



Uldis Jaunzemis

Uldis “John” Jaunzemis, age 87, of Southport, NC passed away on January 24, 2023 after a brief illness. Born in Liepaja, Latvia, the Jaunzemis family fled Latvia to escape Communism in 1944. After five years of being refugees in war torn Germany, the family immigrated to the United States in 1949 when John was 14 years old.

After high school, he proudly served his new country as a U.S. Marine and became a jet mechanic assigned to Fighter Squadron VMF 333 in Beaufort, SC. While in the Marine Corp, John married Delcy Ott of Savannah, GA and settled in Charleston, SC to start a family. With his military experience, linguistic abilities and other special skills, he continued to serve the US Government as a civilian in classified operations.

John had a wide ranging career including machinist, mechanic, restaurant manager and in manufacturing. His career took him throughout the Southeast and Midwest, but retirement brought him back South to Boiling Spring Lakes and Southport. John and Delcy were both active members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport.

John was a passionate golfer and once said “Life is good! I play golf at the drop of a hat. My handicap is 14 and I have shot my age three times, twice at 79 and once at 80.” In retirement, he also worked part time at The Clubs at St. James.

John never met a stranger and was always willing to help others. He was a do-it-yourselfer and tinkerer who could fix or work on anything. He enjoyed a

daily cigar and bike ride to the Dutchmen Creek Boat Ramp.

John was a devoted family man, loving father, loyal friend and leader by example. Most of all, John was always grateful and wrote "I feel that our family prospered and had a very good life in the USA. We were able to contribute by serving in the military. After a day on the golf course, I sit on my back porch and am thankful to God and this country for prosperity, religious freedom and all the opportunities we had as immigrants."

John is preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Delcy Jaunzemis.

John is survived by son Don and wife Mary, son Randy and wife Karen, daughter Dana and wife Tammy, 7 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Elizabeth "Betty" Stalls, loving partner. Siblings Agris and Aija and their families.

A celebration of John's life will be held at Trinity United Methodist in Southport, NC on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 2pm.

Tribute Wall

LD

“ So sorry to hear this. He and Delcy were wonderful friends and neighbors.

Linda Dalton - March 04, 2024 at 03:33 PM

MK

“ My condolences.

Megan Kotila - February 01, 2023 at 11:09 AM

BA

“ May the lord comfort your family in this time of need. I feel truly blessed to have known your father.

Brian and Linda adkins - January 30, 2023 at 03:02 PM

RW

“ We were John's neighbors and I will miss seeing him ride his bike with his cigar and always the greeting " hello neighbor " Rest in peace

Ron and Fay Wynne - January 29, 2023 at 08:55 AM

BW

“ We had the honor of meeting this wonderful man. We so saddened to hear the news of his passing. Wishing you peace and love.
Sarina & Bobby

Bobby & Sarina Wall - January 28, 2023 at 11:02 PM

HB

“ I did not know John well, but he seemed to be such a gentle, kind man!

Hal Bolin - January 27, 2023 at 04:18 PM

JL

“ Joe and I will always remember John as the faithful coffee maker for years on Sunday mornings. In a time before drip coffee makers and push pots, John came in very early to get the huge percolators going with both decaf and regular coffees. He was always happy to be there and the perfect gentleman greeter. He will be missed.

Joe and Marty Loughin - January 27, 2023 at 01:15 PM

DW

“ I worked with John, "J.J." at the Columbus Casa Gallardo. He was like a surrogate father or big-brother. He and his wife had me over to dinner when I was feeling homesick, and he always let me pick up overtime when cash was tight. His words of wisdom and open, honest opinions about life were one of the reasons I ended up spending 20-years with General Mills / Darden. He definitely had an impact on my young adult development. He ALWAYS boasted about all of his children. He was so proud of them! Rest in Peace, J.J.

Donna Salee West - January 27, 2023 at 12:07 AM

LD

“ Dana and family, I'm so sorry for your loss, may God give you comfort.

Loving thoughts
LuAnn & Emily

LuAnn Crees & Emily Davis - January 26, 2023 at 09:11 PM

KW

“ I remember John coming to visit our office (I worked with Dana, his daughter) and he would have such a large presence, and was so vivacious and genuine and so sweet. His voice would carry through the building and when he walked through he would always say hello to all of us. He will be missed but can now be at peace. Sending much love to his family and friends, especially my good friends Dana and Tammy.

Kim Wilbur - January 26, 2023 at 08:58 PM

BB

“ He was a very nice and kind man. So sorry for ur loss.

Bryant Brenda - January 26, 2023 at 05:23 PM

TB

“ My heartfelt condolences to your entire family in this difficult time. Wishing you peace and comfort. May God receive your father in Heaven.

Trent Bennett - January 26, 2023 at 05:14 PM

DK

“ Uldis is my favorite uncle. I've said that more times than I can count. Always makes me smile thinking of him. A big guy with a big heart and a big smile. I have always been in awe of the life he led and the family he built. He will always be in my heart. Forever.

David Konrad - January 26, 2023 at 03:22 PM