



John K. "Jack" Cullen, Jr.

JAN 2, 1936 - SEP 12, 2007



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John K. "Jack" Cullen, Jr.

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John K. "Jack" Cullen, Jr., died Wednesday Sept. 12, 2007, at St. Tammany Parish Hospital from cancer.

At 71, he was a beloved father and husband, respected teacher, Louisiana State University Professor Emeritus, gifted scientist, inventor and a trusted friend. Cullen was born in Denver, Colo., the oldest child to Air Force Maj. Gen. John Knox Cullen, Sr. and Mary Regester Prather. He graduated from Blair High School in Silver Spring, Md., sailed on The Eagle as a U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadet, and earned bachelors and master degrees in electronics engineering from the University of Maryland. He worked at the National Institutes of Health and at Johns Hopkins University early in his career. In 1968, he moved to Louisiana and joined the fledgling Kresge Hearing Research Laboratory at LSU Medical Center, where he contributed to the science of hearing for over 30 years. He guided the first 10 years of cochlear implant trials in Louisiana.

He received his PhD at LSU MC in 1975 and went on to teach physiology and hearing sciences both at LSU MC in New Orleans and LSU Baton Rouge, retiring in 1997.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother Louise B. Cullen, aunt Virginia I. Cullen and brother Robert Prather Cullen. Survivors include his beloved wife Deirdre Rafferty Cullen of Covington, La., daughter Janice C. Brunson and her husband Mark Brunson, of Fredericksburg, Va., son Raymond C. Cullen and his wife Holly Houk Cullen, of Baton Rouge, La., step-daughters Rebecca Rose and Ramona Marie Catalanello, of Tampa and New Orleans, respectively, grandsons David Mark, Jr. and Andrew Cullen Brunson of Fredericksburg, Va., and sister Mary Suzanne Cullen of North Carolina.

Jack had long requested a party instead of a funeral. Jack's family invites friends and colleagues to join them on Nov. 24th, the Sat. after Thanksgiving, at his home for a celebration of his life.



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In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, 19 Mantua Rd., Mt. Royal, NJ 08061, or to the St. Tammany Parish Hospital Foundation, 1202 S. Tyler St., Covington, LA 70433.



Tribute Wall

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BD

Bob Dobie posted:

Like many other former students, I am grateful that I had the chance to work with a man of such high intellectual and ethical standards. As a mentor and a model, he was unsurpassed.

November 11 at 7:00 PM

NH

Nancy Hildebrand posted:

Deirdre, Please know my thought are with you through this time of loss. It has been 8 months since Ned's passing. I'm here if you want to talk. Many prayers always.

November 4 at 7:00 PM

LE

Lynnda Ell posted:

Loss is an integral part of loving. Those who love deeply feel the loss of the one they love deeply. I know that this is your experience, right now. My prayer is that God will give you comfort and set His peace in the midst of your grief.

October 9 at 7:00 PM

DB

Dick And Madeline Bobbin posted:

We want to express our sincere condolences to the family and our sadness in the loss of a truly loving and wonderful person whom we were proud to call our friend for over 40 years. Part of the difficulty in having recently moved so far away is that we were unable to be there for Jack and his family in the trying times of his illness. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we remember Jack with much joy, respect and friendship. We know he will be sadly missed by many, ourselves included.

September 30 at 7:00 PM

AO

Ana Orellana posted:

Deirdre: You and your loved ones will be in my thoughts and prayers. Your friend, Ana

September 25 at 7:00 PM



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CL

Cindy Landry posted:

Deirdre and Family, What can I say? Jack was a special friend and I'm going to miss him. Deirdre, you are an inspiration to me - you are a rock and your love for Jack is so evident - I was so touched when Sandie, Dena and I came to visit a few months ago. I'm so glad to have seen Jack one more time and I am looking forward to his memorial; it's so appropriate for what Jack would want. Please know that you will remain in my thoughts and prayers and I am looking forward to seeing you again soon. Love ya, Cindy

September 24 at 7:00 PM

MS

Mario A. Svirsky posted:

Dear Dierdre and family, Fanny and I send you our heartfelt condolences. I don't have to tell you that he was a great man, as well as a great engineer and scientist. I am so grateful for everything he taught me, from acoustic phonetics and auditory physiology to psychophysics and experimental design. Some of the ideas he taught me as a PhD student were the basis for my first NIH grants, many years after I left New Orleans. He was a real role model not only because of the quality of his thinking but also because of his honest, ethical attitudes. He was a good man. Some people say you don't really die until everyone who loved you is gone. If so, Jack will be with us for a long, long time (as I type this I can imagine Jack smirking and saying: "Gee, Mario, that's really original"- Sorry, Jack, it may not be original but it's true).

September 22 at 7:00 PM

SH

Scott Houk And Wanda Henderson posted:

Deidre, Wanda and I are very sorry for your loss. During our evacuation for Katrina, we got to know you and Jack and enjoyed the short time we spent together.

September 19 at 7:00 PM

CB

Chuck And Harriet Berlin posted:

There was no one quite like Jack. As colleagues in the Kresge Lab we all learned to understand Jackinese and fully appreciate his puckish wisdom and delightful intellectual and technical gifts.

September 15 at 7:00 PM



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CP

Charlie And Nilda Parkins posted:

We were very sorry to hear of Jack's death. You have our deepest sympathy. We would love to come to Jack's memorial party but will be unable since we have previous obligations and plane tickets to be in Puerto Rico at that time. Our thoughts will be with you. Charlie and Nilda Parkins

September 15 at 7:00 PM

JL

Joan Rafferty Lennon posted:

Deirdre and Family...I offer my heartfelt sympathy for your profound loss. Jack will be missed by all. He was an amazing guy and obviously very loved and respected by all who came in contact with him...He was a very fortunate man to have so much love in his life.

September 15 at 7:00 PM

SR

Stella Rabalais posted:

Ray, Please accept our very deepest sympathies on the passing of your father. What a distinguished man he was! We are so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Stella Rabalais Lonny Rabalais Rob Rabalais

September 14 at 7:00 PM

TN

Trell & Tracey Neldare posted:

Ray, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of your family during this difficult time. Trell & Tracey Neldare

September 13 at 7:00 PM

WW

Whitney Wootan posted:

My heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Know that you are in my prayers during this difficult time.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

PB

Philipa Blair posted:

Ray, I am sorry about the passing of your father. From his obituary he was a wonderful man who had a fulfilling life. My prayers are with you and his family. Philipa Blair Baton Rouge CVB

September 13 at 7:00 PM



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SK

Sharma Kolluri posted:

I met Jack few times at the company parties and it was a pleasure to know him.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

JS

Jeanette M. Bauman (Nancie Roark's Sister) posted:

I have no magic words that could ease your pain, only condolences for your loss of a dear, dear man.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

KS

Kris Stevenson posted:

I wish to send my condolences to the Cullen family. Ray has told me a lot about his father and it sounds like the world just lost someone very special. I would like to offer my help to the Cullen family in anyway I can. yours truly Kristopher Allen Stevenson

September 13 at 7:00 PM

DM

D.R. Miller posted:

To the family: Although I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Cullen personally, I extend my sincere sympathy to you the family and friends whose lives he touched. May you find comfort from the words found in God's word the Bible: Isaiah 25:8 - death will be swallowed up forever. Revelations 21:5 - these things will be a reality.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

AM

Alisa Mendoza posted:

My fond memories of Jack are impossible to put into words. He truly changed my way of thinking about so many things. He was kind and unique and will be greatly missed.

September 13 at 7:00 PM

GH

George W. Hebert posted:

Jack was a true gentleman and a scholar. I enjoyed my times with him and am still amazed at the number of people shared in our professional/social circles. He was greatly admired and kept a stellar reputation. Jack will be sadly missed by all.

September 13 at 7:00 PM



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HN

Hank And Peg Norwood posted:

Jack will be much missed by many, but lives on in our memories.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

DS

Don Schwenn posted:

Jack was always so nice to Michael and I. I am sure he will be missed dearly by many. We are very sorry to hear of his passing.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

RG

Rosie Bridges Garrett posted:

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you the family. Jack's presence will remain with those of us that loved him and cared about him.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

LH

Linda Hood posted:

With many memories of wonderful times together and with sadness at the loss of a fine colleague and friend. My thoughts and prayers are with all those whom Jack's life touched and especially with my dear friend Deirdre, and Ray, Jan, Rebecca and Ramona. Love, Linda

September 12 at 7:00 PM

MT

Mary Thomas posted:

Deirdre, I'm so sorry about the loss of your husband. Mary Thomas

September 12 at 7:00 PM

BJ

Barbara Jemison posted:

Deirdre and family, Jim and I want to express our deepest sympathy to you at this time. Jack will be missed but he's not gone - he'll live forever in your hearts and memories. Whenever you spoke about him over the years I've known both of you, your eyes always lit up, Deirdre. God bless, Barbara

September 12 at 7:00 PM



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SS

Susan Shore posted:

Jack was my Ph.D. mentor. He taught me how to 'think', a gift for which I will always be grateful. He was also a loyal and caring friend who will be remembered with great fondness.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

LO

Laura Smith-Olinde posted:

Deidre and All, Please accept Frank and my condolences for Jack. Even though I'm in Arkansas, I feel his absence. BUT, Jack is ever present for me when I am at work, as much of what I pass along to my students he taught me. I am a much better hearing scientist, audiologist and teacher because of Jack's mentorship. Frank and I also wanted to say how very glad we are to have visited with you guys in June. Love and take care, Laura

September 12 at 7:00 PM

MH

Mary Houk posted:

I am deeply sorry for your loss. Please know that you have been and will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

JC

Jim Case posted:

Deidre, I'm so sorry for your loss. These last months have been a struggle for you and Jack and you've been in our prayers. Know that I'm continuing to pray for you. May God Bless you in this difficult time. Jim

September 12 at 7:00 PM

TM

Todd Miller posted:

I am sorry for your loss and keeping your family in my thoughts.

September 12 at 7:00 PM



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JG

Joshua, And Gabriel Giffin posted:

I am very saddened to learn of your lose. Please accept my sincere condolences. You are in my thoughts, and I wish you all possible comfort at this difficult time.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

ML

Marisa Ledet posted:

Deirdre, even though I only met Jack a couple of times, I could instantly see the love that he held for you in his heart. And to hear you speak of him was always such a delight. As Barbara said, your eyes really did light up. I know he will be missed, but he will certainly live on in you and the lives that he touched. My thoughts are with you and the rest of your family at this difficult time.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

MC

Michael Catalanello posted:

My sincere condolences to Jack's family and friends.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

DC

Deirdre Cullen posted:

Rebecca says that soon someone we pass on the street may be seeing us through Jack's eyes. How wondrous! We assumed all organ donation was out of the question for both of us because of our cancer histories. I have learned in the last 36 hours that cornea donations are accepted from some cancer patients, and that jack's corneas, which were harvested yesterday for either transplant or research a few hours after his death, look really good for transplant. Pending good blood test outcomes, his gift may be matched and implanted to someone as early as tomorrow. Who would have thought that a one legally blind due to macular degeneration would give sight to another person through his healthy corneas. We are awed. Deirdre

September 12 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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