

Jack P. Mills
An Appreciation
By Will Quinby

Jack P. Mills, SVHS Class of 1965, passed away September 6, 2022, in Cumming, GA.

Jack was everything that I was not – He was outgoing, athletic, popular, affably loquacious with a soft Southern style. The only thing that we apparently had in common was we were both members of the Betty Foley Fan Club (Alice Elizabeth Caldwell Foley, Honors English). For some reason, Jack took me under his wing, like one adopts a stray puppy. He arranged and took me on my first double date. He taught me how to start a straight-stick car from a stop on a grade. He took me to his lake house and taught me to (sort of) waterski. We dismantled clocks in his basement and actually got all the parts back together. We enjoyed playing chess often, notwithstanding his ability to see at least two moves ahead of me. He was my friend.

Jack went to Auburn, the better school for Electrical Engineering; I went to Alabama, the better school for Mining Engineering. We endured ROTC Summer Camp together at Fort Bragg. Jack was my best man for my first wedding, despite his wise counsel not to marry that lady. I should have listened.

Jack served in the Corps of Engineers for a time before heading to BellSouth; I went on to an Army Engineer Career. Later he was an experienced consultant to me when I was with Qwest Communications. Jack was solid and deep-rooted with family and community.

Distance, family, and work kept our meetings sporadic over the years. If I had the chance to do-over, those contacts would have been far more frequent.

Jack Mills was a very good man, and he made me a better person. I will miss him terribly.