



Mr. John C. Jeppi Sr.

March 31, 1937 - January 17, 2021

Founder, Owner & President of the
Broadcasting Institute of Maryland, John C. Jeppi, Sr., Dies

On January 17, 2021, John C. Jeppi, Sr., formerly of Ruxton, died of COVID pneumonia in his home with family at his bedside. He was 83.

Born in 1937 to the long-time owner of the S.P. Jeppi Popular Pharmacy, Samuel P. Jeppi, and his wife, Marie Shank Jeppi, John Jeppi learned from his parents that nothing was more important than family. He graduated from Loyola High School Blakefield in 1955 where he captained the Varsity football team under coach Ed Hargaden. In 1960, he graduated from Loyola College with a Bachelor of Science degree in English. During his college years, Jeppi lettered in Varsity soccer and became the college's sports publicity director and was public address announcer for Loyola basketball games for six years. He also developed his love for sports broadcasting under the tutelage of legendary Baltimore sportscaster, Vince Bagli. In fact, it was Bagli who gave his own ticket to Jeppi to cover the 1958 Baltimore Colts vs. New York Giants National Championship football game at Yankee Stadium. The game was broadcast to a national television audience and was later dubbed, "The Greatest Game Ever Played."

After college, Jeppi worked on-air as a disc jockey, talk show host and

news/sportscaster for radio stations WABW, WWIN, WAQE, WCBM and WFMM. Among his sports reporting career highlights were his interviews with John Unitas, Brooks Robinson, Jim Palmer, Cassius Clay (aka: Muhammad Ali), Gino Marchetti, Art DeCarlo, Art Donovan, Jim Mutscheller, and a host of other players and coaches from the old Baltimore Colts and Orioles. He also covered five Preaknesses and Baltimore Clipper American Hockey League games. For a short time, Jeppi tried his hand at the John Jeppi & Brother Nut Company, a business his Sicilian grandfather, Giovanni Geppi, established in 1884. In 1965, Jeppi made a career change when he went to work at the Cardinal Gibbons High School in West Baltimore to serve as chairman of the Public Speaking Department. There, he taught English and public speaking, worked as assistant Varsity football coach under Bob Patzwall and established "Operation Black & White" with nearby Edmondson H.S., a program to promote better race-relations in Baltimore schools.

In 1966, the United States Air Force honorably discharged Jeppi, after six years of service. He had served in the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Tactical Fighter Group. During his service, Jeppi worked for the base Information Services Office and wrote a sports column for the Maryland Air National Guard (ANG) newsletter. He also coined a new name, "ANGLE," for the award-winning base newsletter.

It was during his years at Cardinal Gibbons and his experience in news and sports broadcasting that Jeppi first hatched his dream of combining his two passions, broadcasting and education, to create the Broadcasting Institute of Maryland (BIM). In 1969, Jeppi and his new faculty began the inaugural academic year in classrooms on the campus of the Towson YMCA. He would later move the school to another location in Homeland, before finding the school's permanent home at 7200 Harford Road in Upper-Hamilton. Under Jeppi, BIM was nationally accredited and trained thousands of future broadcasters, many of whom appear on TV and radio stations around the

world. A natural leader and motivational speaker, Jeppi welcomed every newly enrolled student by saying, “Now, I’m going to give you the ball.” As he tossed a baseball to them inscribed with his favorite quote, he challenged them, “Take note of those 10, two-letter words on your ball: ‘If it is to be, it is up to me!’ That is how you will succeed in broadcasting and in life.” Over 46 years, Jeppi operated BIM under his philosophy, “If you act enthusiastic, you’ll be enthusiastic!” In the mid-1980’s Jeppi established Professional Seminars International that sent him across the nation delivering seminars aimed at helping teachers hone their skills. Jeppi retired in 2015 to spend more time at his beach home where his favorite pastimes were entertaining his five grandchildren, taking walks with his wife, Lynn, and enjoying steamed, Cambridge crabs.

Jeppi served on the Boards of Directors of Cardinal Gibbons High School, Maryvale Preparatory School and Flite Three Recording Studios. He was a member of the Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society, Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame (Inducted: 2014), National Capital Radio & Television Museum (Accepted: 2017), the MD-DC-Delaware Broadcasters Association, the Maryland Association of Private Career Schools, Golden Radio Buffs, International TV Association, Radio Advertising Bureau, the Knights of Columbus and the Loyola High School Fathers’ Club. He was President of the Morningside Neighborhood Improvement Association. He was also a loyal communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church in Towson where he served on the Parish Council.

