



## John Delaney, Jr.

April 30, 1922 - March 8, 2008

EULOGIES FROM  
MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MARTYRS  
FUNERAL SERVICE  
ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS BIOGRAPHY.

### BIOGRAPHY:

John Delaney, Jr. was truly a member of the Greatest Generation.

As a child of the Great Depression of 1929, John delivered his paper route in the bitter, cold Philadelphia winters with his jacket stuffed with newspapers for warmth. He worked and helped support his mother and sisters even when he left home for the Navy in WWII. He continued this support until he married his wife, Evelyn in 1947.

During WWII, John and his shipmates worked as a team in the Pacific theatre in the submarine service. Their heroic actions included rescuing downed plane pilots and crew members (including a future President). This also included a daring rescue of a downed pilot in the Sea of Japan. The sinking of enemy supply ships by the submarine service was credited with crippling Japan's war effort which helped end this war.

John returned to civilian life and married his wife, Evelyn. While attending Penn State, he was recalled for duty during the Korean conflict.

After the Korean conflict John Delaney started working in the transportation industry. He and Evelyn attended night classes to earn their Bachelors Degree and became teachers. They both continued their education until they earned their Masters Degree. They taught children and the children of those children in Jacksonville, Callahan, and Hilliard until they retired.

In retirement John and Evelyn traveled the USA from coast to coast visiting every state. They also loved to cruise the Caribbean, Alaska and Hawaii. With all of this they still managed to volunteer and among other activities, delivered meals for the organization Meals on Wheels.

He attended Memorial Lutheran Church of Martyrs and was a member of numerous fraternal organizations, including the U.S Submarine Veterans of World War II, U.S Submarine Veterans Inc., St. Johns Retired Educators Association, Elks Lodge 829, Asher Lodge, the Uptown String Band, and alumni groups for Penn State and the University of Florida.

John was a devoted and loving husband and a loving a devoted father to his four children.

John Delaney, Jr. is survived by his wife of 60 years Evelyn Lloyd Delaney; sister, Dorothy Schmidt; sister, Mary Ann Kloss; son, John Delaney III(and his wife Dot); daughter, Evelyn Louise Watson(and husband Bob); son, Eugene Delaney(and wife Vickie); grandson John(Shawn) Delaney IV(and wife Ashley); granddaughter Devon Delaney; grandson, Michael Delaney(and wife Allison); grandson, Mark Delaney(and wife Rachel); granddaughter, Emily Watson; granddaughter, Jennifer Delaney; great grandson, Zach Delaney; great granddaughter, Libby Delaney; great granddaughter, Taylor Delaney; great granddaughter, Jamie Delaney; great granddaughter, Kelsie Delaney; and great granddaughter, Zoe Delaney.

He is predeceased by his son, Robert Delaney; step brother, Patrick J. Delaney; and great grandson, Keegan Delaney.

## CHURCH EULOGIES

Hank Morgan

Friend

President

Jacksonville Chapter of Submarine Veterans of WWII

Another Hero of the "Greatest Generation":

Greetings, I am honored to be here today to share my thoughts with you as we celebrate the Life of this OUTSTANDING man.

I became associated with John B. Delaney Jr. in the mid- 1980's when he became an

active member of the Jacksonville Chapter of Submarine Veterans WWII. John displayed enthusiasm and energy to the new chapter and was able to provide guidance in problem solving, consequently he was elected Chapter President and served for two years.

John became active at the Florida State level of the SUBVETS WWII and was soon elected to the office of Florida State Commander, where he served for two years. During his tenure in this office he visited chapters throughout the state, attended meetings and conventions where he was engaging and helpful, resulting in a noticeable increased Esprit de Corps. John organized and directed a SUBVETS WWII NATIONAL CONVENTION in Orlando/Kissimmee, Florida area that was so successful to have served as a model for others to follow. Additionally he was instrumental in the establishment of the annual Submarine Veterans Memorial Ceremony at the Kings Bay, Georgia Submarine Base. A program so successful that a permanent structure was erected on the base and has acquired a Shrine-like status for all Submarine Veterans.

John is a member of Submarine Veterans Inc. and has been inducted into the Holland Club. An exclusive fraternity that restricts entrance only to submariners who have been "Qualified" for fifty years or more.

John and Evelyn have traveled extensively throughout the nation and the Caribbean. Much of this travel was in conjunction with submarine reunions, conventions, regional and state meetings. Their loyalty and dedication to the organization is inspirational.

