



Jack Arnold

October 10, 1937 - September 4, 2023

Jack Arnold (1937-2023)

Jack Arnold was born in a three-room house with no water or electricity, tucked inside the Blue Ridge Parkway outside Asheville, North Carolina. He came into this world on top of the white-enameled kitchen table, a fitting beginning for a man whose life was dedicated to food and service.

On the urging of his mother's doctor, he attended Vanderbilt University on a scholarship, and made ends meet by working in the old Rand Cafeteria, where he learned the basics of running a restaurant.

A voracious reader who was a fine storyteller himself, Jack always found a way to incorporate his love of literature into everyday life, if only to pluck a turn of phrase he admired and embellish an otherwise mundane story. For journalists trapped in his thrall, it meant an hour of listening and four hours of fact-checking.

In 1983, while working for Lynn Chandler, the owner of Elliston Place Soda Shop and the Sylvan Park Restaurant, Jack purchased one of Chandler's other properties on 8th Avenue South. That would become Arnold's Country Kitchen and grow to become one of city's brightest and most celebrated beacons for southern fare in a city known for meat and threes.

It might have been the best reality show in town, watching his kids grow up behind the steam table while Rose manned the register and Jack carved up heaping helpings of his trademark roast beef. If you were lucky, he might pause the line, lean past the heat lamp and tell you a ribald joke.

Jack's personality cast a wide net of the city's who's who, from musicians and authors like Chet Atkins, Shel Silverstein and Gore Vidal, to local judges and public works employees, often sharing the same table and marveling at his turnip greens. Many would become his treasured fishing buddies, as few people enjoyed being out on the water and wetting a line as much as Jack.

In recent years, the toll of standing and running the restaurant was gifted to his family while Jack retreated to his books and waxing poetic about the state of politics.

Jack Arnold is survived by his wife Rose, 9 children, and a whole mess of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Graveside Service will be held at Larkspur Conservation at Taylor Hollow, Monday, September 11, 2023 at 11 am . Please arrive 15 minutes prior to service time.

What to expect at a natural burial:

Dress for an outdoor hike and wear appropriate shoes.

Use the restroom before you arrive, there is no public toilet or running water.

Carpool to Larkspur - parking is limited.

Plan to arrive 15 minutes ahead of time.

Family and friends will be welcomed at the trailhead by Larkspur staff and volunteers.

The casket or body will be in place at the graveside prior to the arrival of

family and friends.

Family and friends will hike up the hill into the nature preserve for the burial ceremony.

Words are shared and the casket or body is lowered into the grave by family and friends.

With guidance the family and friends shovel soil into the grave until it is closed.

Hike away from the graveside and return to your vehicle or explore the preserve.

Leave no trash behind.

Cut flowers are welcome.

Cemetery Details

Larkspur Conservation

155 Bear Carr Road
Westmoreland, TN 37186
<https://larkspurconservation.org>

Previous Events

Natural Burial Service

SEP 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Larkspur Conservation
155 Bear Carr Road
Westmoreland, TN 37186
<https://larkspurconservation.org>