In 1964, Jeppi married Lynn M. Morris and the couple had three children, Mary-Lynn Jeppi Ragot (Brian Lockwood) and Ann Marie Byrnes (John) of Lutherville and Cmdr. John C. Jeppi, Jr. (Caroline) of Ruxton, all of whom survive him along with his grandchildren: Annie & Bobby Ragot, Sam Jeppi, Will & Grace Byrnes and many cousins.

A private, family Funeral Mass is planned. The family plans a Memorial Service after the COVID crisis ends.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to: Loyola High School Blakefield, in memory of John C. Jeppi, Sr. ('55), or to: GBMC Foundation for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), i/m/o: J.C. Jeppi, Sr.

Tribute Wall

PW

“ *John Jeppi, Jr.,*

Dear John,

It is with a heavy heart that we learn of your father's passing.

We take some comfort in that HE raised such a wonderful son and you will

carry on his name and values.

May you and your family take comfort that your dad is at peace and at the side

of our Lord, May the following writing be meaningful as you and your family

hold each other and remember the good times.

Whichever way we turn, O God,

there is your face in the light of the moon and patterns of stars,

in sacred mountains rifts and ancient groves,

in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face, in the light of eyes we love,

in the salt of tears we have tasted,

in weathered countenances east and west,

in the soft skin glow of the child everywhere.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is your face, there is your face among us.

You will see your father seated at his side-in your heart forever.

Blessings to you and your family in these difficult times.

Patricia and Robert Wagner

patricia wagner - January 26, 2021 at 01:38 PM

WJ

“ *It was a pleasure to know John during my early years as a teacher at Gibbons.*

Thanks you and rest in peace, John.

Bill Jauquet

PS: great picture of Jerry Cohee, Vic Corbin and John Jeppt posted by Sibella Corbin.

william john Jauquet - January 25, 2021 at 11:28 AM

TB

“ *'If it is to be, it is up to me!' Will always stick with me. I may not have made it to the wall of FAME in broadcasting. However, I feel I did in funeral directing. Side note, BIM used to be a funeral home.*

Mr. Jeppi, Thank You and rest in peace!

Trae Brinsfield - January 23, 2021 at 08:25 PM

BA

My other favorite comment by Mr. Jeppi was, "If you act enthusiastic, you'll be enthusiastic." He was a great leader and a fantastic mentor.

Bob Abel - August 13, 2024 at 04:42 PM

AD

“ I attended BIM right after high school starting in the fall of 2011; I can't believe that will be 10 years ago this upcoming August. I always admired how Mr. Jeppi brought out the best in people no matter who they were. I'm naturally introverted at heart, so coming into his office as a young high school graduate at first glance might have seemed intimidating, however, that was not the case at all for him and the entire staff at BIM. He always made you feel welcomed and made you feel that you belonged. I'm deeply saddened by his passing and I'm grateful that I had the chance to have Mr. Jeppi in my life.

Adam V

Adam - January 23, 2021 at 06:54 PM

JP

“ John Jeppi was a family man, a coach, a motivator, an administrator, businessman and all around friend...I had the honor and privilege of working with him at BIM for 20 years...he touched and influenced so many lives and I'm grateful for having known and worked with him...May this man of God Rest In Peace..

John Perry - January 23, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sibella Corbin - January 23, 2021 at 01:58 PM

ER

“ John Jeppi was my friend and mentor for over 50 years. Anytime I was in "Big B", I had to head out to the school to "pay him a visitation". He will be sorely missed.

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence ends." -- Henry Brooks Adams

Erich the Red

Erich the Red - January 23, 2021 at 12:11 PM

KR

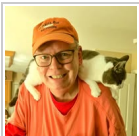
“ My father made me attend B.I.M. in 1982. He wanted me to be a Country Music DJ so I could get him tickets to see Merle Haggard. I wanted to be a lawyer. I walked into Mr. Jeppi's office expecting to tell him how much I did NOT want to be there.....Mr. Jeppi made me feel so special and so wanted that I gladly attended and loved every single lesson I learned and still apply them to my life today. I would not be successful as a parent, friend or in business if it wasn't for "enthusiasm" and the 10 two letter words. Virtual hugs to his family, Kim Rigsby 82D

Kim Rigsby - January 23, 2021 at 11:24 AM

JG

“ What a life well lived! RIP Mr. Jeppi and Thank You!

Jennifer Gipe - January 23, 2021 at 06:30 AM



“ I'm just one of thousands who can honestly say that the course of my life was changed for the better because of John Jeppi. He was a mentor, a boss, and a friend to the end. May God bring peace and comfort to his family and friends.

Mark Clark - January 22, 2021 at 09:27 PM