



Jack McClary Burgess

January 25, 1959 - February 21, 2026

Jack McClary Burgess, age 67, passed away peacefully the morning of February 21, 2026, at his home in Corvallis, Oregon with the love of family surrounding him.

Jack was born in Fort Worth, Texas on January 25, 1959, to Richard McClary Burgess, Jr. M.D., and Shirley Donoho Burgess. Jack received a BS in Chemical Engineering from University of Texas, Austin and retired from IBM, Austin, Texas.

May 9, 1986, Jack met the love of his life, Donna, on a blind date and they were married January, 17, 1987. They welcomed daughters Jessica in 1992 and Danielle in 1995, and enjoyed the company of many beloved pets. During their 39 years together, Jack and Donna had many grand adventures and especially loved hiking in the Pecos Wilderness area, New Mexico and spending time at the coast in Newport, Oregon with family and friends.

Jack last resided in the Stoneybrook Village community and was well-loved. He was instrumental in setting up Zoom meetings so that family could connect during the COVID pandemic, and enjoyed participating in Unlike Minds—a venue for discussing thought-provoking topics. Jack was an autodidactic life-long learner, an avid reader and a man of many passions, including singing, astronomy, economics, technology, and all things Tesla. He will be

remembered fondly for his love of family and friends, his generosity, curiosity, and clever wit (what a great teller of very long jokes!).

Jack will be missed by his wife and best friend, Donna; children Jessica and Danielle (and son-in-law Jacob); his brother Richard Lynn Burgess (and sister-in-law Janie); as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

Jack was predeceased by his parents, Richard McClary Burgess, Jr. M.D., and Shirley Donoho Burgess; and his sister Emily Jean Robertson.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at McHenry Funeral Home, 206 NW 5th St, Corvallis, Oregon.

Memorial donations may be made to Lumina Hospice & Palliative Care, 720 SW 4th St, Corvallis, OR 97333; Partners In Health, PO Box 996, Frederick, MD 21705; American Cancer Society, PO Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741; or American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 520 8th Ave, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

“Love supplies a kind of strength that can withstand even death.”

– Terry Brooks, The Sword of Shannara

To view a livestream of Jack's memorial service click here: <https://youtube.com/live/Z3h0vJfGn24>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 14. 1:00 PM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 757-8141
info@mchenryfuneralhome.com

A livestream of the service can be viewed here: <https://youtube.com/live/Z3h0vJfGn24>

Tribute Wall

KU

“ I met Jack in 1984 when I joined IBM out of college. What I appreciated most about Jack was his friendly smile and greeting. We would hear him humming or singing in the hallways, very pleasantly. He was always so encouraging and a pleasure to work with. I was so happy for Jack and Donna when they met each other and then married. My husband and I attended their wedding.

Jack truly cared about others. His sweet nature brought joy to our workplace.

He will be so missed.

Kim Ulmer - April 25 at 10:55 PM

SL

“ I met Jack in 1984 when I started working at the same company he was at. We worked in the same lab, and not many people had access, so you could have headphones and listen to music, which wasn't generally allowed in offices. One morning I came into the lab and Jack was there, with headphones on, singing "Simple Song" from Bernstein's Mass at the top of his lungs. Despite the title, the piece is not at all simple, but Jack was singing it perfectly in his lovely tenor.

I'm a musician as well, and music was just one of the interests we shared. Jack was a good engineer, but where he excelled, was almost unique, was his ability to hold on to his humanity in the corporate world, to approach everyone with empathy. He was a gentle soul, and I admired how he held on to that, sometimes at personal cost to his career.

At one point he needed a piano and I (a guitar player) had one I didn't really need, so he traded for a guitar he wasn't using. Jack, wherever you are, I'm still playing regularly, I still have that guitar, and it's gotten lots of love over the decades. I still think of Jack when I play it.

Rest in peace, my friend. The world is better for you having shared your life and that amazing voice.

