



Otto Hoegsted Jespersen

June 10, 1928 - February 12, 2019

Otto H. Jespersen, 90, of Cary, NC died peacefully at home on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in the presence of his family.

Otto was born in East Orange, NJ on June 10, 1928, the youngest of four children of Peter and Agnes Jespersen. He was raised in Montclair, NJ with his brothers, Helge and Allan and his sister, Paula. Otto played numerous sports in high school including football. After high school, he spent 18 months in the Army with the occupation forces in Japan in the military police. After his honorable discharge, he attended Rutgers University.

Otto had a successful 35 year career with IBM in various locations around New Jersey and New York where he started as a Field Engineer at the inception of the computer era. It was through his work that he met the love of his life, Rita, to whom he was married for 62 years.

Otto and Rita retired and moved to Cary NC in 1993.

Otto was very handy with cars and around the house. He enjoyed taking things apart and putting them back together. Table tennis was also one of his favorite past times. He excelled in this sport and was a member of numerous table tennis clubs. He was an NC Senior Division State Table Tennis Championship winner. (He would correct you if you called it ping pong.) He also enjoyed (to the dismay of his grandsons) NC State football.

Otto's brothers Helge and Allan predeceased him. He is survived by his wife Rita; daughter Doreen Burke (Pete) of Cary, NC, sons Hank Jespersen of Troy, MI and John Jespersen (Joy) of Towaco, NJ; grandsons Dan Burke (Kristen) of Apex, NC, John and Graham Jespersen of Towaco, NJ, and Matt Burke of Cary, NC; his great-grandson, Miller Burke; and his sister Paula Diehl of Pennsylvania.

Otto will be inurned at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Apex, NC. It was his wish for his services to be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Transitions LifeCare (<http://www.transitionslifecare.org>)

Tribute Wall

HJ

“ Dad, I miss you terribly. I am truly blessed to have had you as a father. You and Mom provided me with a fantastic childhood filled with so many memories. Throughout my life you and Mom were always there for me, even though I sometimes made that difficult. Your work ethic, devotion to family, honesty, and integrity are beyond reproach. I wish I had told you that there is no man on earth that I admire and respect more than you. Some of my favorite memories are the many times we worked together fixing cars in the driveway, which you taught me to do. Also playing table tennis in the basement. You were a fierce competitor with a paddle while always glad to help anyone improve their game. I love you and I miss you. Your son, Hank

Henry Jespersen - March 09, 2019 at 08:55 PM

AT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Wall



Alan Tom - February 17, 2019 at 11:15 AM

HJ

Thank you so much for this photo! It's great to have a picture of my Dad playing the sport he so loved. - Hank

Henry Jespersen - March 28, 2019 at 07:26 PM

PB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pete Burke - February 15, 2019 at 12:52 PM

WS

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Wall



Wake Funeral Services - February 14, 2019 at 12:56 PM

RG

“ When I first started playing table tennis at the Seymour Center, Otto was quick to welcome me and took me under his wing (as he had with so many others), and helped me learn the nuances of the modern game. My favorite memory happened about 8 years ago. Otto and I were playing doubles together when suddenly he was feeling poorly. He went to the emergency room, where it was learned he had suffered a small stroke. Fast forward about three weeks to the State Finals. Otto defeated his first five opponents, and was playing so strongly that his final foe refused to play him. A tribute to his indomitable spirit. We will always remember his humanity, and his wickedly powerful forehand.
Ron Ginsburg

Ron Ginsburg - February 13, 2019 at 10:14 PM

HJ

Thank you Ron for your wonderful post! My Dad was a true sportsman and he did love to help others to improve their game and enjoy the sport. Bless you. - Hank

Henry Jespersen - March 28, 2019 at 07:34 PM

WC

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Wall



Wake Funeral & Cremation - February 13, 2019 at 02:48 PM

SG

Otto was always so kind to play with me when I was new to table tennis. He had amazing shots with lots of topspin. I still comment on one shot that I am still trying to master. When someone hit a sure winner at a sharp angle to the net, Otto would suddenly be there. He would reach below the table and didn't even bother to hit it over the net. He would just curve the ball around the net onto the opponent's side. Needless to say he always won the point because the rest of us were just standing there saying 'what just happened?' He would get a sparkle in his eyes and have such a humble, yet delighted grin. What a guy!

Sherry Graham - February 14, 2019 at 07:40 AM