

Jack Dinos

Jack Angelo Dinos died peacefully, on Monday, July 30, at his home on St. Simons Island, Ga.

He was born on Aug. 21, 1930, in Atlanta, Ga., the second son of John Eustace Dinos and Gina Amaranto Dinos. He was pre-deceased six years ago by his wife of 58 years, Mary Butler Dinos.

Jack is survived by his brother, Tony (Cheryl); his four children, John (Nancy “Sam”) Dinos, Virginia (Dan) Reed, Susan (Bill) Roche and Bart Dinos, nine grandchildren, J.D. (Edith), Jeffrey (Jordan) and Shep (Elaine) Dinos, Missy (Michael) Maton, Daniel and Matt Reed, Caroline (Nathan) Wynne, and Will and Kate Roche, as well as eight great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and dear friend, Jean Hurst.

After attending famed Tech High School in Atlanta and graduating from its successor, Grady High School, he attended the University of Georgia’s Atlanta Division, graduating with a BBA degree in marketing in 1952. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity and a founding member of Pi Sigma Epsilon Professional Sales Fraternity. Following graduation, he was commissioned in the U. S. Navy and served as Engineering Officer on the USS Earl K. Olsen, DE 765, during the Korean Conflict.

Upon completing his active duty military obligation, Jack returned to Atlanta and joined the 50-year-old family business, Mocha Coffee Co. In 1958, he was named President of the company and held that position until the company was sold in 1968. Also in 1958, he and his brother founded the Southern Tea Co. With him as CEO, that company grew to become the largest privately owned packer of tea products in North America, producing private brand teabags for many of the country’s food chains and foodservice suppliers. In 1990, when the company was sold to Tetley Inc., he retired and moved to his Sea Island, Ga., home.

Jack has been active in numerous trade associations, serving as President of the Southern Coffee Association and on the boards of the National Coffee Association, The Tea Association of the USA, and the Tea Council of the USA. He also served as a trustee of the Brandon Hall School in Atlanta, the Georgia State University Foundation, and on the boards of the Family Enterprise Center and the Coles School of Business at Kennesaw State University. He is an Emeritus Trustee of the Kennesaw State University Foundation, and twice an honoree of Beta Gamma Sigma professional business fraternity. Dinos is an Emeritus Trustee of the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation, served as a Director of the Hospice of the Golden Isles, Chairman of the Hospice Foundation, and a Trustee of the College of Coastal Georgia Foundation.

Among the schools and institutions Jack and Mary supported are Kennesaw State University’s Coles School of Business, where he and his family have endowed two Eminent Scholar Chairs: the Dinos Chair of Private Enterprise and the Dinos Chair of Entrepreneurial Management. The Lovett School of Atlanta was endowed with a Master Teacher’s Chair. Also receiving endowments are the Brandon Hall School, the McIntire School at the University of Virginia, and the University of Georgia, where he is a member of the Heritage Society with major unrestricted gifts and two endowed golf scholarships. Additionally, he has supported the Shepherd Spinal

Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Camp Twin Lakes, as well as the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation.

In 2006, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the Faculty of Kennesaw State University, "deeming Dinos worthy of honorable recognition," conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

With his wife Mary, he has endowed educational scholarships and two golf scholarships at College of Coastal Georgia.

Jack participated in the Honor Flight for military veterans from the Golden Isles in May 2015. Escorted by his "guardian" and close friend, Valerie Hepburn, he considered it one of the most moving experiences of his life.

At a ceremony in October 2016, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University.

Most recently this year, Jack received the seventh Anthony A. Alaimo Award for Public Service from the College of Coastal Georgia. He was deeply touched and humbled by this great honor.

Jack was a member of the Rotary Club of St. Simons Island, Past Commodore of the Allatoona Yacht Club, a member of the Sea Island Club, was a charter member of the Ocean Forest Golf Club and former member of the Cherokee Town and Country Club.

A memorial service celebrating Jack's life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at St. Simons Presbyterian Church, with a reception following in the church social hall.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Hospice of the Golden Isles, 1692 Glynco Parkway, Brunswick, GA 31525.

Arrangements for cremation are under the direction of Edo Miller and Sons Funeral Home.