Stephen Linam - March 26 at 01:57 PM

WL

“ Jack is a rare person in the best ways. He's warm, upbeat and very brilliant. We met in 1990 at IBM. I had transferred from a software division to the young and growing UNIX server division. The department was focused on developing system assurance software. Jack was leading the technical effort. He was very welcoming and assuring that I'd fit in perfectly with the other wild ducks. Jack became my mentor, advocate and close friend. Our group was very tightly knit, even beyond work, and Jack was the catalyst. He had faith in us, as we had in him, which brought out our best and gave momentum to successful careers. Jack also had a great sense of humor which mitigated the frequent stress.

After both of our families moved to Georgetown and children went to the same schools, there were fortunately more opportunities to socialize. It was always a pleasure to talk with Jack and Donna. Their kindness plus breadth and depth of knowledge was always amazing.

Jack, we still have a lot to discuss. Godspeed and God bless you. I'll catch up with you on the other side.

Woody Lemcke - March 15 at 02:09 PM

GF

“ Jack "the nose" Burgess -- his alias in choir and "The Great Eight" barbershop octet in high school. Jack's involvement at Theodore Roosevelt was fun for us who knew him. He had funny nick-names for us too! Jack, you will be missed at the 50 year reunion. We will share and remember good stories to tell about you being fun, weird, witty, dedicated, talented and smart -- and how you wore a toothbrush on a string around your neck for months. Yep, that's Jack.

My heart felt sympathy to your wife, your children, and the rest of your family. May your memories warm them and carry them through this difficult time.

Grace Montgomery Faulkner - March 14 at 02:48 PM

KH

“ Besides being the kind of friend that just about anyone would like to have, Jack 's zest for life, keen wit, and contagious sense of humor make's him a gift to know and a joy to be around. He was an incredible business partner for our two day operation that netted a great ROI as teenagers and memories that will last a lifetime, and thereafter.

Ken Hillner - March 08 at 04:52 PM

“ *In Loving Memory of Jack Burgess*

Jack Burgess — friend, adventurer, musician, and quietly brilliant engineer — passed away leaving behind a lifetime of stories and a long list of people who love him. I met Jack when he started high school; we were friends through those years and college roommates soon after. From the very beginning he was the kind of person who made ordinary days feel like part of a grander adventure.

Our shared love of the outdoors shaped some of my fondest memories of Jack. We began those adventures camping on Padre Island, where our only rule for choosing a site was “one mile past the last person we saw.” When we reached the sign that read “four-wheel-drive only beyond this point,” we both knew the fun was about to begin. As engineering students we moved from beaches to mountains — the Pecos wilderness became our playground, and we explored other mountainous areas across New Mexico and West Texas. We spent countless trips honing camping and backpacking skills. Jack was fastidious about balancing the weight in his pack; we often spent more time than seems sane making sure the load was perfect — and somehow that carefulness always made the trip better, even when weather and terrain didn’t cooperate.

Jack was thoughtful and exceptionally well prepared, which balanced my more “fly by the seat of your pants” approach. He was generous in bringing others along on our trips — we even took several journeys with my father in tow — and his calm competence gave everyone confidence. Outside of the wilderness, Jack and I shared a love of music and performed together many times. He was endlessly inventive with jokes and spontaneous puns; I wish I could recall every one, but I still find myself telling some of them and smiling the way he would.

Jack and I also shared a passion for science. Both of us earned degrees in chemical engineering, and Jack’s curiosity naturally extended into computers — I still laugh remembering his part-time job at a computer company with room-sized mainframes and magnetic tape storage. He was famously slow to buy a personal computer because he always assumed the next one would be

better. That patience and thoughtful restraint were part of what made Jack who he was.

I remember clearly the first time Jack met Donna — how naturally their relationship grew. Jack was loyal, caring, and generous; Donna was a perfect match, and their life together made him an even better man. Jack's steadiness, kindness, and quiet humor left an imprint on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

We will miss Jack — his jokes, his steady presence in the backcountry, his music, and the gentle competence he brought to everything he touched. He shaped many of the best parts of my life; I am grateful for every year of friendship. Rest well my friend - Jack, you will always be remembered and cherished.

Larry Clarke - March 06 at 09:18 AM

SF

That's a very beautiful, moving tribute to your dear friend, Larry.

Sherillyn F. - March 11 at 03:10 AM

BR

“ *I will remember Jack as a kind neighbor who was always willing to help with computer problems.* ”

Barbara Rossbacher - February 26 at 12:38 PM