

John William Mooney (Jack) Eulogy
By Brian Mooney (Sydney Australia)
Saturday 3 November 2001

On behalf of my family I would like to say a few words.

I think there is no greater testimony for Daddy than to have so many of you here today and we'd particularly like to thank those of you who have travelled from afar. Daddy placed great importance on attending funerals and we know he'd appreciate the efforts you've gone to to be here with us.

There's a lovely saying that the old people of West Kerry have about their dead which goes "Ni imithe uainn ata sai, ach imithe romhain" which means "They are not gone from us but before us" and I'm sure that's exactly what Daddy has done. He's just gone ahead to light the fire, boil the kettle and put on the spuds.

While it's important for us to grieve and mourn his passing, we'd also like to honour him by celebrating his life, and what a great life he had... we made a few notes though...

Jack Mooney was born on 19th Aug 1926, 3rd son of Bill Mooney, a local policeman and Anne Gaynor, a local teacher. He had two older brothers, Gerald and Andy and one younger sister Mona, who is here today.

His youth was spent fishing, shooting and enjoying music, especially playing the piano. He used to cycle everywhere including the 9 miles to school at Foynes. A favourite stop-off point on this daily journey was the church at Robertstown where he and his friends used to sneak in and play the church organ. There were some days when it was afternoon by the time they reached school and the excuse was that they had several punctures along the way.

After leaving school he spent several years in the Army where he became a PE instructor and was a keen member of his regiment's rifle shooting team, that won many national shooting titles. On one occasion when they didn't win, he explained, with a glint in his eyes, that he was put off by a fly landing on the barrel of his rifle on his crucial last shot!

A few years later he was at a dance in Ballingary where he was smitten by a beautiful young woman from Galway who was a locum in Donovan's Pharmacy . Rathkeale. On 14th July 1951, he and Mammy got married and they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in July of this year. Their union soon proved fruitful with 9 children arriving in quick succession... Bill, Lourda, Aidan, Jacqueline, Richard, Robert, Declan, me and Niall. When asked to explain their impressive reproductive abilities, Dad used to say "Sure by the time we figured out what was causing it we'd had 8 children so we decided to go one more for the road!"

Fishing was one of Dad's great passions and his annual trip for the last 45 years or so to Lough Corrib for the Mayfly fishing was legendry. And it wasn't just about catching fish, but as much , if not more than the craic he would have with his mates there. And I would like to say how great it is to see those friends who have travelled from the Corrib here today. For far too long it's been one-way traffic and it's especially nice to have you here today as our guests. I know Daddy would really appreciate that.

In recent years Dad was an active member of the Doyle Lough Development Committee of which he was Life President. This hard-working committee has created a legacy at the Lough that will be really enjoyed by the generations to follow.

He took great pride in his 13 Grandchildren... John, Niamh, Ciara, & Ailbhe Mooney, Gavin, Rossa & Keelan Meade, Jonathan, Jenny, Laura & David Mooney and Caoimhe & Shona McCarthy and he relished the role of being their Granddad.

He had a great love of nature which he's passed on to us and in recent months he was in his element in his garden and greenhouse. It's no coincidence that this year's crop of vegetables was the best ever and we've been enjoying the fruits of his labour these past few days.

The past year has been tough and challenging for him but he stood-up to it with great courage and fortitude and always maintained his great sense of humour. At this point I'd like to express our thanks to his local GP Dr Tom Curtin and the staff of the Regional Hospital in Limerick, especially Dr Manning and Dr Keane, Sister Carmel O'Sullivan and her excellent nursing team in Ward 2c for their professional, dedicated and unselfish care for Dad these past few months.

I could go on... Knowing that he's now resting in peace I think it only appropriate that we send him off with a toast so... if you would all charge your glasses, I'd like to propose to propose a toast to Jack Mooney.