



John "Jack" Haag

May 3, 2025

John "Jack" Haag, age 87, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 2, 2025, at his residence at The Evergreens in Moorestown, New Jersey. Jack was a loving husband, father and grandfather or as he was affectionately known as, "Pop". A lifelong educator and beloved community member, Jack left an enduring legacy through his decades of service and unwavering dedication to the students and staff of New Albany Elementary School in Cinnaminson, NJ.

Born on August 2, 1937, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jack was raised in the city that would shape his early years and educational journey. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1955 and went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Ursinus College in 1959. While at Ursinus, he was a proud member of the Sigma Rho Lambda fraternity and was honored with inclusion in "Who's Who Among Students," a testament to his leadership and academic excellence. Jack later pursued graduate studies at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), where he earned his Master's Degree in Education.

At just 26 years old, Jack became one of the youngest principals in the state of New Jersey when he began his career at New Albany Elementary School. Over the course of more than four decades, he became a fixture in the Cinnaminson community. His commitment to education extended far beyond administrative duties; he treated the school as a second home and its people as family. Whether planting flowers around campus, installing purple martin houses for nature study and insect control, or delivering supplies to teachers on weekends, Jack's devotion was evident in every corner of the school.

He is fondly remembered for his signature phrase "What book are you reading?"—a reflection of his deep love for literature and learning. Teachers recall colored pencil flower sketches on their lesson plans; students remember warm greetings and genuine care for their well-being; and colleagues smile at memories of L & M donuts and German Fasnachts shared among staff. He organized schoolwide bike rides on weekends and led student council and chess club activities with enthusiasm and heart.

Jack's life outside the classroom was equally rich. He found joy sailing at the Riverton Yacht Club, cycling through the country, and inventing practical solutions like bicycle chain lubricant or attachments for carrying work attire safely while riding. A lifelong reader and thinker, he curated book lists tailored to different grade levels to encourage intellectual growth. He also enjoyed tennis, golf at the Moorestown Field Club, cheering on the Philadelphia Phillies, watching the Kentucky Derby, and spending cherished time with loved ones at Bethany Beach, Delaware. Jack was also a faithful servant to God and the church.

In retirement, Jack fulfilled a dream of traveling through Europe—a well-earned reward after a lifetime of service. Yet no matter where he went or what he did, his heart remained with his family.

Jack was a devoted husband to Elizabeth “Bonnie” Haag, his beloved wife of nearly 50 years. Their bond was unmistakable—rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a love for education and life's simple pleasures. In her final years, Jack stood faithfully by Bonnie's side as she faced difficult health challenges with grace. His care for her was steadfast and tender. There is comfort in knowing that they are now reunited in peace.

Jack leaves behind four children who carry forward his legacy: Laurie A. Haag; Brian J. Haag (Amy); Matthew J. Haag (Alison); and Jacqueline C. Olsson (Conny). He was a proud grandfather to Madeline, Tyler, Mason, Landon, Kendall, Olivia, and Henrik. His family will forever cherish the lessons he taught by example—kindness without condition, dedication without expectation.

He was preceded in death by his parents Adolph and Theresa Haag; his brother Robert Haag; his grandchild Christian A. Haag; and his beloved wife Bonnie.

Jack Haag touched countless lives with unique character and boundless compassion. His memory will live on not only through those who knew him personally but also through generations of students whose lives were shaped by his care.

May his memory bring comfort to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Funeral service will be held Saturday May 10, 2025 at 11 am. A viewing from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM at the First Presbyterian Church 101 Bridgeboro Road. Interment Presbyterian Cemetery,

In lieu of flowers memorial contribution's may be made to the First Presbyterian Church. Condolences may be left at www.Lewisfuneralhomemoorestown.com

Cemetery Details

Presbyterian Cemetery

101 Bridgeboro Rd
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-1688
<http://www.fpcmoorestown.org>

Service

MAY 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Tribute Wall

LB

“ Mr. Haag was the best principal. I remember him so fondly, decades later, and he did so many things to make his students feel special. We learned about purple martins, he planted a ginkgo tree and told us it was a special secret for our class, he asked about the books we were reading, and his demeanor was of a friendly pal (a real princi-pal, so to speak). I ran into him and his wife a few years ago, and it was so nice to see him again after all these years. He was very gracious and happy to speak with me. Now I'm looking at elementary schools for my own daughter, and Mr. Haag definitely influences how I view school principals.

Lindsey Breuer-Barnes - May 06, 2025 at 09:27 PM

DA

“ Jack was not only a colleague in the world of principals, but he also was the principal for my three children. He was an extraordinary gentleman who assisted me in my career and then supported my children. Rest in peace.

Dan - May 06, 2025 at 10:39 AM

KS

“ Both of my daughter's were fortunate to have had Mr. Haag as their principal at New Albany. He inspired so many with his love of reading, purple martins and gardening. I fondly remember him on Hobby Night at New Albany, when he would interview each child about his or her hobby. May his family find comfort that he touched so many lives.

Karen Shegda - May 06, 2025 at 10:07 AM

DK

“ Thank for instilling a love for adventure and learning for our children - we are all better off for knowing you Mr. Haag. The Kennedy and Eck families Purple Martins rule!!!

Debbie Kennedy - May 05, 2025 at 10:09 PM

RM

“ "Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy." (The Giving Tree) When that boy grew up he loved a tree, he loved teaching children about planting trees and bulbs, teaching children to love books, chess, purple martins and being kind to others. As teachers we were fortunate to have been colleagues and friends with Jack. Our condolences to the entire Haag family and may your memories, like ours, be a blessing. Bob and Rose Maher

Robert/Rose Maher - May 05, 2025 at 04:41 PM

BZ

“ I loved how he would always ask his kids what book they were reading!

Barbara Ziegler - May 05, 2025 at 11:51 AM