

## Concord Police Relief Association

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Dear Recipient,

On July 1, 1972, Inspector John "Jack" Skinner was sworn in as a Concord Police Officer. Over his 42-year career, he received numerous letters of commendations from law enforcement agencies throughout New England for his assistance as a sketch composite artist. Jack attended composite sketch artist training the FBI Academy and was recognized for his ability to transform descriptions of suspects to accurate drawings, many of which led to the identification of suspects. With over 520 sketches over his career, he was most proud of the identification of two suspects known as the "Hamburgarlars", who committed a spree of robberies of McDonald Restaurants and retail establishments.

Graduating from high school, Jack faced a decision between two different career paths: continue developing his unbelievable drawing talent at Boston University School of Art or serve his community by getting his degree in Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. At the time, he chose the latter, going on to also receive his Master's in criminal justice. Jack also served proudly and honorably with the Massachusetts National Guard 26th Yankee Division Military Police, and upon graduating he began his career as a Patrolman with the Town of Concord. But he didn't stop drawing and painting...and eventually found a way to do both.

"Doing both" brought Jack to study Forensic Facial Imaging at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA. "Doing both" brought him to earn his Composite Artist Certification through the Stuart Parks Forensic Association. And "doing both" allowed him to leverage his unique talent in composite sketch to assist police departments and victims throughout the state of Massachusetts. He did both: draw and protect his community.

He was passionate about helping and caring for others. Jack had an amazing ability to connect with everyone he came in contact--always trying to elicit a smile, a laugh--sincerely being interested and present in the moment.

While many of his composite sketches for law enforcement resulted in successful identification and apprehension of suspects, Jack's other works - landscape paintings, caricatures, portraits, paintings of Fenway Park and of any and all Red Sox players - brought so much joy to folks who received or viewed them.

*If we've learned anything from our dad, it's that, contrary to popular belief, you don't have to choose one path, your life doesn't have just one path. You **can** follow both dreams (or all three, or four, or ten dreams). We imagine if he were to give advice to Concord Carlisle high school students heading off to college, it would be to continue to do the things you love, **ALL** the things you love. You may fall out of love with something you thought was meant for you or you may find something you never knew you loved and drop everything to learn it, but you're not defined by or limited just one path. – Jackie & Catherine Skinner, daughters*

We are grateful for this Scholarship to honor his life and hope this scholarship allows you the opportunity to do *all* of the things they love.

*Jack was a long-time member of the Concord Relief Association, Massachusetts Coalition of Police Officers, the Irish American Police Officers Association, the Concord Art, and Cape Cod Art Associations. Jack started working at the Concord Police Department as a Police Officer - Patrolman and retired as Inspector/Composite Sketch Artist after 43 years of dedicated and faithful service to the citizens of the Town of Concord.*

*The Skinner Family & The Concord Police Relief Association*