
John P. J. Cummins Jr., M.D.(1918-2012)

OLEAN - John P.J. Cummins, Jr., M.D., died peacefully Thursday, May 24, 2012, in the Olean General Hospital after a short illness. He was 93.

On October 28, 1918, two weeks before the Armistice, Jack Cummins was born in Ticonderoga to John P. J. Cummins, Sr., M.D. and Elizabeth Riley Cummins. He had an older brother and sister, Thomas Riley Cummins and Helen Cummins LaMontange. He grew up in Ticonderoga and on Lake George, attended Ticonderoga High School and Phillips Exeter Academy, obtained a B.A. from Amherst College in 1941 and a M.D. from McGill University in 1944. He was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps in 1945 and served on active duty at the very end of the war in the Pacific and in Yorktown, Va., for 18 months.

In March 1946, he married Annette Pepper of Montreal, Quebec. After additional service in the Naval Reserve on the Paris Island Marine Depot and a pediatrics residency at the University of Vermont, he eventually settled in Olean in 1958. He became a board certified member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He flourished in a long and successful practice of pediatric medicine, retiring in 1986 after faithful, diligent and caring service to the Olean area communities.

While in Olean he and Annette raised five children and tragically buried one. He was a parishioner of St. Marys of the Angels, Home School Association president, a charter member of the Walsh Foundation, member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Cattaraugus County Medical Society, and an attending physician with privileges at the St. Francis Hospital and Olean General Hospital. He served as the college physician at St. Bonaventure University.

Jack Cummins was a reporter of his times and raconteur. His knowledge of college football was extensive, his historical acumen remarkable, and his interest in popular music expansive. A hopeless Notre Dame Football fan, a long-time Bona's partisan, a baseball Giants then Mets fan, a Bills long-sufferer and a Sabers fanatic, Dr. Cummins was a voracious and dedicated sports enthusiast.

Jack Cummins was a gentle man, a faithful husband, a loving supportive father and a devoted grandfather. To know him was to be his friend. His patients remain throughout the community, and remember his straightforward advice and care, his learned but common-spoken approach to the medical arts, and his dry and ever-present humor. Most of all he was loved by those who knew him.

Dr. Cummins is survived by his wife of 66 years, Annette; four of his children: John P. Cummins III of Arlington, Va., Mary Beth Cardenas, Anne Goldman of Northern Virginia, and Thomas G. Cummins of Olean; fifteen grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Guenther Funeral Home, Inc., 1303 E. State St., Olean. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday (May 30, 2012) in St. Mary of the Angels Church at 1:30PM. The Rev. Gregory Dobson will be celebrant. Burial will be in St. Bonaventure Cemetery, Allegany.



Published in The Olean Times Herald on May 27, 2012