

Memorial Resolution
Presbytery of St. Augustine
The Rev. Dr. Jack Swann
August 4, 1934 - June 9, 2018

Whereas the Rev. Dr. Jack Swann was born on August 4, 1934, and on June 9, 2018, entered the eternal kingdom, we the Presbytery of St. Augustine do resolve to give thanks to Almighty God for Jack's life and ministry and honor Jack with the following memorial:

Jack grew up in Stamford, Connecticut as a child of Scottish immigrants who came to the United States in the early 1920s. Legend has it that Jack learned to whistle and hum church songs within months of his birth.

Jack sang in the high school glee club and played football. In his early years he went to work as a paper boy and at Dairy Queen. Over his lifetime he spent thousands of dollars at the Dairy Queen in Jacksonville Beach and in Jackson, Wyoming. Grandchildren provided a perfect escape to the nearest Dairy Queen.

Jack graduated from the University of Connecticut where he studied government and history. In college he was president of his fraternity, Sigma Chi, and captain of the ROTC.

On a crisp January evening his fraternity hosted a social with the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority where he met a freshman nursing student from Virginia. Shortly after this meeting Jack gave Judy Eanes his fraternity pin. (And the story has been told that he serenaded her with "the Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.")

After college Jack joined the Army and went to boot camp in Fort Knox, KY. He served in Germany as a tank commander and lieutenant in his unit. He returned to the United States on a ship where he was assigned to escort Army prisoners on the way back to New York City.

On his return he reunited with his sweetheart Judy and they were engaged. They were married on April 4, 1959.

Jack Swann entered seminary at Colgate in Rochester, New York and graduated in 1961 with a Masters in Theology. Following that he attended Boston University to study pastoral counseling and became a part time pastor at a Presbyterian Church in Roxbury,

MA. He received a Doctorate in Theology from Drew University in 1976.

On June 15, 1962, Jack became an Assistant Minister at the South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry, New York. Their daughter Kathy was born in July 1962, and their sons Steve and Bruce were born shortly thereafter.

The 1960s were turbulent times that troubled Jack. He became a civil activist and in August 1963 he attended the March on Washington. Jack faithfully sought to bring God's hope and love to those in all the communities where he served

He also served the Hartford Street Presbyterian Church in Natick, MA. Jack returned to Dobbs Ferry, New York, as senior pastor where he served from 1970-1980. In 1980, Jack came to Palms Presbyterian Church which at that time was part of the northern Presbyterian Church. He was thrilled at the reunion of the two denominations in 1983. During his time as pastor of Palms in Jacksonville Beach, he worked with other area pastors to strengthen ministry to serve the homeless and those struggling to remain in their homes.

In Florida Jack was a football fan attending both Florida State and University of Florida football games returning home often early Sunday mornings. He could be found in the crowds at the Jaguar games.

Jack retired in 2000. He and Judy moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and serving on the Hospital Board and the board of the Therapeutic Riding program. He and Judy volunteered as park rangers in the Grand Teton National Park hiking around Taggart Lake.

Jack's great faith made him a model of prayer and practice. He was a Micah man – doing justice, loving compassionately and walking humbly with his God. His greatest gift was how he made you feel. With a look, a word, a smile, whistling a hymn, or singing during his sermon his presence brought comfort, peace, hope.

As his son Bruce said, "Let us remember how he made us feel and carry that love and light forward."

Wherefore, the Presbytery of St. Augustine does adopt this memorial resolution, giving thanks for the life and ministry of Jack Swann, and it resolves that this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the 2018 Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine.