



What makes a Jack Durnin?

by Maggie Sprague

Maybe the answer is a reflection of life growing up in the 1950s in New Jersey and within sight of New York City or the influence of middle class parents imparting a strong moral code or is it possibly a series of lifetime events. Who can really say?

As a young boy, riding his bike with his brother was an adventure...especially across the bridge to Staten Island. Stick ball, roller skating, and trips to the Jersey Shore were a rite of passage. As early as in elementary school, Jack developed a strong interest in science and mathematics which would eventually determine his professional life.

While in high school Jack joined the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program and met a fellow cadet and a special bond was formed that continues today as Jack and Mary Anne celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. Earning his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and an Air Force commission through the ROTC program, he was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

A new family in tow, Jack moved back to New Jersey to begin a career in the upcoming high technology industry with Litton Industries and worked on the development of the first electric calculator. A stint with Burroughs and then on to Hewlett Packard, ultimately leading to Plano. Jack served in many capacities with HP including technical sales support, supervision of systems engineers, and a key trouble shooter. Along the way, Jack went on to finish his Master of Science degree.

The move to Plano presented somewhat of a cultural shock to the Durnin Family. The cowboy hats and boots, as well as the high summer temperatures which kept people indoors required some adjustment.

Retiring from HP after thirty years, Jack witnessed and participated in an industry that has revolutionized the entire world...the computer, the internet, cell phones and all the innovations tied to modern technology. Jack was ready to begin another phase of his life - that of giving back and serving the community in numerous ways. The list is nearly endless and includes the local Lions Club and the Lions Camp. He makes bread deliveries to the Senior Center, at Haggard Library he sorts books for the annual library book sale, and is a member of the Prince of Peace Church. Jack serves as a docent volunteer for the Interurban Railway Museum and instructs children with the hands on electrical displays, as well as leading tours in a motorman's uniform on car 360. Never wanting to disappoint a child, Jack maintains the model train in the museum.

What makes a Jack Durnin? How about the commitment to his family, friends, and community, sprinkled with patience, care, and a healthy dose of kindness.

***Congratulations to Jack Durnin
2012 VIP Living Legend***