



Jack Earls

AUG 23, 1932 - JUN 12, 2023



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Jack Earls

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The Earls family is heartbroken to announce the passing of the family patriarch and Sun Records legend Jack Earls on June 12, 2023. Jack entered the gates of heaven peacefully at home with the love of his life, Dorothy and many family members by his side.

Jack was born on August 23rd, 1932 in Woodbury, Tennessee to Hobart and Nannie (Roach) Earls. Jack's family struggled to make ends meet during the Great Depression and the following decade. He later moved to Memphis with his older brother Richard as a teenager. He worked as a delivery driver for the Colonial Baking Company in 1950 where he would meet his lifetime sweetheart and inspiration, Dorothy Beasley. They were married in 1950 and only death would separate them 72 years later.

Jack would leave the baking company a few years later and he began laying hardwood floors with his brother Herb all over Memphis and the surrounding area. He taught himself to play the guitar and at some point, realized he had a talent for singing and song writing. He formed a band and approached legendary producer Sam Phillips of Sun Records and was granted an audition at Sun in 1955. While Sam didn't care for Jack's backup band, he saw potential in the powerful vocals and charismatic energy Jack possessed. Jack formed a new band, and he was invited back for several recording sessions. Jack Earls and the Jimbos returned and laid down some of the most original and powerful Rockabilly tracks of that era. He wrote "Slow Down" in the front seat of his old Buick the night before one of those recording sessions and when Sam Phillips heard that song he ran out of the recording booth and told the boys "that's it! No need for another take". "Slow Down" sold nearly 50,000 copies which cemented Jack and the Jimbos legacy in Rockabilly history.

Jack never put his full focus on his music career because he had a young family, a good day job, and Jack and The Jimbos were the house band at the hottest club in Memphis, the Palms Club, for 6 years. His desire not to tour and leave his family and bandmates behind eventually led him to leave Memphis in the late 1960's and he took what they used to call the "Hillbilly Highway" to the Detroit area where he and Dorothy raised their 6 children and built a comfortable life. While he



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continued to perform and record in the Detroit area, he eventually settled in as a truck driver for Chrysler. He retired in the early 90's and decided to get back to his rockabilly roots and began touring all over the world. He entertained and thrilled fans in England, Norway, France, Spain, Japan and all over the United States. As I write this, the news of his passing is hitting the rockabilly community and his fans have reached out in large numbers to share their memories and appreciation for his talents and the music legacy he leaves behind.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents Hobart and Nannie, siblings, his daughter Janet (Turner) and son Steven, and grandson Sammy (Turner). He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Dorothy, his son in law Jimmy Turner, son Jack (Marsha) Earls, son Mike (Summer) Earls, daughter Lisa Lucka and son Lenny (Stacey) Earls, 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and legions of rockabilly fans all around the world.

Jack will be remembered not only for his contribution to music, but for the example he set both as a husband and father. He was never too busy to offer support or advice to anyone he met and trusted. His capacity to love, work, perform, laugh, and dream leaves an enduring legacy. Job well done dad. No doubt Jack Earls and the Jimbos are headlining this weekend at that great rockabilly revival in the sky.

Memorial contributions can be made to Saint Jude Children's Hospital.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, June 21st from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, June 22nd at 11:00 am at Hopcroft Funeral Home, 31145 John R. Road, (1 block N. of 13 Mile Road, west side of John R. Road), Madison Heights, Michigan. Burial will be at Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak, Michigan.



Events


Jack Earls

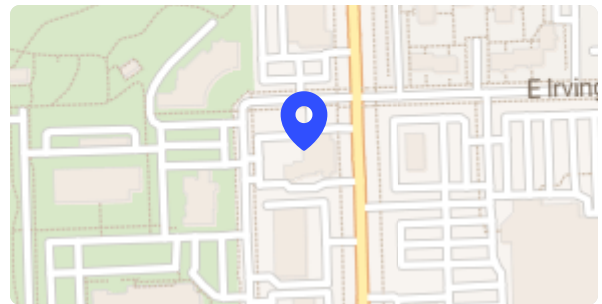
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Visitation

 **Wednesday**, June 21, 2023

 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET


 **Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights**
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071

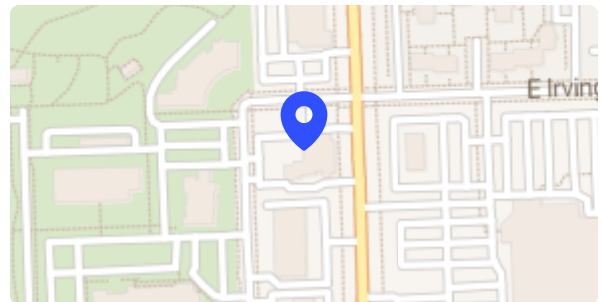


Funeral Service


 **Thursday**, June 22, 2023

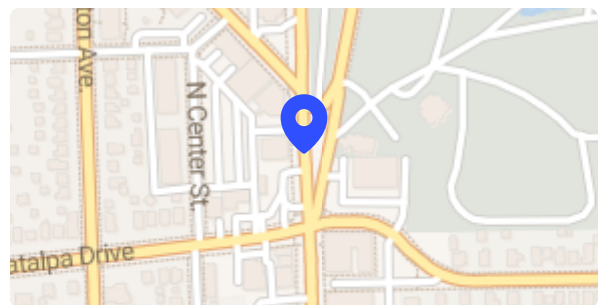
 11:00 AM ET

 **Hopcroft Funeral Home-Madison Heights**
31145 John R. Road, Madison Heights MI 48071



Cemetery Details

 **Oakview Cemetery**
1032 N. Main Street, Royal Oak MI 48067





Tribute Wall

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Jen (Kidd) And Omar Wajeeh sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Earls family.

June 21 at 4:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Small Garden Dish to the Earls family.

June 20 at 3:06 PM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Earls family.

June 20 at 11:57 AM



Christina Lowery And Victor Crombez sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Earls family.

June 20 at 5:36 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Earls family.

June 20 at 4:50 AM



Anonymous sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Earls family.

June 19 at 6:44 PM





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JF

Jerry And Val Stiefel And Family sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Earls family.



June 19 at 5:03 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Earls family.



June 19 at 2:11 PM

MS

Matt Strickland posted:

When all your hero's are gone....we lost another legend yesterday in Jack Earls. It's been a few years since we crossed paths, but there is no doubt he was one of the kindest, warm hearted individuals you would ever meet. See you in the big jam session on the other side old friend.

June 19 at 7:37 AM

JE

Jack Earls Jr. shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Legend in his time



June 18 at 9:28 AM

GS

Grant Smith posted:

Love the Earls Family. Mr. Earls was a first class man/father/husband. I've no doubt he will be terribly missed. My heart to the family.

June 14 at 3:22 PM



Media

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Jack Earls Jr. shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

June 18 at 9:28 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jack by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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