



Jack L Moore

July 24, 1929 - July 11, 2023

Jack Lindahl Moore, age 93, of Tullahoma, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Jack was a unique force of nature, treasured by his family, friends, and even strangers for his clever and disarming sense of humor, his highly original artwork, and his ability to connect with anyone and everyone he talked to simply by asking, "What's your name and who are your people?"

Jack, the son of Frank and Eva Carnes Moore, was born in Bessemer, Alabama on July 24, 1929 and grew up in Birmingham. He became a member of the Army National Guard and later served as a medic in the Korean War. Jack's experiences in the Korean conflict influenced his decision to join the organization Veterans for Peace in his later years.

After he completed his military service, he returned to a job as an assistant electrician at Tennessee

Coal, Iron and Railroad Company in Birmingham. Subsequently, he attended the University of

Alabama in Tuscaloosa where he received both bachelor's and master's degrees in art. During his

time at UA, he met Rosa Lee Smith, who would become his wife for sixty-

seven years. Jack and Rosa Lee were an interesting couple to be around, and one could always count on a stimulating conversation and exchange of opinions while in their presence. While Jack was pursuing his master's degree, he worked as a commercial artist at Gulf States Paper Mill in Tuscaloosa. Jack would go on to be a professor, teaching at several universities in the South and Midwest before becoming the first art professor at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma in 1969. He touched the lives of many students during his thirty-year tenure at Motlow, influencing his students to experiment with thinking out of the box. Jack was true to himself and marched to the beat of a different drummer, to which those who belonged to his art class marching band would attest. Jack was known primarily as an artist, recognized for his unique abstract figurative style and passion for recycled materials, proving literally that one man's trash is another man's treasure. His art was a reflection of his personality - unpretentious, unconventional, and eclectic. Jack was devoted to his craft, investing many hours in solitude creating his art. His work, which spanned decades, includes ceramic pottery, clay sculpture, cardboard sculpture, oil and acrylic paintings on wood and cardboard, the latter rescued from Tractor Supply's refuse. When asked about his art, he once said, "I'm probably as interested visually in things that are thrown away as I am in things that are kept. There is a message to it as I think we throw away too much. I keep the things that

would otherwise be thrown away and present them as images that are interesting to look at.” Jack cared deeply for the earth and those who live on it, particularly the working poor, and this passion is reflected in much of his artwork.

His family will always recall him sitting in his well-worn leather chair in the living room of his Tullahoma home, as he filled notebook after notebook with ink, acrylic pen, and marker drawings, accompanied by his own written reflections. Some of Jack’s early art, along with that of several renowned artists, is included in a special collection at the University of Alabama.

Jack loved telling detailed stories about his family of origin and his own interesting life experiences to his family and friends. He also had several unusual hobbies - most notably, he was fascinated with graphic art commercial logos and collected antique metal signs featuring these logos. Never one to waste something that he felt could be considered art, he saved hundreds of stickers from various items. If you were to open any book inside the Moore home today, you might find on any given page a Chiquita banana sticker, a barcode from the back of a DVD salvaged from a used media store, or even a bumper sticker that caught Jack’s eye but never made it onto his hand-painted car. His family will forever remember the one-of-a-kind postcards that he made out of recycled materials, that included his original art and written musings and quotes with the mantra,

“Support Your Local Mail
Carrier.”

In addition to his parents, Jack is preceded in death by his brother, Bill Moore of Pelham, AL. He is

survived by his wife, Rosa Lee Moore; three daughters, Gretchen Caskey (Grady) of Walland, TN,

Mandy Moore of Tullahoma, TN, and Emilie Madigan (Paul) of Murfreesboro, TN; one brother, Paul

Moore (JoAnn) of Smoke Rise, AL; four grandchildren, Valerie Sanders (Mischa Goldman) of

Knoxville, TN, Colin Sanders (Gillian Yeoh) of Knoxville, TN, Chloe Madigan of Nashville, TN, and

Natalie Madigan of Nashville, TN; one great-grandchild, Avishai Sanders-Goldman of Knoxville, TN;

and one nephew and multiple nieces.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center or

the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Following a private burial, a celebration of life will be held at the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center on

Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 2:00-5:00 pm. The family invites friends and all interested to come

by and enjoy refreshments, share memories, and experience some of Jack’s artwork.

