



## SENATOR JACK FAXON

June 9, 1936 - January 9, 2020

SERVICES: 11:30 AM SUNDAY 01/12/2020 at HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE TRIBUTE PAGE FOR A WEBCAST OF THE FUNERAL.

Hon. Jack Faxon, 83 years of age, died peacefully in his sleep on January 9th, 2020.

Jack was born in Detroit on June 9, 1936. Son of Morris Faxon and Pauline (Krimsky) Faxon. He graduated from Central High School in Detroit and received a B.S. and Masters in Education from Wayne State University, as well as a Masters in History from the University of Michigan.

Jack began his long and remarkable career teaching government at Southwestern High School in Detroit; in 1961 he was the youngest delegate elected to the Michigan Constitutional Convention and went on to serve 15 sessions in the Michigan State Legislature. Jack was an avid art collector and enthusiast, and among the many accomplishments of his political career, one he was most proud of was establishing funding for the arts and creating the Michigan Council for the Arts. Jack was also extremely passionate about education; he was headmaster of City School of Detroit, and until recently

served as headmaster of the International School in Farmington Hills, a multilingual academy that he founded in 1968.

Jack, a man of great warmth, loved and was loved by his family, students, constituents, and countless friends. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his sister, Lorraine Faxon Meisner, his nieces and nephews Anne Meisner, Bill Meisner, Jeffrey Meisner, Roberto Herrera and Lisa Meisner; great nephew Justin Herrera, and cousin Benjamin Krinsky along with his loving family.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held this Sunday, January 12th at 11:30am at Hebrew Memorial Chapel in Oak Park, MI.

**OFFICIATING:**

Rabbi E. B. Freedman

**INTERMENT:**

Hebrew Memorial Park/Radomer

**SHIVA:**

Lorraine will be returning home for Shiva observance.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Charity of Choice

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 12. 11:30 AM (ET)

Hebrew Memorial Chapel  
26640 Greenfield Rd  
Oak Park, MI 48237  
(248) 543-1622  
info@hebrewmemorial.org  
<https://www.hebrewmemorial.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of SENATOR JACK FAXON*



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**Hebrew Memorial Chapel** - January 12, 2020 at 09:06 AM

LB

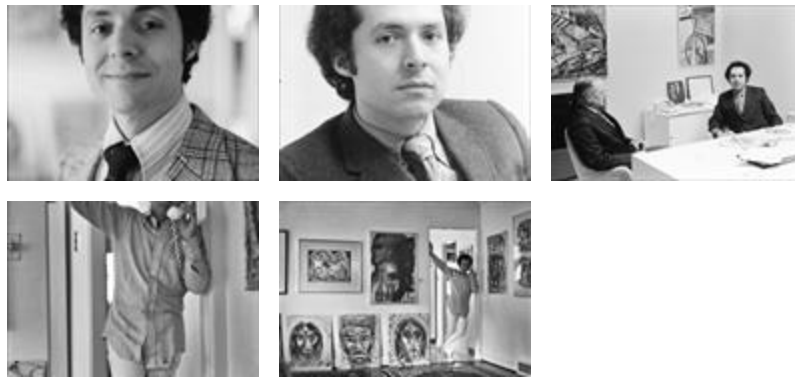
*I visited you all the time in NYC..I will really miss you.*

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**Lzwrence Blair** - May 08, 2020 at 07:41 PM

KN

“ *8 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Ken Nelson** - September 21, 2022 at 04:34 PM

KN

“ In the early 1970's Jack gave me several opportunities to drive him from Detroit to Lansing so he could attend state congress. What a thrill that was for a brand new driver attending Redford High School. I sat with him on the Senate floor. He introduced me to Detroit's new mayor, Colman Young. He coached me on the use of florid words. There was always something new happening and somewhere new to go and live a new experience. Such great memories of a kindhearted, generous, happy mentor.

