



## Jack Haunty

October 30, 1935 - May 15, 2023

The undefinable Jack Haunty, artist, adman, musician, lyricist, writer, gardener, designer, husband, father and beloved Pop-Pop, died suddenly Monday, May 15 from an aneurysm that burst. He was 87.

Jack was born John Jacob Haunty October 30, 1935 in Bexley, Ohio to John Follmer and Katherine E (Sammet) Haunty. He attended Bexley schools and was a promising baseball player through high school. He graduated in 1953.

When he graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1957, it was not clear that he would become a Renaissance Man. But he did.

He started as a designer/art director at Nationwide Insurance. In the 1960s, he joined a small agency as Creative Art Director, through four name changes, that small agency grew into one of the largest in the Midwest Fahlgren & Swink, Inc. where he was Executive Vice President and Creative Director.

In 1985, he went off on his own as a creative consultant, which by 1987 was The Haunty Agency. That successful run concluded with a three year pre-retirement stint with Paul Werth Associates as Executive Vice President and creative head.

Through that 60-year career, he won countless Addys for work in television, and innumerable awards for his work in radio and print. His creative stamp appeared on work for dozens of companies including Bank One, Marzetti, The Limited, Battelle, Dow Chemical, O.M. Scott, Donatos and White Castle.

But it wasn't just what he did, it was who he was.

When he captained the drum lines in The Ohio State University Marching Band and marched in the Rose Bowl Parade, he had his shoes bronzed. His license read DRMMR 1. He held season football tickets until just last year.

Whenever he designed any logo for a company, he would field test it on a golf ball to make sure it translated to every possible use. His logo for The Lakes Golf and Country Club is classic.

His Christmas cards were collectible, treasured prints of his paintings.

He was not a master gardener but he was a master at gardening. Zinnias were not purchased in flats but grown from seed under grow lights and rotated constantly so stems grew strong and true. His vinca were 12 inches apart on center in augered holes.

His artworks were, well, works of art. He had a unique style of impressionism using both brush and painting knife blending theme, content and texture into seamless beauty.

There are those who have seen him hit five consecutive golf balls into the water on 14 at The Lakes in a tournament. He may have lost the hole but went on to win the match.

Jack gave freely of himself to his church, to his friends, to good causes.

His recollection of stats, plays and games of his Buckeyes, the Indians (no Guardians for him), the Reds and the Dallas Cowboys never dimmed. He could cite them (and correct you) at the drop of an errant statistic.

He served in the National Guard and, like so many of his generation, believed in loyalty, patriotism, honor and tradition. Each was a key to who he was.

He had remarkable verbal skills. When he spoke, you never knew if what came out of his mouth would be profoundly affecting or hilariously funny. But it was invariably one or the other. It was just the way his mind worked.

He knew his grandchildren's games and grade averages plus batting averages, tackles for loss, shots on goal and won-loss records. He didn't just know, he cared and that made him Pop-Pop.

When he wrote a love poem for his dear, sweet wife, Kathleen, the lyrics and notes were on sheet music—framed.

He was unique, one of a kind.

He was diagnosed with an inoperable aneurysm in late 2015 but no one would ever have known from any change in how he lived his life or faced the world. He knew whenever the aneurysm burst, it would be hard and fast. It was and he was ready.

Jack is survived by his first wife Peg and their children: Chris Haunty (Jeannette), Beth Haunty Hepler (Tim) and Jill Haunty Ramser; grandchildren Sara Haunty (Bob), Jason Haunty (Kristi), Christopher Haunty and Samantha Haunty; great grandchildren Hazel Reese Haunty and Claire Gabriel McDevitt; nephews Jake Haunty (Jen), James Haunty (Molly) and niece Kate Haunty Jackson (Grant).

Also surviving are his family with Kathleen: Mark L. Risley III (Nan) and Marlene Risley Barrett (Andrew) and grandchildren Mark L. Risley IV, Eileen Barrett, Andrew Barrett Jr. and Matthew Barrett.

He is predeceased by his parents, his brother James Haunty, and son-in-law Jeff Ramser.

Services will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Julia Wharf Piermont on Monday, June 19 at 11 a.m. at Worthington Presbyterian Church, 773 High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085. A reception and luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the ceremony.

Rutherford Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, PO Box 5014 Hagerstown, MD 21741.

# Cemetery Details

## Worthington Presbyterian Church Columbarium

Worthington, OH

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Worthington Presbyterian Church  
773 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Oh, I am so sorry Kathleen. I had no idea this occurred. He was a dear friend and made me (The Community Bank in Zanesville) appear to be a marketing genius. All along it was his brilliance. He never shared his health situation. I have many of his paintings displayed in my home. I will miss him very much. Michael Steen

Michael Steen - November 09, 2024 at 06:48 PM

HG

“ Jack was one of the most talented and original people I've ever known. He taught me so much about advertising, but even more about being a professional. I would not be where I am today without Jack. Those were some great times at The Haunty Agency. My prayers go out to Kathleen and the rest of Jack's family.

Herb Gillen - June 28, 2023 at 12:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jack Haunty.

June 19, 2023 at 09:04 AM

TK

“ Tammy, Haley, Amanda and Jillian Kumfer purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Jack Haunty.



