

John S. “Jack” & Marlene E. (Kane) Shales Bio



John “Jack” S. Shales & Marlene E., (Kane) Shales - Class of 1949. Jack - b. November 13, 1930, From the EHS Yearbook, the Maroon: Student Council 2-3-4. Class Council 4. Baseball 3-4. Intramural.

Marlene b. November 6, 1931 From the EHS Yearbook, the Maroon: Class Council 2-3. Student Council 4. Cheerleading 2-3-4. Maroon Staff 4.

They are two people that have contributed to the community of Elgin in so many ways, as philanthropists and civic leaders.

Jack was born in Elgin and he participated in Baseball and Intramural Basketball at Elgin High School and has served as a sergeant in the U. S. Marine Corps in Korea, from 1951-1954. He has been involved in the construction business, Illinois Hydraulic Construction Company for 27 years and then started Seagren/Shales Construction Company in 1953 and served as Vice-President and then was one of four founders of Shales/McNutt, LLC (Construction Company) in 2001.

Marlene was born in Armstrong IA but moved to Elgin when she was 3 years old. At Elgin High School, she was a Cheerleader and on the Maroon (Yearbook) Staff. She continued her education at Evanston Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1953 with an RN degree, a BS degree in 1977 from the College of St. Francis and postgraduate courses in Public Health Administration at the University of Illinois Medical Center. She was employed by Sherman Hospital as a Registered Nurse, was Assistant Director of Nursing at Four Seasons Nursing Center, was a Nurse Consultant for Larkin Center, a Patient Coordinator at Jayne Shover Easter Seal Center and the Executive Director of Well Child Conference and Health Referral Service and lastly office manager for Seagren/Shales Construction Company. She is now retired.

They were high school sweethearts and were married in 1954 and have raised four children and 14 grandchildren.

One or both of them they have worked on the:

- Boys and Girls Club
- City of Elgin Board of Health
- City of Elgin, Centre Advisor Board

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- City of Elgin, City Council Member
- City of Elgin, Coordinator of Older Adult Programs
- City of Elgin Planning and Land Use Committee
- Cornerstone United Methodist Church
- Fox Valley General Contractors Association
- Fox Valley Hospice
- Greater Elgin Area YMCA
- Jayne Shover Easter Seal Association
- Provena St. Joseph Hospital
- Refugee Health Screening Clinic
- Riverfront Action Committee, a local not-for-profit organization that raised money on behalf of the city to renovate the riverfront, including Walton Island, the bike path and Festival park, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars that is now enjoyed by our community along the award winning riverfront
- Salvation Army of Elgin
- Helped fund the City of Elgin’s 150th Sesquicentennial yearlong celebration back in 2004

And have been or are Board members or officers of:

- Altrusa International Club of Elgin
- CCMG (Council for City Manager Government)
- Elgin City Council
- Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce and the Women’s Council
- Elgin Day Care Center Board
- Elgin Enrichment Series
- Elgin Historical Society
- Elgin Junior Service Board
- Elgin Symphony Orchestra
- Elgin Symphony League
- Friends of Judson
- Gail Borden Public Library Foundation Board
- Kane County - Committee to establish a Health Department and the Comprehensive Health Planning Council
- League of Women Voters
- Prairie Club of Chicago
- Senior Services Associates
- U-46 Educational Foundation
- United Way
- YWCA

One of them or both of them have received awards from:

- The Junior Chamber of Commerce - Distinguished Service Award
- The YMCA Distinguished Service Award
- The Cosmopolitan Distinguished Service Award
- The Willis A. Reed Humanitarian Award of the Elgin United Way
- The Charles A. Bane Humanitarian Award of Excellence (both) by the Illinois United Way
- An Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from Judson College

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- An E.C.C. Distinguished Friend of Education
- The Ecker Center as the Donor of the year
- Rotary Clubs Paul Harris Fellow

And most recently (2010) posed as a King and Queen with a kidnapping of the King by ruthless pirates brandishing swords, being led away in chains and being called a “scurvy knave”, a wild ride aboard a pirate ship on the Fox River, all, while the Queen was weeping and wailing, forlorn over the King’s kidnapping. This was followed by lively and often humorous ransom demands all in the name of the Gail Borden Public Library and then followed by a “Royal Feast” which raised funds for the library’s media lab which is used by young students who normally do not have access to such equipment.