



John E. Means

February 18, 1930 - November 4, 2018

John Edward (Ed) Means was born February 18, 1930 in Canton, Ohio to Francis (Bud) and Edrie Means. He had no siblings.

Ed graduated from Lincoln High School in 1948, and got a degree in education from Kent State. He served in Korea as a medic. While he was serving in the military his mother was hospitalized with cancer. A beautiful nurse named Dorothy (Dot) Graham was taking care of Edrie. Edrie adored Dot and told Ed she would not send him anymore chocolate chip cookies unless he wrote Dot.

Ed began sending letters to Dot and that led to a long and loving life between the two. Upon his return from Korea they started dating and within a week Ed asked Dot for her hand in marriage. John Edward Means and Dorothy Louise Graham were married on August 7, 1954.

In 1958 they moved to East Lansing, MI and while Ed attended Michigan State University, Dot worked as the head nurse of the nursery for the St. Lawrence hospital. Ed and Dot would move to Oak Park, where he was a Detroit police officer. Together they would demonstrate their loving nature and adopted their first daughter – Edrie (Edie) in 1962. Edrie became the first of four lucky children to be brought into the Means' loving family.

Upon Ed's graduation from Michigan State University with a Master of Science, he and Dot moved to Washington, D.C., where he embarked on a career as a police advisor at the State Department. In 1964 and 1966 Linda and John would join the family.

Ed's duties would keep him traveling around the world. Ed states that he "was in awe" of Dot and her ability to care for the family while he was away in the field.

In July 1967, Ed was sent to Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to advise and assist the country's police force against the growing terrorist threat to that country. The rest of the family moved to live in the heart of Africa.

Ed's job was demanding, made more so by the need to host many dignitary receptions, often consisting of dozens of people in high ranking positions. Dot worked along the side of Dr. Close (Actress Glenn Close's father). Ed was the bodyguard for Neil Armstrong while he visited the Congo on his world tour after landing on the moon. He was also head of security detail for Mohammed Ali's historic fight with George Foreman, the "Rumble in the Jungle".

Ed's family returned to the United States in 1974. Initially Ed continued working with the International Police Academy in Washington DC. In December 1975, Ed became the Chief of Police for Alliance, Nebraska. In 1976 they would welcome yet another daughter into their family; Hao was adopted during the Vietnamese Baby-lift.

Ed designed a building that is still in use today that combined the sheriff and police departments with the dispatchers next to each other. However, both Ed and Dot were not happy working in Alliance and decided to move back to Washington DC. Ed would begin working for the Drug Enforcement

Administration in July 1976.

Ed and Dot had become members of St. Mark's in 1974. They were involved in many church activities and always offered a helping hand. Because Dot was a member of the Altar Guild for many years, Ed spent many Sundays washing communion cups. He liked to spend Sunday afternoons cheering for the Redskins.

Upon retirement both Ed and Dot would travel to Ontario where they have a lake cottage. They would spend time with their lifelong friends during the summer months. The winter months would be spent at their home in Alexandria with frequent visits up and down the eastern coast to spend time with their children and grandchildren.

When Dot passed away in 2009, Ed moved in with his daughter Edie's family. For the next nine years he would sorely miss Dot, however he enjoyed going to church, outings, traveling and visits from his other children.

In his final week he was surrounded by his family. On November 4th, 2018 John Edward Means passed into the arms of God. He is survived by his four children, Edrie Means Weekly (Peter), Linda Crider (Philip), John Means (Trish), and Hao Williams (Ernie), sister-in-law Lee Grove, 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Edward means "guardian, protector" and this fit his character well. He was a protector of his family and those he loved. He had a great capacity to love and would give you the shirt off his back. He and Dot often opened their home to those in need. He was wise, loyal, honest, compassionate, empathetic and always there when you needed him, no matter what time of day or night. He will be greatly missed, but his love for his family and friends will live on.

A funeral service with holy communion will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA, at noon Friday, November 9th. A viewing will be held 10AM to noon in the Narthex prior to the service. A second service and burial with military honors will be held on Monday, November 12th in Canton, Ohio. A viewing will be at 11AM with a short service at 1PM.

Tribute Wall



“ *John E. Means*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ *Sending warm thoughts and prayers to you all during this difficult time. So many days I spent at your home growing up as part of your family. He was a wonderful man who wanted the best for all of you and your family. May the wonderful memories you shared help you through this difficult time.*

November 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest In Peace Mr Means. I remember many nights in your home as John and I waited patiently for your home made spaghetti to be ready. God bless the family. David Barnett*

Candle of Warmth - November 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *John E. Means*

Beautiful in Blue - November 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *John E. Means*

Written in the Stars - November 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ *Daddy, you were the first man I loved. You were the best father and did such a good job in teaching me how to love unconditionally, to care for people in need, to live by God's law, to be honest and try to do the right thing. You filled our home with singing and music. You were my first piano teacher. Thank you for supporting me in a career in music when some parents would have steered their children in another direction . Peter, Edward, Joy and I were so honored and privileged to spend nearly everyday with you and care for you these past nine years. I know you are in Heaven with Mom, your parents, relatives and your best friends who have gone before you laughing and celebrating together. Forever my Daddy and forever in my heart. I Love You and will sorely miss you, Edie*

Heart - November 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *John E. Means*

November 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM