John had that day. I will never forget John's compassion and kindness. He pulled me aside and told me that it was more important that I take time off to deal with whatever it was, and that the work would get done without me. He offered to listen, but didn't press for details.*

John also went to bat for his employees, many a time, often in a very personal way. He used his power sparingly, but wisely. Most of all, I remember the twinkle in his eye, his sense of humor, and the way he made us feel that we could achieve whatever we set out to do.

There is a big hole in the universe where John used to be. I pray for comfort and solace for all of his family, including those who worked with him, at this time.

Rachel Kraybill Stahl - November 12, 2011 at 11:43 PM



“ *Mary Ann, Mike and Caroline -*

How was it possible for John to have impacted the lives of so many, many people with love and concern? In the busiest of times, John always made time. He was dynamic and remains so in our memories. John will continue to be deeply missed because he will never be far from our hearts. With love and appreciation for your husband and your father. Thanks for sharing him!

When you are ready, may John's peace be your peace. Judy Sandt

Judy Stauffer Sandt - November 11, 2011 at 10:26 PM