



Dr. John K. "Jack" Hartman

December 30, 1945 - March 9, 2023

John K. "Jack" Hartman of rural Powell, Ohio, died Thursday, March 9, 2023 at age 77.

An emeritus professor of journalism and member of the Journalism Hall of Fame at Central Michigan University and a distinguished alumnus of the Ashland, Ohio, City Schools, Hartman was known for his 20 years of service on the Bowling Green, Ohio, Board of Education, his two books about the national newspaper USA TODAY and his visiting professorship at King Saud University.

Hartman is survived by his wife of 55 years, Kay Lynn Franks Hartman, his childhood sweetheart. They were married on June 11, 1967, at First United Methodist Church in Ashland.

He is also survived by three daughters Kimberly Hartman Brueck (Jeremy) of Green, Ohio, Alicia Hartman Wolshire (Jayson) of Dublin, Ohio, and Jacqueline Hartman Ashley (John) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; by seven grandchildren: Isaac Edward Kinaitis, Ian Matthew Kinaitis, Adam Jayson Wolshire, Ella Hartman Wolshire, Aiden Timothy Brueck, Samantha Harper Ashley, and Paige Sophia Ashley, and by two sisters Ruth Arlene Hartman Morr (William) of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Nora Kathryn Hartman Kelting (Michael) of Newton, Kansas, and by his cousin Patricia Morris of Lake Tahoe, California.

He was preceded in death by his parents Harvey Hamill Hartman and Kathryn Jane Timmons Hartman.

John Kenneth Hartman was born Dec. 30, 1945, in Ashland, Ohio. He graduated from Ashland High School in 1963, where he was sports editor of the school newspaper Panorama and a three-year varsity letterman on the tennis team.

He earned three degrees from Bowling Green State University: a bachelor's of business administration in journalism in 1967, a master's in radio-TV-film in 1977 and a doctor of philosophy in interpersonal and public communication in 1986. When his alma mater did not treat him fairly, he sued and won a lawsuit over employment discrimination in March 1998 in Toledo District U.S. Court. He was a lifelong member of the BGSU Alumni Association and a long-time member of the Falcon Club. As a student, he helped broadcast the first football game ever played in Doyt L. Perry Stadium.

His career highlights included: sports editor, Ashland Times-Gazette, 1968-1971; public information officer, Ohio Department of Transportation, 1971-1974; instructor of journalism, Bowling Green State University, 1977-1979; copy editor, Toledo Blade, 1980-1984; professor of journalism, Central Michigan University, 1984-2015; and columnist, Columbus Free Press, 2015-2023.

His author name was John K. Hartman for The USA TODAY Way in 1992 and The USA TODAY Way 2 The Future in 2000, his two books about the trend-setting national newspaper. He published many articles and made many presentations of research and commentary about newspapers, journalism and politics. He covered the Democratic National Convention in August 2008 and witnessed Barack Obama's historic acceptance speech at Mile High Stadium in Denver.

He began his career at CMU as an instructor in 1984 and rose to the rank of professor in 1992. He received the professor stipend on four occasions after that, each time he was eligible. At CMU, he was known for his wit and for his penchant for telling students the unvarnished truth. He served as departmental chair on two occasions.

Hartman and his wife Kay were elected delegates and attended the

Democratic National Convention in Boston in 2004. He was a long-time Democratic precinct committeeman and party activist.

He was elected five times to the Bowling Green Board of Education and was the leading vote-getter each time, serving from 1978 until 1997. He was president for two years and vice president for two others. He served on the Penta Vo-Ed board for five years. He presided over the dedication of the addition to Bowling Green Senior High school in 1989. He was honored on three occasions by the FFA.

In 2008, he was selected as the Al-Jazirah Newspaper International Chair of Journalism, one of 50 subject-specific international professors chosen to serve as a visiting professor at King Saud University, the largest university in Saudi Arabia. He and his wife Kay made 2-week visits in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

He served as a member of the Liberty Township Board of Zoning Appeals from 2013-2015, as an alternate member of the Liberty Township Zoning Board from 2015 to 2019, and as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee in 2018 and 2022.

He was an avid tennis player and had many individual and team successes. Most notably he was doubles champion of Ashland five times, singles champion of Medina once, doubles champion at Wedgewood Golf and Country Club twice, and a member of two over-70s championship teams in the Greater Columbus Tennis Association. He also coached junior varsity tennis for several seasons at Worthington Kilbourne High School.

