

## Tribute to John “Jack” Hurd (1934-2018)

Ruth and I met Alice and Jack Hurd soon after we arrived in Kent in 1966. Over the years, we attended many Kent State University Football games and social events with them. Jack, who was an excellent piano player, was usually the hit of every party, as he would play for group singing and take requests for everyone’s favorite song. After his retirement as a career long administrator (and band director) in the Kent City schools, he kept his schedule filled with piano gigs in the area. He was a popular entertainer.

I will always remember one particular aspect of our friendship. When Ruth and I would arrive at any local social event, where Jack might be providing the background music, Jack always, but without any fanfare, started playing my two favorite tunes...**Stars Shine Over Alabama** and **Moonlight in Vermont**. We would exchange head nods...what a nice personal hello. I suppose he did this for others as he seemed to know everyone’s favorite song.

After his retirement, Jack joined the Kent Rotary and was immediately recruited to be our “Piano Man” for the Tuesday luncheons. He would frequently invite other local musicians to join him and they would provide beautiful music during lunch. Jack would often tell the history of the next few songs they would be playing. His music was frosting on the meeting cake each week.

Jack was a husband, father, grandfather, and of course, teacher. Outside of the immediate family, I suspect he will be best remembered for his ability to bring much joy to so many through his ability to entertain.

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