

Jack Swank
September 4, 2025



Jack Swank passed away on Thursday evening, September 4, 2025, in Kingwood, Texas. He was born June 22, 1933 in Brady, Texas, to Carl and Hazel Swank. As an infant, his family moved to Houston where he grew up.

Jack attended Rice University receiving his B.A. in 1955, and his M.A. in 1956, both in Chemical Engineering. After a rewarding time in the Navy rising to the rank of Lieutenant, Jack had a job waiting for him at Shell Oil. For more than 38 years with Shell, he worked in petroleum transportation over much of the USA and quite a few years in Europe, but always between assignments he was back in Houston where he could keep up with the Rice Owls.

While Jack worked in all areas of moving gas and oil, offshore deep water pipeline was his specialty. He either engineered or managed teams that broke several world records for water depth. Jack spent the last nine years before retirement as manager of transportation engineering and had the top technical job in transportation for Royal Dutch Shell. When he retired, Shell was building pipelines in water depths more than a mile deep.

A lifelong Methodist, Jack served in many roles in the churches he belonged to with the last one being Kingwood Methodist Church. Jack also served in many roles in his local community associations.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 59 years, Elaine Swank, his daughter, Susan, and by his parents. He is survived by his son John (Linda) Swank. He was further

blessed with two grandchildren: Lisa (Rushi) Patel, and Julie Swank, and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be held Friday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jessie Faye Chapel at the Rosewood Cemetery, 7908 Rankin Road, Humble TX 77396. In lieu of flowers, Jack's family encourages donations be made in his name to Kingwood Methodist Church, 1799 Woodland Hills Dr. Kingwood, TX 77339.