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**Ken Nelson** - September 21, 2022 at 10:04 AM

JG

“ Only recently did I learn of his passing. I think he and I were first elected to office the same say in November, 1966. I still have a memory of the bright-eyed young man with jet back hair, looking at the election results in the lobby of the City-county Building, later CAYMC, both of us relishing the results. I followed his career for a long time but got engrossed in my own and am sorry I didn't see him more often in the intervening years. Late condolences to family and friends.

*Bill Giovan*

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**Judge William J. Giovan** - December 08, 2020 at 02:26 PM

JA

“ 11 files added to the album *Memories Album*



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**John Ang** - October 18, 2020 at 03:01 PM

JA

“ John Ang

May 3 ·

*Last week I was going through my mail and I saw a bunch of letters from Senator Jack Faxon. I immediately sent him an email to say it has been a long time since we corresponded and it would be great to catch up. As I did not get a reply I went on google and was horrified to find that he passed away last year without my knowing.*

*When many of you see my posts I believe that none know that my eclectic taste for the arts, my love for African art, Chinese carpets, Korean ceramics, modern abstract art, Moroccan rugs, opera, Indian art, pre-Columbian art modern furniture were all inspired by my mentor Senator Jack Faxon.*

*It must have been fate that brought us together. It was on the day I went to interview for a job as a researcher at a Chinese antique gallery in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. That day I ended up with two jobs, one at the gallery and the other as a caretaker for the home of Senator Jack Faxon, who happened to be shopping at the antique gallery where I was having my interview.*

*It was a home in Birmingham Michigan that I had to look after while Senator Faxon worked in Lansing Michigan. Meeting Jack and seeing his home not only opened my eyes to the amazing world of all the arts of the world but also inspired me to be more curious about life and live it to the fullest.*

*Jack was not only my boss but also one of my dearest friends and mentor. He would bring me to famous collectors' homes to see some of the best collections of art in the world, such as the home of the renown modern art collector Lydia Malbin, of New York, where I saw authentic works by Jackson Pollack, Umberto Boccioni, and Alexander Calder, Hawkins Ferry of Gross Pointe where I saw my first Harry Bertoia, the tallest Giacometti sculpture and the largest Adolf Gottlieb, C.C. Wang of New York where I saw an actual painting by Ni Tsan. Jack loved opera too and would sometimes*

*bring me to watch famous opera singers such as Kathleen Battle.*

*Whenever he was free we would discuss art, from huanghuali furniture to Beijing glass to Georgia O'Keefe to Huang Binhung. In fact, I saw my first huanghuali table in 1982 at his house. His breadth of knowledge and collection was just astounding.*

*In politics, Jack was amazing as he demonstrated to me that things can be done to change the world for the better. It was through his hard work that the Detroit Institute of Arts survived and the Detroit Opera and Symphony Orchestra received government funding. He was also instrumental in establishing an international school of high repute in Michigan.*

*Jack had the gift of the gab. He was a guy who could speak on any subject matter whether he knew anything about it or not. I remember once at a plumbers' convention he entertained an audience of plumbers without knowing anything about plumbing and another time he made everyone at a funeral laugh so much that they forgot they were at a funeral.*

*Jack will always be in my heart and mind. My love for the arts and my zest for life until today have been very much influenced by him. Although I am deeply saddened over this news his soul still continues to touch me and may his soul continue to touch and inspire all the people who were lucky to have known him and may he rest in peace.*

*Miss you Jack.*

*John Ang - johnkma@gmail.com*

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**John Ang** - October 18, 2020 at 02:45 PM

KS

“ I just discovered that an old friend I so dearly admired had passed in January 2020. I met this remarkable and brilliant polymath thinker in 1970, when I attended Wayne State University. Our close friendship lasted several years until we walked separate paths.

*I was intimately familiar with Jack's commitment to education and the Arts. He was both a gifted teacher and wonderful artist. He was a prolific artist in his own right, having had national exhibitions of his tremendous pictorial art talent. He had a wonderful, and slightly wicked, sense of humor and a great, enduring love of all humanity.*

*I never heard him utter an unkind word to or about anyone, either in public or private. I never heard him use any form of vulgarity under any circumstances, even when dealing with some very obstinate political opponents. He was a consummate public servant of the highest caliber, and during his tenure in the Michigan State Senate, he was once the fourth most powerful elected official in Michigan, acting as President Pro Tempore of the Senate.*

*He was highly regarded by our late former Governor William Milliken, who remarked to me on one occasion how much pleasure he had in working "across the aisle" with Jack, whose wife, Helen, thought very highly of Jack's commitment to humanitarianism and civil and human rights advancements throughout his public service career.*

*He was, and remains, the best friend I ever had in my life. I will never forget him. I will cherish his memory as long as I live.*

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**Kent Shultz** - April 30, 2020 at 09:01 PM

JC

“ I just learned during this easter time that Mister Jack Faxon is passed away in january. I had a great honor to meet him in summer 1987 when I came from France doing an internship in Continental Cablevision near Detroit. With connection with someone from the TV, he offers me the possibility to be hosted in his home. I had such a great time with this so funny gentleman, very involved in arts and open minded. His personality with his russian and jewish european culture was full of warmness. At that time, his mother was still alive at his home in Farmington Hills and he was taking care of her with kindness. I remember that one day, Senator Faxon brought me to a wedding in Detroit and we were the only "white" people. He was very respected and aware about the diversity of people, he was the same with rich and poor, I think because he never forgot from where he was coming from. A lot of memories and good experiences come to my mind about these six weeks I spent in his house. Unfortunately beside I came sometimes in the USA since that time for my work as sound engineer on documentaries, I never had the opportunity to see him again. Just a few years ago, I sent a mail to the school he create and I had his personal adress. Then we exchange some mails and I had the pleasure to have some exchange with him occasionnaly. I have some pictures with Jack that I can share but actually with Covid-19 in France, I can't reach the place where these pictures are located. I will keep memory of Senator Jack Faxon on my heart and hold his legendary smile as a torch to shine a light in these troubled times.

Jean Luc Cesco. 04-13-2020

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Jean Luc Cesco - April 13, 2020 at 06:23 AM

JB

“ I first met Jack in 1959 when I was 12. He taught school with My mother Mya Bruno and would pick her up in his Peugeot 404. He was on Kentucky and we lived by U of D. He got me involved in Teen Dems. He was the Liaison to the Party just before his election to the Constitutional Convention. Later I started my own construction business and I worked on every house he owned Rosedale Park, Farmington Hills and finally Birmingham where I did an addition. I hung all the work he brought from Farmington to Birmingham. I would have say he was obsessed with a need to fill any void. I was amazed that with all the time I spent with Jack I completely missed his passing. I was shocked. He attended my wedding in 1984 and visited my parents in California when they were retired.



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**John Bruno** - March 24, 2020 at 03:21 PM



*Jack attended my wedding (John Bruno and Rosemary Ziemba) June30,1984. Pictured are Jack and myself with Peter Stacey and his son Aaron.*

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**John Bruno** - May 16, 2021 at 09:12 PM

DW

“ Jack would come to visit its on Sundays at the Royal Oak Market. He'd joke and say funny things in Yiddish to make us laugh. one time i was talking to my mother and he took my phone so her could joke with her if m in Yiddish like their parents spoke, and found out they grew up in the same neighborhood up in Detroit 60-70 years earlier. He always found a delightful way to connect to everyone. Never forgotten, your light will always shine. RIP, my friend.

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**Daya Waldman** - March 01, 2020 at 10:58 PM

KK

“ Mr. Jack Faxon visited my second grade class in 1976 at Vernor Elementary School in Detroit. I had no idea what an elected representative was or what they did, but it is safe to say that he was the first politician I ever met. As I now live in Washington, DC, he must have been the high point as it has been downhill ever since. Mr. Faxon had a lasting impact as I still remember his name from that first and only encounter. It is amazing what we remember as kids. I have not seen him in 45 years, but I could pick him out in a line up as I remember that (jewish) afro as seen in this article. I sill have at my mother's house a State pamphlet that he distributed -- he signed mine!!! Its kind of odd that I cherished it -- my first signature of someone famous. I'll have to find that the next time I am home. I haven't followed him, but based on the article, he clearly lived a life of service, both to others and in government. Now I have more reason to admire him. I am saddened by the loss, but I am grateful for is works. I cannot help but to believe that I was meant to trip over the article today. What a memory. May God bless you Mr. Faxon and thanks for taking the time to visit my school. - Keith

