

Safety Director John "Jack" K. Watkins (1929-2017)

Jack was born on June 17, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan to autoworker Byron H. and Evelyn "Elsie" Watkins. After 1940, the family moved to Sylvania, Ohio where Jack attended Maplewood Elementary and graduated from Burnham High in 1948.

At 12 years old, began working for the Reeb Funeral Home; at first running errands and doing yardwork and eventually as an ambulance driver. During 1949, he also joined the Sylvania Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Jack joined the United States Army in 1951 at the beginning of the Korean War. He served in the 2nd Reconnaissance Company of the 2nd Infantry division (Indian Head) and was honorably discharged in 1953 with a Bronze Star for Valor and Purple Heart.

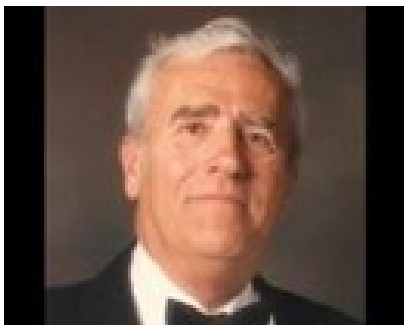
When he came home in 1953, Jack married Dorothy Kohlman of Oak Harbor, Ohio. He attended the University of Toledo and then the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in Finnytown.

While attending the mortuary school, Jack worked as a patrolman with the Greenhill's Police Department.

After graduating in 1959, Patrolman Watkins returned to Sylvania. He also returned to the Reeb Funeral Home as an embalmer and funeral director and retired as partner in 2012 at the age of 82; but continued to help at the funeral home.

He also rejoined the Sylvania Township Volunteer Fire Department and was promoted to fire captain in 1961 and served in that capacity until 1971. He was one of the original members of the rescue scuba team and served with distinction on the rescue squad.

And, he was elected to Sylvania City Council in January 1962 and served through December 1969 and again from January 1978 until December 1979.



In 1970, Patrolman Watkins was appointed Sylvania's Director of Public Safety.

Safety Director Watkins was a lifetime member of the Joseph W. Diehn American Legion Post, a longtime member of the Sylvania Chamber of Commerce, Sylvania Rotary, and Elks lodge. He was a charter member of the Sylvania Moose Lodge, a member of the Zenobia Shrine Jeepster Unit, and a longtime parishioner of Olivet Lutheran Church. He was inducted into the Sylvania School Hall of Fame in 1997; co-chairman for the War Memorial located in front of the Sylvania City building, and Grand Marshall for the 2015 Sylvania Memorial Day Parade.

He passed away on May 19, 2017 at Mercy St. Anne Hospital at the age of 87.

Safety Director Watkins is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Dorothy; children, Julie Watkins and John (Jan) Watkins; grandsons, Joshua Watkins, Nathan Watkins, and Troy Watkins; brothers, Robert (Jackie) Watkins and Lawrence Watkins; and brother-in-law, Herman (Lois) Kohlman.

Visitation will be held 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 and Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at the Reeb Funeral Home and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, at Olivet Lutheran Church. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Entombment will follow at Toledo Memorial Park.

Contributions may be made to the donor's choice.