F. Warren Kahn

F. Warren Kahn, a longtime attorney in Niagara County known as much for his sense of humor and love of golf as his respected law practice and influential appointed legal roles, died Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020, surrounded by family in his home in Youngstown. He was 87.

Kahn, who hung a shingle in Lewiston and practiced law on his own for much of his 54-year career, also served in several appointed positions. Some of them include: assistant Niagara County district attorney; first assistant Niagara County attorney for 10 years; town attorney in Wheatfield, Niagara and Wilson; school attorney for the Wilson and Lewiston-Porter school districts; labor-relations specialist for Erie 1 BOCES; legal assistant for the New York State Assembly; and special counsel to the towns of Lewiston and Porter.

After retiring in 2013, Kahn's sense of humor was so loved by members of a neighborhood social group that they asked him to be the group's stand-up comic for their monthly gatherings. He often practiced the jokes before presenting them and assured his family that most of the jokes were clean.

Kahn was often described by colleagues and clients as a consummate professional with unwavering principles, and even more often as a "sweetheart," "gentleman" or "mensch." In a sealed, hand-written note titled "To Be Read At My Funeral," he said he "died a happy man" and that he was writing the note because "as a lawyer, I'm trying to get in the last word."

His humor was evident even as he waged a long battle with cancer. Despite pain and other ravages from disease, he remained kind and hilarious – his one-line zingers intact, always joking with family, friends and others caring for him right up until he was too weak to speak.

Kahn was an avid golfer and longtime member of Niagara Falls Country Club, where he golfed every Saturday, weather-permitting, for more than four decades. He was an enthusiastic sports fan who supported local teams, attended many Super Bowls, and loved watching the New York Yankees on TV.

Kahn was born and raised in Niagara Falls, received a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1951, and graduated from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 1955. He spent 11 years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Kahn was a lifetime member and past president of Temple Beth El in Niagara Falls. He was a director of the New York State Bar Association, Municipal Law Section. He was a president and director of the New York State Association of School Attorneys and was one of the founding members of the Niagara County Employee Credit Union. He supported many local charities.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Leila; two sons, David, of San Francisco, and Alan, of Lewiston; a daughter, Elizabeth, of Buffalo; four grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, burial is private and a memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Hardison Funeral Homes. Visit www.hardisonfuneralhomes.com for online condolences.

Bernard J. Caturia

Bernard J. Caturia, age 87, of Wheatfield, peacefully entered eternal rest on Dec. 19, 2020, under the brief care of Hospice Niagara in Lockport.

Caturia was born in Arkansaw, Wisconsin, to Paul Caturia and Hazel (Martin) Caturia. He was one of five children: (late) Delores Fedie, (late) Peggy Siepel, (late) Bill Caturia, and is survived by a sister, Darlene Bauer. He settled in North Tonawanda after marrying Charlotte (Rich). They were married for 42 years before she gained her wings in 2004.

After moving to North Tonawanda, he worked briefly at Mennes Nursery and Columbus McKinnon. He held various maintenance positions at the Buffalo Psychiatric Center in Buffalo where he worked for 25 years and retired as foreman of the machine shop in 1991. A true testament to the kind and generous heart of Bernard was his devoted time volunteering to help others. He volunteered at the senior center in Wheatfield; and was a constant fixture at the OLC Parish in North Tonawanda where he was not only a parishioner, but also spent endless hours volunteering. You could often drive by OLC and see his car and pull-behind trailer, with him sitting in front of the parish garden, tools in hand.

Caturia always enjoyed meeting and talking to new people, always had a smile on his face, and will be fondly remembered for his jokes and witty sense of humor. He was dearly loved by his friends and family. He was the father of Anne Caturia-Sedore, Bernadette Caturia-Miller (Matthew), (late) Paul A. Caturia, and Joseph (Lindsey) Caturia. He will also be missed by his grandchildren: Angela Lute, Raeanna Sedore, Jacob Miller, Lincoln and Charlotte Caturia; and two great-grandchildren: Brayden and Delaney Lute. Bernard will also be deeply missed by his dear companion and friend Gladys Guize. "Bud" was also loved by many friends, nieces, nephews and cousins back home in Wisconsin.