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**KKells** - January 18, 2020 at 02:28 PM

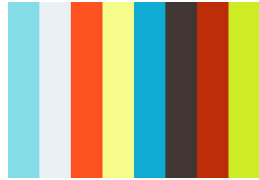


“ *Senator Faxon's presence and excitement for Politics got me interested in politics. Because my exposure to Jack, I became an active supporter of the Democratic Party of Michigan from the early 1960's on... I haven't seen him in many years, but every Democrat I know always said great things. He will be missed.*

Joel Waldbott - January 17, 2020 at 11:54 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Leonid Krinsky - January 13, 2020 at 03:52 PM



*Jack and I shared our eclectic love and appreciation of the creative art world that spanned all forms of expression and cultures. How fortunate was I to have such a wonderful friendship !!*

Norman R Weingarden - January 13, 2020 at 05:13 PM

FH

*So sorry to have heard of Jack,s passing. Not knowing of Jack's history at the time of first meeting him, of his being a state senator, singer ,dancer , educator and all the other hats he wore may have been advantageous in my discovering his many talents. Viewing this video of Jack's collection as good as it is , doesn't do it justice. Having been invited to view this superb collection in person,as a guest of Jack's, was indeed an honor and a privilege and a most educational experience that I will not forget. The shear magnitude and quality of these artifacts made me feel I was indeed in the DIA . Jack made you feel right at home being most unpretentious and affable in his telling of his many adventures and of the love of acquiring each and every piece of art ,explaining the history of how , when and where they were acquired .I do hope you get a chance to view some of his collection in person at the DIA. He and his love of arts and being a great neighbor to my daughter will greatly missed. Frank Henry*

Frank Henry - January 13, 2020 at 08:46 PM

VL

*I just learned a few minutes ago of Jack's passing. Earlier today I spoke of him to a gentleman although It has been decades since I last saw Jack. I worked in the Michigan Senate for him during second term as Senator. He inspired me to later become a Middle School Social Studies teacher for almost 20 years. My was he inspiring and a creative human being. As I live, so will his memory. Victor Langhorne, former legislative aide (1975-1978)*

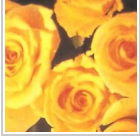
Victor Langhorne - January 18, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Leonid Krimsky - January 13, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ My daughters, Anne and Laura, attended the City School of Detroit, having become fabulous human beings due to Jack's unconditional love and dedication to humanity being "carefully taught," in general; my daughters, in particular! He'll always be with our family "in Spirit!"

Respectfully,

Dr. Margaret Dwyer, Executive Director, Energy Medicine Research Institute and owner of Listening with the Heart, LLC.

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Margaret Dwyer - January 12, 2020 at 05:39 PM

JT

“ From Jack's obituary: “even though he never married, as an educator, he would tell people he had ‘many children, but none of his own.’” As one of his ‘many children’ I am so very thankful for the outsized influence Jack had on my life. I was a student at his first school, the City School of Detroit, from 1971-1977; I worked in his Senate Office from 1990-1993; and I was the Founding Board Chair of Faxon Language Immersion Academy, a charter school making the immersion curriculum Jack pioneered available to students tuition-free. Most importantly, I loved him like a bonus dad, and always knew he loved me as a bonus daughter ❤️.