The family will receive visitors on Friday, March 31, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell, 450 W. Olentangy St., Powell, Ohio, 43065. Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made to the charity of the donor's choice; the Ashland City Schools Foundation (<https://sites.google.com/goarrows.org/acsf/donate-now>); the Bowling Green Schools Foundation (<https://bgscschoolsfoundation.com/>); Central Michigan University Journalism Hall of Fame

(<https://dar.cmich.edu/alumni/giving/fund/9300019>); or The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – The James (<https://cancer.osu.edu/for-donors-and-volunteers/how-to-donate>).

Previous Events

First Visitation

MAR 31. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Second Visitation

MAR 31. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
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Tribute Wall

EW

“ *Ellie Maggiotto and Melissa Wall purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. John K. "Jack" Hartman.*



Ellie Maggiotto and Melissa Wall - March 31, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. John K. "Jack" Hartman.*



March 30, 2023 at 11:15 PM

JC

“ *Jack and Rick Spreng were two nice teenagers here on Overlook, on the hill west of Brookside Park and the tennis courts and probably best location to grow up in Ashland. (am still here) They inspired us younger baby boomers to take up the sport. You can still see kids walking down the street with their rackets.*

Saw where Jack was awarded the Ashland man of the year award in 2021 and was hoping to meet him again but covid got in the way.

John Chorpening

John Chorpening - March 30, 2023 at 07:50 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John K. "Jack" Hartman.



March 30, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John K. "Jack" Hartman.



March 27, 2023 at 06:37 PM



“ Jack was a new but valued friend. He sought me out in response to my essays in the Columbus Free Press. As retired but very active professors, writers, and former tennis players, we found many shared interests and goals.

I think of him chatting in my Columbus dining room over coffee and when I see the books he wrote about USA Today's early history that he collegially presented to me with personal inscriptions.

I remember well his hopefulness in the weeks immediately after his stem cell transplant before the infection took over.

With many others, I miss him...

Harvey J Graff - March 25, 2023 at 07:29 AM

CO

“ Cookie lit a candle in memory of Dr. John K. "Jack" Hartman



Cookie - March 15, 2023 at 02:27 AM

SV

“ I remember a time when we were four (4) years old, practicing for a church program at the Methodist church. We had speaking parts. Little did I know that moment would stay with me for 73 years (and even longer). He has lived a good life. Your family has my condolences. --Susan Goard Vermilya

Susan Goard Vermilya - March 14, 2023 at 11:52 AM

DB

“ Dr. H was my favorite college professor at CMU. He used to call me his almost birthday twin because his was Dec 30 and mine is Dec 31. He didn't let a single year go by without sending me a short but sweet birthday note wishing me the best in the upcoming year and talking about how wonderful I am. It was the highlight of my birthday every year. Occasionally, I even remembered to send him a note on his birthday. He never missed mine. This made me feel special and unique, however now that he has passed and I've read all the notes about him from past students on his fb page, it turns out he made *a lot* of people feel special with his words. He was an absolute gem to so many people and I am going to miss the heck out of him. Thank you Dr. H.

Dawn Bajis - March 13, 2023 at 06:29 PM

SS

Such a wonderful professor. I truly enjoyed his lectures and and honesty. Happy he was a part of my college experience.

Sheila Suppes - March 14, 2023 at 12:09 PM

CO

*My prayers go out to you Kay and your family. I just read. There are no words, I'm so sorry.
Love Cookie*

Cookie - March 15, 2023 at 02:25 AM

DO

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Kay. I never met him but from what I read he was an outstanding human being. I'm sure his loss with be felt. Hugs.

Dot - March 15, 2023 at 04:06 PM

AH

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I know how hard it is to accept. Jack will always be a part of your life. Anne Humrichouser

Anne Humrichouser - March 24, 2023 at 11:17 AM

SW

Kay my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!

Sally Wisecarver - March 24, 2023 at 02:04 PM

KL

Heaven is getting a good one

kent Lincoln - March 28, 2023 at 01:22 PM

DS

He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself when I was a confused CMU student. He was a teacher, mentor and friend. I am shocked and so sad.

David Sehoyan - March 29, 2023 at 01:45 PM

LC

What a shock. I just heard about his passing. It was always a pleasure to talk with him. I met John about 10 years ago at a Liberty Township meeting and, ultimately, a group to help save our fire department. We would talk from time to time, and I respected his input and thoughts. God Bless you, and R.I.P., my friend; you will be missed.

Larry Coolidge

Larry Coolidge - March 31, 2023 at 09:44 AM