John Delaney was a cruise ship addict, always content to bask in the luxury afforded by the shipboard atmosphere. I recall how we would meet for breakfast and we would talk about everything. He was content, for the moment, to be at sea, to be available to good food and to me among friends.

Sailors are awed and influenced by their experiences of life at sea. John reflected this in his "sea stories" and actions while cruising. I am reminded of the poem, SEA FEVER, by John Masefield of which I will read in memory of John Delaney:

## SEA FEVER

John Masefield (1878-1967)

English Poet Laureate (1930-1967)

I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEAS AGAIN, TO THE LONELY SEA AND THE SKY,  
AND ALL I ASK IS A TALL SHIP AND A STAR TO STEER HER BY;  
AND THE WHEEL'S KICK AND THE WIND'S SONG AND THE WHITE SAIL'S SHAKING,

AND A GREY MIST ON THE SEA'S FACE AND A GREY DAWN BREAKING.

I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEAS AGAIN, FOR THE CALL OF THE RUNNING TIDE  
IS A WILD CALL AND A CLEAR CALL THAT MAY NOT BE DENIED;  
AND ALL I ASK IS A WINDY DAY WITH THE WHITE CLOUDS FLYING,  
AND THE FLUNG SPRAY AND THE BLOWN SPUME, AND THE SEA-GULLS CRYING.

I MUST GO DOWN TO THE SEAS AGAIN, TO THE VAGRANT GYPSY LIFE,  
TO THE GULL'S WAY AND THE WHALE'S WAY WHERE THE WIND'S LIKE A  
WHETTED KNIFE,  
AND ALL I ASK IS A MERRY YARN FROM A LAUGHING FELLOW-ROVER,  
AND QUIET SLEEP AND A SWEET DREAM WHEN THE LONG TRICK'S OVER.

Ladies and Gentlemen:, John B. Delaney Jr. was a Patriot, a Loving Husband and Father,  
A Shining Representative of "America's Greatest Generation", an Educator, a Connoisseur  
of Life and all good and decent Human Being. John we will miss you and I, as well as  
others will cherish your memory. As your spirit stands out to the ocean of Eternity we wish  
you Godspeed, fair winds and following seas, a safe Anchorage in a peaceful Harbor.

SAILOR REST YOUR OAR, ANOTHER CAPTAIN IS IN CHARGE.

EULOGY BY

James McConnell

Another Hero of the "Greatest Generation"

Florida State Commander

Past President U. S. Submarine Veterans of World War II

Friend

A TRIBUTE OF JOHN (JACK) DELANEY

JOHN DELANEY, who we all called JACK, served his country in its time of need. He  
served well and with honor. He stepped beyond the call to duty into the hazardous duty of  
Submarines of World War II. He was one of the few chosen for his temperament, physical  
fitness, knowledge, fortitude and ability to be a part of all that made up the crew of a  
submarine in war time. He was part of the submarine personnel who shared their skills,  
daring, and nerve under trying circumstances in the face of death.

Heeding the call to hazardous duty, JACK DELANEY was tested under fire and was not found lacking. His shipmates depended on him and found him loyal and worthy of their trust. Jack served aboard the USS ASPRO, the USS PILOTFISH, the USS CUTLASS, and the USS SENNET. He qualified to receive his DOLPHINS and was awarded the SUBMARINE COMBAT PIN.

To his family we offer our condolences. He is now beyond the horizon of life, but his memory will be with us forever. As his larger family, the Submarine Veterans of World War II, we offer our help and assistance to you. As he shared in our lives, so we share in yours. Take comfort that he sails not alone, but in the company of heroes like himself. He is now under the direction of the Supreme Commander. When we, too, are called to set sail beyond the horizon of life on our final patrol, he will be there to greet us.

To our shipmates: Grieve not for him who has set sail on his final patrol. May the seas be calm and gentle breezes warm upon his face. May the sun, moon, and stars guide him safely across the seas of eternity. Let us be mindful that the Supreme Commander has made every patrol. He heard every depth charge and every cry of despair. He went down with every boat and comforted every lost shipmate. None went to a watery grave alone and He still walks with us. The Supreme Commander waits by the gangway to eternity to reunite us with those of our crews who have sailed before.

We ask that God's blessing and peace be with us all. May our memories of the past remain etched in our hearts and minds. May our love of THEE, COUNTRY, FLAG, and SHIPMATES remain steadfast, now and always.