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Jamina Tepley - January 12, 2020 at 04:15 PM

FH

“ Being the father of Jack's neighbor Lisa and Joern, I got to meet Jack at my grandson's outside birthday party six years ago. He presented himself like he had known us and had been our friend for years. What impressed me about Jack was his friendliness and knowledge. After meeting him a few times later , he invited us over to see his collection of art. What a fabulous collection it is! I would have liked to have known him better. Shalom ,RIP Jack . Frank Henry

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Frank Henry - January 12, 2020 at 01:01 PM

AE

“ Jack with Leyahla’s daughter, son and grandson



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**andrew ellison** - January 12, 2020 at 11:24 AM

KE

*Im in search of “Krimsky’s”.  
My mother is - Lillian Rae Ezray  
Born from - Rose (Krimsky) Ezray.  
Cousin of - Lorraine.  
I am Karly Katlein, Rose’s granddaughter.  
I have no memories of meeting my mothers birth family.  
Roses grandson- Joe Katlein (my brother) attended Jacks service, he  
is more reserved than I.  
I know Roses maiden name, but that’s all.  
Would any family members be interested in meeting?  
Jack would love that and so would we!  
katlein@icloud.com*

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**karly katlein ellison** - June 16, 2020 at 09:24 PM

RL

“ Jack Faxon was a living legend to me as I grew up in Detroit.  
Especially during my late elementary and junior high years. He was  
instrumental in my interest and involvement in politics in my  
youth.....he spoke to our civics club and I was especially impressed  
with his dedication and advocacy related to public school  
education....education period. He was a beacon to many.....may his  
memory be for a blessing!

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**Ruthe Levy** - January 12, 2020 at 11:23 AM

DW

“ *In loving memory of Jack Faxon ..  
I am Dianna Warren, the daughter of the late Donald Warren, who was a dear friend of Jack Faxon since they were in their teens. After my Fathers passing, Jack truly reached out and helped and supported especially me at that time ...since then we would meet periodically to connect in NYC and would give me a loving snack and share dance, music, art, and laughs together . I am so very sad not to be there. Grateful to love & know him.  
Peace Prayers and Blessings*

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**Dianna Warren** - January 12, 2020 at 10:27 AM

AS

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Senator Faxon years ago in my capacity as the Religious Director at the Fleischman Residence. For all of his accomplishments, Jack was an extremely humble individual, and easily approachable. He was a frequent guest speaker at programs held at the Hechtman Apartments. Whenever we met, he always greeted me warmly and knew my name. He was first and foremost a mensch! He will certainly be missed. May his memory be a blessing!!  
- Rabbi Avie Shapiro*

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**Avie Shapiro** - January 12, 2020 at 01:48 AM

KW

“ *A neighbor in my younger years and a friend for some 57+ years. A natural mentor. Jack/Senator, you will be missed. It is a heavy baton but I will carry my part of it.*

*Keith White*

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**K J White** - January 12, 2020 at 12:39 AM

LL

“ Sad to hear of Jack’s death. He and I were classmates at Central High. He was always full of life, ideas and ideals. I’ll miss him and the way he’d greet me “Lillian Horwitz! I love you”. His style and character left an indelible mark on all who had the honor of being in his presence. May his memory be a guidepost and a blessing.

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**Lillian Lerman** - January 11, 2020 at 06:03 PM

JW

“ I’m sorry to have heard of Jack’s passing. I was an across-the-street neighbor on Kentucky in the 50’s and 60’s.

*At about the age of 10, I was recruited by Jack to stuff envelopes and deliver flyers (with the permission of my parents) in his campaigns for Con-Con, JFK’s run for the presidency and John Swainson’s run for governor of Michigan. There were a few wet and cold days pounding the pavement on the "campaign trail", but a hot chocolate at a nearby restaurant made it worthwhile.*

*In later years it was always a pleasure to see Jack at a social event or just around town. I’ll never forget the time that Jack invited my onto the the floor of the House. What an awesome experience.*

*It was a pleasure to have known and "worked" for Jack. My condolences to the extended Faxon family.*

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**Jeffrey Weiss** - January 11, 2020 at 04:51 PM

JA

“ I met Jack when he was my state senator. He had a wonderful sense of humor and always had a smile on his face. He was the true essence of what our representatives should be- mindful of his constituents, a gentleman, full of intelligence but most importantly, he had the morality that is so hard to find today. I also always appreciated that when he no longer needed my vote, he still always remembered my name and treated me with the same warmth as always. I also admire his endeavors in the field of education. He has left a legacy and will always be remembered with fondness.

