



John J. Canty, Major, USAF

Radio OIC (64-65)

Born 6 Jan 1928

(Ret) Major John (Jack) Canty, formerly of the Merrimack Valley Area, passed away April 26, 2017, at his home in Cadiz, Spain.

Jack graduated from Boston University. He was once a voice on WCCM radio in Lawrence and also did the news at WMUR-TV in Manchester, N.H. When he joined the U.S. Air Force, he was instrumental in setting up the radio communications in Viet Nam in the 1960s.

He also wrote and recorded the song "MIA POW" and was invited to sing the song on the Today show back in the 1960's. The song is still available on you tube. Jack was also the author of a book titled "Birth of an American City" about his father and mother's immigration to the U.S. and the history of the city of Lawrence.

Jack was a regular visitor to his beloved town of North Andover, Mass. He loved spending time with family, friends and catching up on U.S. news.

Jack retired at his last duty station in Spain and married Pilar, a Spanish national. He opened a cantina outside of Rota Air Force Base in Spain called "Canty's Cantina" and quickly became fluent in Spanish.

He leaves behind his wife, Pilar; two sons, Daniel and his wife, Lauren of Houston, Texas, and David of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; his sister, Peggy Gidley; and brother, Frank Canty.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Charles Canty, Raymond Canty, James Canty, and his sisters, Joan Black, Claire Keefe and Rita Roberts.

He also leaves behind several grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as his many stepchildren and grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held April 27 in Spain.

Donations may be made in his name to the charity of your choice.

Published on April 29, 2017