SAILOR, REST YOUR OAR.

EULOGY BY

Eugene Delaney  
son & friend

I stand before you this afternoon as one of the representatives of my family and my father's friends in grieving and mourning the loss of a great friend, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and true Christian. I believe that if dad was standing here today, his warm smile would be evident and he would want to reassure all of us that the

world will go on as usual and in fact that all is well. That was the nature of his being.

But I did a great disservice to him in the obituary when I failed to add one very important line. And I want to correct that mistake now. The obituary should include:

"JOHN DELANEY WAS ALSO SURVIVED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF FRIENDS THAT ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST BUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS AN IRREPLACEABLE PART OF HIS LIFE." Let me repeat this because the magnitude of this mistake requires it: "JOHN DELANEY WAS ALSO SURVIVED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF FRIENDS THAT ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST BUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS AN IRREPLACEABLE PART OF HIS LIFE."

I also want to mention that for as long as I can remember it always gave me great pleasure to hear his friends say that my father and mother was also an irreplaceable part of their lives.

Allow me to share some of his stories.

Dad was like an Irish storyteller in a bar, but he wouldn't tell jokes, he would tell stories and it wouldn't be long before you would find yourself rolling around laughing or crying. He told me a story about being charged for assaulting an officer during WW2. What dad had done was rather forcefully pull a petty officer from the top hatch of a submarine that was in the process of submerging. I don't need to tell you that if you don't close and secure the top hatch the sub would flood and sink. . When the petty officer brought the charges to the commanding officer and explained the circumstances the co thought for a moment and said "In sub school I learned a very valuable lesson which is "there is room for anything on a submarine except a mistake". He paused for another moment and asked, "Was it Ensign Delaney that made a mistake?" The petty officer was dumbstruck until the co told him to dispose of that paperwork and return to duty.

That's why these sub vets are such a tight group. Each sailor depended on each other for their lives. That's why this bond has lasted for 60 years.

When dad returned from duty during the Korean Conflict he rapidly climbed the ladder in the trucking industry and during this time he was appointed the terminal manager in the Pensacola terminal of a major flatbed company and quickly built the Pensacola business. A vice president of the company from Miami was sent to Pensacola to find out how this upstart was moving so much freight with so little equipment. He arrived to find the terminal yard jam packed with 250 loaded flatbed trailers and only a hand full of trucks to pull those trailer with and he went ballistic. The VP was barking orders, ranting and raving until dad

approached to ask what he was doing. The VP didn't get too far before dad said, You have 2 choices : 1 I can give you the keys, I'll go home and you can run this terminal yourself or 2 you can go in the office, sit down and shut up and let me do what you pay me for. Mr. VP chose door #2. Within 24 hours dad had not only utilized his trucks but worked with the companies central dispatch system to send in trucks that used to bypass Pensacola empty and cleared out the Pensacola yard. The VP told dad "Red, I'll never question your ability again."

On a personal note, Imagine Dad calmly explaining to my brother John that it wasn't necessary to file down the cylinder heads in the car for improved performance. The Pontiac was fast enough as it was.

Imagine dad letting 3 year old Evelyn sit on his lap and let her "drive" the car. Little did he know that 13 years later a terrified driver trainer teacher at Terry Parker High School promised she would pass the course if he merely survived her road test.

And try to imagine Dad coming home early one day to find my teenage brother Bob and his girlfriend naked as a jay bird&#133;.oh I'm out of time.

But Dad, IF THE IDEA IS TO DIE YOUNG&#133;AS LATE AS POSSIBLE... then you accomplished that. You were and your friends are some of the youngest people I know.

AND WHEN IT'S TIME FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO COME THIS WAY...  
I'M SURE YOU'LL GREET US WITH A SMILE&#133;  
AND WELCOME US HOME...

# Comments

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“ Mr. Delaney was the first principal I worked for in Hilliard. Thirty-three years later, no other administrator has been able to fill his shoes.