*Judy Ancell*

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**Judith Ancell** - January 11, 2020 at 03:35 PM

LC

“ I will remember Jack Faxon as an advocate for public education who had no equal. He was a brilliant individual who left a very long and deep mark.

*--Lt. Governor John Cherry*

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**Lt. Governor John Cherry** - January 11, 2020 at 03:01 PM

BV

“ Sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I worked with Jack at the International School for a short while and I know he will be missed. Jack had a great sense of humor and a passion for education and the arts. He always had some words of advise if needed and he was a great mentor. Both, my daughter Tina and oldest grandson Steven attended the School while I worked there as a Secretary. My condolences to the Family!  
*Beate Ventura and Family*

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**Beate Ventura** - January 11, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ *Very sorry to hear about his passing. As a college intern, he supported my interest in working in state government as a college intern and wrote a recommendation letter that I still have and appreciate.*

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**Jim Frishman** - January 10, 2020 at 11:11 PM



“ *Jack was a member of the Radomer Aid society for over 50 years contributions may be made in his memory to the rRadomer Aid Society at 5834 Cherrywood apartment 2407 W. Bloomfield, MI 48322 Sandra Tuttleman president thank you he will be so missed.*

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**Sandra Tuttleman** - January 10, 2020 at 07:02 PM

BB

*Jack and I served in the state House of Representatives together, and we entered the state Senate together in 1971. Jack outlasted me by far, serving 30 years in the Legislature. He was one of a kind. There was nobody like him, before or since. Colorful, funny, and indefatigable in pursuit of the causes for which he cared, particularly K-12 education and the arts. He was one of the last half-dozen delegates to the 1961-62 state Constitutional Convention left until just a few days ago ... Ave atque vale! ... --- Bill Ballenger*

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**Bill Ballenger** - January 11, 2020 at 04:03 PM

RK

“ *A cherished friend and insistent mentor, Jack was a remarkable man. Already, my memories are filled with joy. We have lost a treasure.*

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**Razor Khan** - January 10, 2020 at 06:32 PM



“ *A true friend and a big help to me when I had to fight the government, also a past neighbor and a wonderful friend.*  
*Gary H. Grossman*

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**Gary H Grossman** - January 10, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Jack's passing. He was a dear family friend of my father and my uncle, helping them in their various business ventures. His love of life translated into so many facets of everything he did and his voice will be greatly missed.*

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**Ida Benson** - January 10, 2020 at 09:00 AM



*I met Representative Faxon at Schulze Junior High School, while I was a student. He visited regularly as part of a civics lesson to explain the legislative process. He was a lovely, lovely man. I regret I never had the chance to tell Jack how much he was appreciated.*

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**Cary Gersh** - January 10, 2020 at 12:18 PM



*I extend my sympathy to Jacks family. He had a great sense of humor.*

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**Sandra Tuttleman** - January 10, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ *Jack Lessenberry*  
*1 hr ·*  
*I have just sadly learned that former State Sen. Jack Faxon died today. He was a fascinating and many-faceted man who did much for the arts in this state, was a noted educator, and was one of the very last surviving delegates to our last Constitutional Convention*

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**Jack Lessenberry** - January 09, 2020 at 06:19 PM

IL

“ *My sincere condolences to all his friends and family. I enjoyed visiting Jack at his home - there was always something new to see. He took great pleasure when I noticed that he had moved objects around, which he did often for the sheer pleasure of new juxtapositions. I will miss him so much. Iva Lisikewycz*

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**Iva Lisikewycz** - January 09, 2020 at 06:10 PM

TB

*A truly unique man. A man facile with words both English and Yiddish. His mellifluous Yiddish was always a joy to listen to..... A couple years ago he acted in a Russian play. In Russian.... Did 500 push ups daily up to two years ago (he read somewhere it was a good thing to do for your health. He was loved by the Baron and Hoffman family for many many years, and will be dearly missed.  
Tony Baron*

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**tony baron** - January 11, 2020 at 01:53 PM

