

JOHN “JACK” J. LEWIS

July 31, 1931- January 11, 2012

Jack Lewis was a lifelong Red Hook sports participant and supporter. A 1949 graduate of Red Hook High School, Jack lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. He then received a B.A. from SUNY at Cortland, where his interest in athletics intensified, and an M.A. from SUNY at New Paltz. Jack was also a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Jack worked his entire career in the Red Hook Central School District. He began as a 6th grade teacher, and then was an elementary principal for eighteen years. He also enjoyed coaching tennis. Throughout his career, Jack was totally devoted to children. He sincerely believed in educating the “whole child” – academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Athletics thus played a vital role in Jack’s educational philosophy.

As an educator, Jack continually supported both physical education and interscholastic athletics. He believed children should be physically active. He was acutely aware of the attributes athletics promoted: teamwork, fitness, discipline, and the subordination of self-interest for the success of the team. Jack taught these principles to numerous students throughout his career.

Jack not only professed his support for Red Hook athletics, he also lived it. Jack’s attendance at Red Hook athletic events was exemplary. He constantly attended a multitude of athletic events during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. In this sense, the Red Hook High School gymnasium was a second home for Jack. It is truly appropriate that this gymnasium be named in his honor.