**Dolores Burguet** - January 29, 2009 at 04:38 PM

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“ Evelyn and Family,  
This is belated, but I wanted to let you know how important you and Mr. Delaney were to all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with you at Hilliard. My son, Michael Jones, just sent me copies of the obituary and memorial services today, 9/9/08. He didn't tell me how he happened to get this info. He had asked me about you not to long ago and I told him the last I knew you were in St. Augustine. This is the same little boy that lost his Dad when he was in 1st Grade at HES. Mr. Delaney was the principal that I called and ask to protect Mike for hearing any news until I could come to the school and pick him up. Of, course he did just that. His teacher was Mrs. Phillips and I remember her long beautiful eyelashes with tears glistening on them. I am so happy you had so many wonderful years together and that you retirement was filled with so many rich exeriences. Did you still dance? I retired Dec. 2003 and have been working as a para since the beginning of school 2004. I am at Yulee Elem. this year. So many months have passed that you may not get this. But I wanted you to know you and Mr. Delaney are rememberedof with fond memories.  
Sandra Johnson

**Sandra R. Johnson** - September 09, 2008 at 09:32 PM

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“ We were so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was such a fine man and he will be missed.

**Jere and Diana Gay** - March 18, 2008 at 05:12 PM

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“ I'll always remember the big man who had lots of hugs and kisses for his great neice...I'll miss you Uncle Jack.....

**Rosemary Penn-Kulesza** - March 14, 2008 at 06:49 PM

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“ Evelyn our deepest condolences are with at this time of sorrow. Take comfort in knowing that now you have a special guardian angel to watch over you. We share memories of some fun times which include the month in Hawaii. He will be missed.

**Harry & Mary R Flagg** - March 13, 2008 at 09:59 PM

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“ We will always be grateful for the service John provided to others, and for sharing himself with us during that time. Evelyn, my prayers are with you for the Lord's comfort during this time.

**Cheryl Freeman, RSVP of St. Johns County** - March 13, 2008 at 12:24 PM

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“ We are friends of Eugene and Vicki and our thoughts are with the entire family in this time of loss of your father. Remember the good times and embrace them in your heart. Peace, Love and Gratitude. Mike and Kay Dorian

**Mike and Kay Dorian** - March 12, 2008 at 08:56 PM

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“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Delaney most of my life. Evelyn (Junior) and I have been best friends since 7th grade, and the Delaneys often included me in their family outings. I have so many fond memories of the times I spent with the Delaney family at the beach and the lake. Mr. and Mrs. Delaney were always so good to me, like second parents. I don't know how they tolerated having so many young people around the house all the time, but they managed their exuberant household very well and seemed as happy and fun-loving as us kids. After we grew up and our own children were young, Evelyn Jr. would throw a Christmas party every year. Mr. Delaney would dress up as Santa. With his warmth and personality, he was a perfect Santa. He was also quite believable to the young children, in spite of Mrs. Delaney continually saying, "Look at the camera, Jack." In recent years, Mr. Delaney always made me feel good by telling me that I still looked like a teenager(his eyesight was obviously failing). I will always have the deepest affection for Mr. Delaney. He was a dear, generous man who lived life to the fullest. He touched so many lives and will be greatly missed. I am proud to have had him as an extra Dad.

**Mary (Maggie) Getsinger Hudson** - March 12, 2008 at 08:53 PM

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“ Mrs. Delaney,  
When I heard about Mr. Delaney I could not help but to begin the think back to our time together at Hilliard Elementary. As you well remember, those days when we first moved to the "woods" are such that people really can't believe when they hear the tales we tell. We really can look back on those times and laugh and Mr. Delaney is part of the reason we have such good memories. He helped all of us through that period and beyond. I love the picture you have posted, it is exactly as I remember him. He, both of you, were truly a blessing to our community, much more than just at the school. We will always have those memories of you both in our hearts. My prayers are for you and your family because family was always so important to you and Mr. Delaney. Ann Buchanan Hilliard Elementary

**Ann Buchanan** - March 12, 2008 at 12:53 PM

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“ My sincere sympathy for the passing of a truly great man. Please know that he made a tremendous impact on many people as he walked this earth. In the late 70's I was a very busy substitute teacher at the schools in Hilliard. Mr. and Mrs. Delandy took me in hand and encouraged me to use what God had given me, which they thought was a natural ability to teach children. With their encouragement, I finished my college education I am now assistant principal at the school that I love most, Hiliard Middle-Senior High School. Mr. D will be missed but forever appreciated by the people whose lives he touched.

**Cheryl Copps** - March 12, 2008 at 11:11 AM



“ Dear Evelyn & family, As friends of long standing we grieve with you on Jack's passing. We are here to help.

