



Joseph George (Jay) Leshyn

March 5, 1940 - June 19, 2022

Joseph George (Jay) Leshyn of Sarasota, Florida died peacefully at home on June 19, 2022, at the age of 82 surrounded by his loving wife, Carolyn, and his son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Carrie.

Jay was born on March 5, 1940, in Chicago, IL, the son of Joseph and Marie (Hoffmann). He spent his youth in Chicago, graduating from Gage Park High School. From there he went on to become a graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Upon graduation from Illinois, Jay served as a lieutenant in the United States Army from 1962 through 1964, stationed primarily at Fort Lewis, Washington. He owned and operated the family flower business for over a decade before embarking on a career in sales. His distinguished sales career lasted until his retirement in 2001 and included several President's Club awards, which allowed him to travel the world.

Upon retirement, Jay and Carolyn built a home in University Park where they enjoyed a long and fruitful retirement, including learning how to play golf! He golfed multiple times a week, and although he was hardly a scratch player he enjoyed every round, especially the 19th hole! They were also dedicated travelers and went all over the globe including a flight over Antarctica!

As a University of Illinois alumnus, he was a die-hard fan of Illini sports, having held season football tickets for over twenty years. Despite witnessing more losses than wins, he was as devoted a fan as there was. He traveled with his family and friends to several Illini-related events including two Rose Bowls and basketball games in Maui. He was also a season ticket holder for the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1960s and 70s and was able to witness his beloved White Sox win a World Series in 2005. Upon hearing the news of a White Sox winner on his next to last day of life he broke out into a huge grin.

Jay was the most generous, fun-loving and devoted husband, father and friend to all. He loved life and was often the life of the party. He enjoyed Lou Malnati's pizza and a good glass of Chardonnay!

He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years, Carolyn (Bieritz) of Yorkville, IL, his son Bradley and his daughter-in-law Carrie (Cobern) of Oak Park, IL.

There will be a brief memorial service at Sarasota National Cemetery on July 15, 2022, at 11:30am.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jay's name at <https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/>

Jay touched everyone he came in contact with and will be sorely missed!
Please raise a glass of Chardonnay to toast Jay!

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 15. 11:30 AM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Although 10 years have passed, it seems like only yesterday that we were enjoying so much our every-Sunday morning University Park golf rounds with Jay and Carolyn and the lunches that followed. And we enjoyed just as much the timeshare weekends of golf and dining in Orlando that we shared with them. Such wonderful memories!!!

I (John) am so proud that Jay and Carolyn's signatures are on the witness lines of my only hole-in-one score card.

We share with Carolyn, Brad, Carrie and their many friends our deepest sorrow in Jay's passing. But we are comforted by the image of St. Peter as his dutiful caddy. May all of Jay's Heavenly drives be aces!

Lyda and John Arimond, Mount Pleasant, SC

John & Lyda Arimond - July 03, 2022 at 05:19 PM

CL

Thanks John and Lyda.

Carolyn Leshyn - December 31, 2022 at 08:18 PM

JW

“ *Our condolences to you and your loved ones. We will always remember his smiling face that would greet us at Illini Club get togethers!*

jim Waddell - July 03, 2022 at 09:21 AM

MC

“ Our condolences to Carolyn and the Leshyn family -- from a few of Jay's golfing partners. The photo brings back great memories of our golf and luncheon discussions where we solved many of the world's problems. Marv Cook, Jon Griffee, Nick Dendy, and Greg Selep and their spouses.



Marv Cook - June 25, 2022 at 03:54 PM

JD

“ Jay was a friend to everyone. His kindness and support was to be admired. I am proud of our friendship and will treasure the memories that I had with him and his lovely wife, Carolyn forever.



Jan Doench - June 24, 2022 at 12:08 AM

BH

“ I have so many fond memories of Jay and our friendship over the last 20 years. All the rounds of golf, all the wine after golf, lunches, trivia, dining with the wives, discussions about sports and the world in general. I enjoyed every minute of our time together.

I first met Jay at a Langley neighborhood get together and immediately knew we would be friends. His wonderful sense of humor, willingness to always lend a hand and approach to life contributed to deepening our friendship

I was fortunate to have Jay as my great friend. I will miss his presence but keep him in my thoughts and memory.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Carolyn, Brad and Carrie at this difficult time.

Bob and Betty Hunt

Bob Hunt - June 23, 2022 at 11:31 AM

EK

“ My sincere condolences and sympathy to the Leshyn family. I shared many laughs and fun filled Wednesdays and Saturdays on the golf courses with Jay. After golf we solved all the world problems over a glass of wine. Golf just won't be the same without Jay's smiling face and wonderful sense of humor.

Ed Kwiatkowski

Ed Kwiatkowski - June 22, 2022 at 02:09 PM

RG

“ Jay always brought great joy an happiness to whatever event we attended together and we have lots of fond memories of his lighthearted presence at gourmet Club dinners, Trivia Pursuit nights at the University Park Country Club and especially at the Langley Park "Prom". God bless him and his family.



Richard & Jessica Gabriel - June 22, 2022 at 12:46 PM