Tammy, Haley, Amanda and Jillian Kumfer - June 15, 2023 at 04:37 PM

TK

“ Tammy, Haley, Amanda and Jillian Kumfer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jack Haunty.

Tammy, Haley, Amanda and Jillian Kumfer - June 15, 2023 at 04:37 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Jack Haunty.*



June 14, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jack Haunty.

June 14, 2023 at 03:24 PM

GK

“ *We will sure miss Jack.  
Great guy; and, talented, is an understatement.*

*Thank you for making our lives easier and enjoyable.*

*Greg Kehlmier  
www.CruiserPortMedia.com*

**GREG KEHLMIER** - June 08, 2023 at 05:57 AM

DM

“ *Dear Haunty family,  
I first met Jack as a young, mid 20s videographer and he provided hand drawn storyboards for an upcoming commercial. I was so proud of the work we created because Jack was leading the effort. I was so saddened to hear of his passing. Although our paths never crossed after the mid 80s, he was a great influence on my work, then and now. May you know how much Jack touched lives everywhere he went. God Bless you all.*

**Doig Matthies** - June 01, 2023 at 05:58 PM

RK

“ *Dear Kathy and Beautiful Loving Family,  
When Jack walked by my drugstore, I slowed down because I knew something special would be shared. My spirit was lifted each time we passed. I had no idea he was such a renaissance man. I am deeply and selfishly sad, wanting to have so many for conversations with him about his joys and works in life. Hugs and tears and celebrations to a remarkable man!*

*Rick Kryc RPh Powell Ohio*

**rick kryc** - June 01, 2023 at 09:11 AM

KH

*Rick, you were Jack's "go to guy" you always calmed his fears, gave great information, and showed kind and compassion in all areas. Thank you for your gift of friendship and love. Kathy 💕💕*

**Kathleen Haunty** - June 22, 2023 at 07:29 PM

BB

“*Jack and his wonderful wife Kathleen were neighbors, but when my late wife Kari was diagnosed with cancer, they became dear friends, too. Jack was a truly unique and special guy. We had many enjoyable (and funny!) conversations as he tended his magnificent gardens. His paintings lifted our spirits and inspired. Will always be grateful for his friendship.*

**Bill Burtch** - May 24, 2023 at 02:29 PM

JS

“*On many levels, Jack was the most important mentor in my professional life. He trusted me with important clients and assignments and rebranded my company with a focus that changed the whole trajectory of the business and my career. I am devastated by the loss but I will remember and continue to use his wise counsel and advice as long as I continue my career and professional journey.*

**Jeffrey Scheiman** - May 24, 2023 at 01:29 PM

CL

“*It was 1994 and I was looking for my first opportunity in the advertising business. I sent my resume everywhere and got no response. I was working at the Lakes in Westerville and voicing my frustration to one of the assistant pros. He told me that I should talk to Jack Haunty because he owned his own shop. As luck would have it Jack showed up a few days later to pick up his clubs to take on vacation and as I was loading them into his trunk I inquired about his agency. He said come in and let's talk and a few days later I had my first design job and never looked back. My deepest condolences to Kathleen and the family. May his soul and the soul's of all of the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

**Charlie Larger** - May 23, 2023 at 10:54 AM

KG

*I loved my short time working at The Haunty Agency back in 1999. Jack was such a creative and kind man. He created an environment that was inspiring and fun to work in. Grateful for that job before I had my first daughter. My condolences to the family.*

**Karla Grimm** - May 23, 2023 at 11:15 AM

JA

*Dear Kathleen and Family. It is hard to put in to words the impact that Jack had on our family, the Donatos brand and the entire Donatos family. He helped us craft and bring to life our Mission and Promise not only through the words, brand videos and commercials but through his actions. It was as if he knew 'who' we were so intimately that he brought out the best version of ourselves in our personal and professional lives. Jack was one of the few people in our lives that could capture the soul of our company. We have some great blooper reels of pure laughter and joy because he was on the other side of the camera. He knew what questions to ask and how to ask them in a way that felt conversational. He will always be a golden thread in the fabric of our family and our company. Thank you for sharing him with us, we are all better for having had the opportunity to have him in our lives here on earth. I will always be grateful for the influence he had on me in my journey to leadership and I will remember him as a gentle joyful soul. My condolences to the entire family.*

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**Jane Grote Abell** - June 13, 2023 at 04:21 PM

KH

*Jane, I can tell you the feelings were totally mutual. You were not clients but special friends and that connection came through on the screen. Donatos always was and continues to be our family. Love, Kathleen*

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**Kathleen Haunty** - June 22, 2023 at 07:20 PM

SC

*I worked with Jack for nearly 20 years, off and on, beginning in 1970 when I was hired at Kight Cowman Abram just a couple of years after college. Jack was a brilliant creative person who also understood and communicated intuitively with clients. They, and we -- his fellow KCA team members -- loved him. He did have a sharp wit which could take you aback if you weren't used to it, but most memorable was his sense of humor. At after-hours sessions in the Beggs Building penthouse with Jack, Dewey Abram, Ron Cowman, Bill Kight, and a few others, I'd laugh till I cried at hilarious stories of the old days when they were just starting up the agency. The four of them made it an extraordinarily creative, hard-working, highly enjoyable incubator for young folks like me. Today, Jack's legacy lives on in dozens of us.*

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**Sherry Christie** - November 05, 2023 at 02:07 PM