**Joe & Betty Fell** - March 11, 2008 at 08:22 PM

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“ Evelyn: We are saddened to learn of John's departure on his eternal patrol. Thanks for all both of you have done for our great organization. Please don't give up on us. Our condolences to you and your family. Bill & Anne

**Bill & Anne Whelan** - March 11, 2008 at 07:44 PM

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“ Brandy and I were so sad to receive this sad news of John's passing. Considering the adverse health impacts of serving in the submarines in WWII, he lived a long and most interesting life. Our sympathy goes out to John's Wife, Evelyn, and Family in this time of such a great loss. Love, Cousins Victor and Brandy from Boiling Springs, PA.

**Victor E. Foose** - March 11, 2008 at 05:45 PM

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“ Louis & I would like to express our deepest sympathy of the death of Mr. Delaney. He was a very special man. We have never forgotten the special times of living across the street from him.  
With all our love, Louis, Janice, Amy, Katie and Duane Hodges

**Louis & Janice Hodges** - March 11, 2008 at 05:06 PM

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“ HE WILL BE MISSED BY HIS MANY FRIENDS.

**HARIETT NEIDHART** - March 11, 2008 at 03:36 PM

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“ John, We are dimished by your departure and wish you fair winds and following seas while you execute the new set of orders to the staff of the supreme commander.  
Hank Morgan & family

Hank Morgan - March 11, 2008 at 12:13 PM

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“ John's Shipmates of USSVI, First Coast Base offer the most sincere condolences to Evelyn and the Family.  
John was a valued Member of our Base, and will be remembered as a true Submariner.

Lost Harbor

by Leslie Nelson Jennings

There is a port of no return, where ships  
May ride at anchor for a little space  
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,  
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .  
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.  
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.

John Stanford USSVI First Coast Base - March 11, 2008 at 07:57 AM

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“ Dear Evelyn and all Delaney family: Our prayers and sympathy go out to you at this time of great loss. We hold many fond memories of Jack and all of you as our neighbors in Treasure Beach. Love and Blessings, Sue and Cam

Sue and Cam Baker - March 10, 2008 at 10:21 PM

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“ You have my deepest sympathy  
and love.  
Your loss is heaven's gain.  
SJREA

Virginia Andrews - March 10, 2008 at 08:57 PM

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“ Evelyn, we pray the Lord will be with you at this time, and we will miss John and his sweet smile. May God bless you and your family.

**James & Betty Morgan** - March 10, 2008 at 08:52 PM

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“ Evelyn, you and Johns are great friends and we share many interests: good education for all our children, a great love and respect for our beloved country, and eternal appreciation to all those who helped build and protect our country. Thanks for our experiences with our sub vets of World War II who helped heal my old wounds.

**Charlotte B. Johns** - March 10, 2008 at 08:50 PM

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“ I know you are in good hands and at peace with the good lord.

**JOHN ZAWACKI** - March 10, 2008 at 08:29 PM

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“ On behalf of all the Crew Members of the USS Sennet SS-408, please, accept our condolences, Evelyn and family.  
Jack will surely be missed by all of his Shipmates

**Ralph Luther** - March 10, 2008 at 07:01 PM

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“ We square danced, we round danced and we ballroom danced together, we sailed on cruises together and we vacationed in Bermuda together. All in this lifetime. We will do it again when we all come together. You are preparing the way for us all. We loved it before, we will love it again.

**Jan & Al Malitz** - March 10, 2008 at 05:38 PM

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“ Our prayers are with you Evelyn. In the words of Abraham Lincoln:  
"I pray that our heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your  
bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost . . ."  
Glen & Debbie Tilley

**Glen & Debbie Tilley** - March 10, 2008 at 05:36 PM

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“ He has passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. The  
places that have known him shall know him no more; but his virtues are written upon  
the tablets of love and memory.

To our absent member.

**John Markiewicz** - March 10, 2008 at 05:23 PM

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“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you Miss Evelyn. We know Jack was a fine man  
here, and now his Father in Heaven is enjoying his company there. Sammy and Erle  
send their prayers also.

**Jo-An Prevatt** - March 10, 2008 at 05:16 PM

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“ To Evelyn  
We remember sitting in rear of memorial services with John, in his wheelchair.  
He loves his subvets, and we love you. God bless you, and the nation.  
Bonnie and John Anderson

**John Anderson, Past Natl Sec/Treas** - March 10, 2008 at 03:58 PM

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“ "SHIPMATE, REST YOUR OARS". "HAND SALUTE","TWO".

**Gil Shaddock** - March 10, 2008 at 02:19 PM