



John Jay Nichols Co H-1

The lure of the “brown boy” turns many cadets into hibernating animals, but Jack remained, to the end, a lover of the out-of-doors. He always enjoyed a game of tennis, a walk around the Plain, or a weekend of cheerleading. He had some minor skirmishes with academics, but he took everything in stride and, in the end, conquered.

Born – 2 Apr 1938, New York.

To USMA – Came from Olean, NY. Appointed by New York Senator Javits. Nickname – “Jack”.

Died – 21 Oct 1998 (age 60) at Zionsville, IN. Buried at Woodlawn National Cemetery, Elmira, NY.

Military Awards – National Defense Service Medal.

Schooling – Unknown.

Family - Wife – Gisela Nichols died in 1997.

Contact – George Nichols (brother).

Jack served on active duty in the Army (Signal Corps) for 14 years, resigning in 1975, with the rank of Major. He served in Southeast Asia and Germany where he met the love of his life, Gisela.

After leaving active duty in the Army, he worked in for Diesel Allison in Detroit. From 1979, until their deaths, Jack and Gisela devoted their lives to Gisela’s Kaffekranzchen, a small upstairs German restaurant with creaky floors, white-clothed tables, and colorful Bavarian mementos – in Zionsville, IN, a suburb of Indianapolis. He and Gisela started the restaurant to allay his German bride’s homesickness and provide her with a little corner of Stuttgart in Indiana. Jack was chief purchaser of the local fresh produce in the mornings and spent the afternoons and evenings chatting with and attending to customer needs while Gisela ran a tight ship in the kitchen. Food critic’s five star ratings acclaimed, “Best German food this side of the Rhine” and “My favorite restaurant in all of Indiana.” Just one week before he died, Jack told one customer that 1998 had been the best year ever for Gisela’s Kaffekranzchen. Jack passed away unexpectedly on 21 October 1998, from an aneurysm.