TS

“ *I was deeply saddened to receive this news. Jack was truly a Renaissance man and a delightful person. He was a bundle of energy. My favorite memory of him was visiting him in New York City a number of years ago when he asked me to walk with him about 40-50 city blocks to a gallery. I had trouble keeping up! Terry Segal*

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**Terry Segal** - January 09, 2020 at 05:50 PM

LM

“ Very, very sad news. My husband, Don Mendelson and I have known him for many, many years as Jack had been so active in the arts as well as an avid art collector. Don first met him when he was in 9th grade Durfee Jr. High and Jack was his very young student teacher! So even as they both grew elderly and were both senior citizens, Jack always affectionately called Don his little "boychick" (Yiddish term of endearment for young boy)!

Linda Mendelson - January 09, 2020 at 05:30 PM

NP

I was informed today by a friend that Senator Jack Faxon passed on. What a interesting person who wore many hats. My memories of him goes back to the City school of Detroit which he started, and as headmaster. His caring and articulate way of handling things found a way I could be involved with the school as the asst. administrator. 1972-74 was a pivotal time in my life in this position. God bless him and keep him well. Nathaniel Parker

Nate Parker - January 09, 2020 at 06:27 PM

NW

With much love and wonderful memories of Jack and he will live on forever in the hearts of so many people that he let into his life and whose life he had a positive effect upon. Jack was my friend and his love for my daughter Rachael who, at 3 1/2 years old, began school at the City School of Detroit. Thank you Jack for enriching so many lives because you cared about the people.

Norman R Weingarden - January 10, 2020 at 08:37 AM

LK

I knew Jack for more than 60 years and managed his campaign for senate against Dana Wilson. He instilled a love of politics in my son as well as in me. As a teen dem, I worked on the CocnCon campaign and I remember the headquarters in Jack's basement on Kentucky and the exploding Fargo cola. I worked at the International School for a year. I will miss his sense of humor, his fluency in multiple languages and his commitment to the democratic process. Rest well, Jack. I know that your mother is waiting to make you cottage cheese and noodles.

Lynne Konstant - January 10, 2020 at 09:43 AM

RC

*I first knew "Uncle Jack" when he personally met with me to decide on admitting me early to his school, The City School of Detroit. At four years old, I had no idea he was a busy senator. He was the head of the school and always present, always interacting with us, always sharing stories from his travels. His school reflected his love of the Arts and his love of languages. His office and the school were filled with art.*

*I next encountered Jack during my career working for an architectural antiques emporium. He visited regularly hunting for treasures for his personal residences and for his school. The Jack I loved as a child was equally remarkable to me as an adult.*

*Our conversations skipped over wide arrays of topics where he shared his philosophies on education. In these conversations, I realized how much I had learned from him as a child just by observing him. I learned about the process of learning or how we learn. I learned how significant an impact we can have on others. And I discovered that I shared his commitment to teaching.*

*Jack was a candle that helped countless others burn brighter. His memory is a blessing.*

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**Rachael Clark** - January 10, 2020 at 11:18 AM

LM

*Jack may have saved my son's soul and future. After he was traumatized at his elementary school, Jack took him in to the "Apple" School and restored his confidence and personality with his loving kindness toward children.*

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**Lynne Master** - January 10, 2020 at 01:07 PM

BC

*Wow Jack got me inspired in politics. I passed campaign information for Jack in 1961. I was his scheduler for his brief run for the U.S. House when Martha Griffiths retired in the old 17th. Always will have fond memories of Jack.*

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**B. Canner** - January 10, 2020 at 03:50 PM