Tribute Wall

FM

“ We are sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I just found a very nice (and long) letter he wrote to my mother in 2012 about his days as a classmate at U of A art. Please contact me via FB and I'll send it to you.

Frank McClung - June 29, 2024 at 05:41 PM

DY

“ I met Mr. Moore in 1989 at Motlow in his Art class. He was a favorite of mine inside and outside of class. Art was a place I could go when I needed an escape. And I am forever grateful for the space he lent to me...a greenhorn sculpture major. He is forever in my heart.

Daphne Young-Valentine - February 24, 2024 at 05:21 PM

CP

“ I was a Computer Science major at Motlow College. I decided to take an Art Class and Mr. Moore was my teacher, my favorite teacher. He was always doing something to engage the students. He inspired me to change my focus to the arts and to later teach. He will be missed.



Carolyn (Johnson) Perakes - October 25, 2023 at 12:57 PM

DD

“ I was a 23 year old just out of graduate school when I went to work at Motlow as a counselor. Jack went out of his way to make me feel comfortable in my new job. I was only at Motlow for a few years and moved away from the area. When I retired, I moved back to Tullahoma and I would often run into Jack at the grocery store. It was as though the absence of years never existed. We would do more talking than grocery shopping.

Donna Young Davenport

Donna Young Davenport - August 05, 2023 at 08:24 PM

BD

“ I worked with Jack Moore at Motlow for a few years. He was great at what he did, the students loved him, my daughter was one of them. He was a relaxed man with so many talents. RIP Jack you served the students well. Barbara Darlington.

Barbara Darlington - July 24, 2023 at 03:01 PM

DG

“ Rosa Lee,
you have my deepest sympathy and best wishes for the future. May God bless you and your family. Jack and I were colleagues at Motlow and I always admired him for being unique and being his own person. Even though I was in Science we interacted frequently as we both had a strong interest in the professional aspect of college teaching. I also taught photography and would discuss with him the artistic components of photography. He will be missed.

Dick Gross - July 20, 2023 at 09:20 AM

DF

Rosa Lee I remember having some good old fashioned conversations with Jack at least once a week. He was and always will be a good friend of mine. You have my deepest condolences to you and the girls. He is going to be missed very much. ❤️

David Freeman - August 16, 2023 at 12:40 AM

CW

“*Mr Moore, my favorite neighbor, always grew a garden that was by my fence. I would ask him what he was growing and he always said money. So I got up early one morning and took play money and clothes pinned them all over his garden. He got a hood laugh out of that. He was always putting things on my windshield for me to find. He will be missed but in my heart.*

Cindy Watson - July 19, 2023 at 09:42 PM

JF

“*I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Moore. I met him at Motlow in the early 70's when I was fortunate to take some art classes of his. He gave me the name of "Cool Julie " while in his class. He was truly one of a kind and will be deeply missed. Blessings- Julie Hutson Foreman*

Julie Hutson Foreman - July 17, 2023 at 07:12 PM

PC

“*Rosa Lee, you and Jack were registering to vote when Donald and I were. Donald was interested in the Flomaton connection you had, as he grew up in Flomaton some years earlier. I am sorry Jack passed, and wanted you to know of my family's sympathy for your loss. He was truly a unique person, and very talented. He will be missed.*

Patricia Cheatham - July 17, 2023 at 02:18 PM

BB

Mr Moore was a great guy! Being friends with Mandy and Emily we were always at their house or Jimmy Cox's house. Great memories! Was a fantastic professor and was a super friendly guy!!! Will be missed and prayers for the family.

Bob and Cheryl Burt - July 17, 2023 at 07:49 PM

EE

Mandy, I am so sorry to read of your fathers passing. Great memories of him at Motlow.

Elwood Ervin - July 19, 2023 at 06:49 PM

GR

Thank you for your kind words.

Grachin - July 22, 2023 at 01:04 PM

JB

I remember the stories my father told about when Jack helped us move to OK in a VW. I also remember the jalapeño eating contests. Good memories. - Jim Benson

jim benson - August 02, 2023 at 12:53 PM