Friends and family visited Jan. 3, 2021, at Fretthold Funeral Home, 1241 Oliver St., North Tonawanda. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, Jan. 4, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 57 Center Ave., North Tonawanda. A recording of Bernard's funeral and committal service will be available at www.FrettholdFuneralHome.com.

John 'Jack' Francis Sweeney

John "Jack" Francis Sweeney, M.D., age 85, passed away after a short illness on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, at Niagara Hospice House in Lockport.

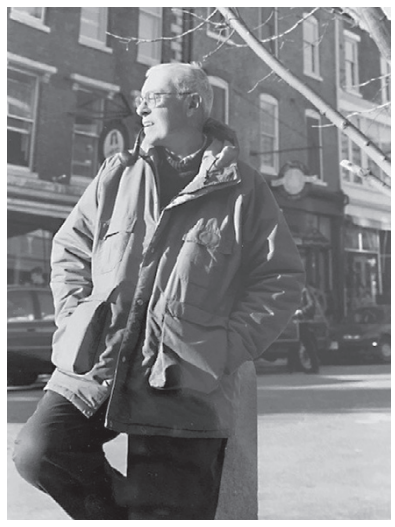
He will be most remembered for his service to the community as a physician, his love for his family, his quick wit and intellect, his ability to tell a story and make people laugh, and his love of the outdoors. Sweeney was a husband, father, grandfather, physician, gardener, outdoorsman, storyteller, dance partner extraordinaire, and consummate impromptu comedian.

Additional community volunteerism included coaching the Niagara Pioneer House Soccer League, serving as treasurer of the Lew-Port Sports Boosters, and sitting on the board of advisers of Niagara University.

He was born in the Bronx on May 13, 1935, the son of Frank and Mary (McGinty) Sweeney, and resided at many NYC addresses in his early years before settling in Jamaica, Queens. Sweeney attended Xavier High School in Manhattan, riding the subway each day and using this time to translate Latin assignments. Upon graduation, he attended St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey, again doing his homework on his subway commutes. Sweeney attended NYU Medical School to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a doctor.

In 1961, six days after medical school graduation, Sweeney married Monica (Cerina) and started his family life. Over the following five years, he completed his residency at St. Vincent's in NYC while welcoming three children into the family: Kathleen, Michael and John. Upon finishing his medical training, he was inducted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The entire family moved to Alaska where they lived for the next two years, while welcoming a fourth child, Robert. In Alaska, Sweeney developed a love for the outdoors, which stayed with him the rest of his life. He spent time hunting, fishing and trapping.



Upon discharge from the Army in 1968, the family returned to NYC, where they would decide on a next adventure. Later that year, Sweeney joined an OB/GYN practice (doctors Connolly and Gordon) and the family moved to Lewiston, then later to their property on the lake in Youngstown. Here, they welcomed their fifth child into the family: Richard.

Along with his partners (doctors Perez and Greene), Sweeney practiced OB/GYN for 27 years. He was very proud of having delivered an estimated 2,500-plus babies during his career.

Sweeney retired from medicine in 1995 and turned his focus to manicuring his property on the lake into an impressive showcase of Japanese gardens. He loved to tour visitors and friends through the property, proudly showing his creations.

Jack is survived by his wife of 59 years, Monica; his children: Kathleen, Michael, John (Kristen), Robert (Laura) and Richard (Katherine); and grandchildren John (Vashti), Kathleen, John, Margaret, Robert, Liam, Erin, Alastair, Owen, Ellabei and Campbell.

A memorial service will be held at a later date when people can gather safely. Donations in Jack's memory may be made to the John Sweeney MD Scholarship Fund at Xavier High School (www.xavierhs.org/johnsweeney) or a check can be made out to "Xavier HS/John Sweeney MD Scholarship" and mailed to 30 W. 16th St., New York, NY 10011.

Arrangements were made through the Rhoney Funeral Home in Lewiston. Visit www.rhoneyfuneralhome.com for guest register.

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