LD

*I am very sad to hear of Jack's passing. He was a dear friend to my parents David and Karen DiChiera and early supporter of their efforts to form Michigan Opera Theatre. Through his entire career in the state legislature, he was the most vocal supporter of the need to fund the arts and organizations like MOT for their vital role as in important cultural institution in Detroit and bringing the arts into the public schools as arts education continued to be cut. Jack had several acting roles in MOT productions. Singer Mark Watson reminded me Jack played the corrupt governor in Naughty Marietta in 1977. I remember as a child when he played Prince Orlofsky in Strauss's Die Fledermaus. My dad loved casting him in these roles. As we know, a lot of politicians are great actors and Jack was the best! My dad and I visited him often at his apartment in NYC and Jack attended a performance at Lincoln Center that featured one of my father's works sung by Helen Donath to cheer him on. At my wedding reception in 1996, after my husband and my father, Jack was the next man I danced with and I couldn't keep up. For a wedding gift, Jack gave us one of his paintings and it hangs in our bedroom where I see it everyday. Much love to Jack's family. He will be missed.*

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**Lisa DiChiera** - January 10, 2020 at 04:39 PM

RG

*I had the honor and the privilege of serving with Jack in the state senate for some 16 years and, although we were from opposing political parties, he was unfailingly courteous, kind, and helpful. He used to kid me that if I did not behave, he was going to confiscate my mail. This was based on the fact that although my home was on the south side of 8 Mile Rd in Wayne County, my mail box was across the road in his Oakland County Senate district! When Proposal A passed, the school funding scheme based on per pupil enrollment, Jack said that it was flawed because it would lead to school districts wasting money on advertising and competing to lure pupils from other districts. I told him he was wrong but in this, as in so many things, he proved to be prescient. We served together on the Legislative Retirement Board for several year and, although he did not have children of his own,, he cared deeply about them and worked tirelessly for their education and welfare. 'sorry this is so long, but I did not see any other legislators having commented yet,*

*The state, and the world has lost an inspired soul.*

*Bob Geake*

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**R. Robert Geake** - January 10, 2020 at 04:40 PM

SL

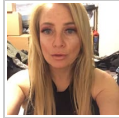
*Anyone who knew Jack well has many warm memories of times with him. He had indefatigable energy and endless curiosity. They ranged over so many areas of life—personal relationships, education of children, cultural doings of all sorts and, of course, politics. He implemented his fervent views with his unique passion at the same time with tolerance of the views of others.*

*Like so many others I enjoyed seeing him again even after long intervals. We will miss Jack Faxon! I deeply regret that I will be away from Michigan and unable to join others in tribute to him on his funeral.*

*Sandy Levin*

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**Sander Levin** - January 11, 2020 at 04:27 PM



*I got to know Senator Faxon well when he visited my elementary, junior, and high schools, many student government groups in which I participated, and also Jewish organizations in the '70s and '80s. He was at all times the epitome of a mensch. Such a good guy, such a delight. Even though I did not agree with him politically on many things and was from the opposite side of the aisle, that did not matter. He was such a good guy and always fought for the little guy (no matter who he or she was). He was also, at all times, a proud Jew, something today's Jewish Democrat officeholders could do well to emulate (and sadly do not). He loved America, Michigan, and the Detroit area and proudly worked all of his life to make them better. He was a man of such great smarts and knowledge, speaking many languages (proudly Yiddish was one of them). He rightly thought it so important that students learn to speak other languages fluently. We were lucky to have him. Zichrono LiVrachah - Of Blessed Memory.*

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**Debbie Schlussel** - January 13, 2020 at 01:25 AM

DS

*I got to know Senator Faxon well when he visited my elementary, junior, and high schools, many student government groups in which I participated, and also Jewish organizations in the '70s and '80s. He was at all times the epitome of a mensch. Such a good guy, such a delight. Even though I did not agree with him politically on many things and was from the opposite side of the aisle, that did not matter. He was such a good guy and always fought for the little guy (no matter who he or she was). He was also, at all times, a proud Jew, something today's Jewish Democrat officeholders could do well to emulate (and sadly do not). He loved America, Michigan, and the Detroit area and proudly worked all of his life to make them better. He was a man of such great smarts and knowledge, speaking many languages (proudly Yiddish was one of them). He rightly thought it so important that students learn to speak other languages fluently. We were lucky to have him. Zichrono LiVrachah - Of Blessed Memory.*

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**Debbie Schlusel** - January 13, 2020 at 01:27 AM