**View from the Pew**
By Bruce Lindquist

**We said goodbye to Jack on Saturday** — **Jack Reay** celebrated his 93rd birthday on March 16, and a little over two months later, on May 25th, he passed away at his home of 66 years on Cedar Lake Road. His former church, Ascension Lutheran, was never far from his thoughts – nor was it far from view.

And getting to church on Sunday mornings was a journey of a few seconds. Jack and his family – sons David and John, and daughter Jackie -- lived within the shadow of the St. Louis Park church’s landmark steeple, across the street, for nearly seven decades, so it was fitting that his memorial service was held Saturday, June 16, at a place so close to home. The now-Light of the World Church graciously granted the family’s request for the service and lunch to be held within the ex-Ascension walls. Following the First Lutheran-Ascension merger nearly 10 years ago, Jack became a member of the combined church – renamed Spirit of Christ -- on Minnetonka Boulevard.

In recent years, **Dave Latvala**, also an Ascension expatriate, would visit his old friend Jack on a regular basis for a friendly game of cribbage. It was at a few of those visits that Jack opened up a bit about his military experience. “Jack said that he was drafted into the Army at the end of World War II, at about the time the U.S. was forming an occupation Army,” Dave said. “He said he served for a very short time after the truce, and the fighting had stopped,” Dave continued. “Jack said, ‘They just told me they didn’t need me anymore, and sent me home.’”

After a period of time in the reserves, Jack, born and raised in the small southwestern Iowa town of Melcher, was again called up for another major conflict on the world stage: The Korean Conflict, now rightly termed the Korean War. How often do you hear of a citizen-soldier with service in two global wars? Jack Reay was among a very special breed of veterans, and will be memorialized for the ages after his private interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at a later date.

During his almost year-long tenure here at SOC, **Pastor Durk** also made important regular visits to brighten Jack’s last months at his residence, and, of course, officiated at his service.

According to his family and relatives, Jack, a machinist by trade – and a good one from all accounts -- loved to take off for Minnesota’s bountiful lakes and woods, to cast a line or to engage in the hunt.

Jack Reay: Those of us left behind do not and will not know of your challenges during those periods of service to a forever grateful nation. But members of this congregation and beyond are hoping you will find eternal peace.

**Celebration of Robert Tandberg’s life planned** — Just prior to the service Saturday for Jack Reay, we learned of the passing of another long-time SOC member, **Robert Tandberg**. Pastor Durk said that while arrangements are still being planned, the date of the service has been set for late next month. This period of planning for Robert’s family and friends is a tough one; our thoughts and prayers are with them now.

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