

A Celebration of the Life of Jack Stout

6:30 PM Hosted bar and appetizers

6:50 PM Opening remarks from Mike Taigman

Jack Stout: Vision, Grit, and a Force for Change
—video by Janet Smith and Chris Swabb

The Life of Jack Stout, as remembered by friends and family

- · Todd Stout
- · Jay Fitch, PhD
- Joe Ryan, MD
- Brenda Staffan
- Roger Thayne, OBE
- · Jon Washko, MBA
- 7:25 PM Recognition of the inaugural recipient of the Jack Stout EMS Fellowship, endowed by FirstWatch
- 7:30 PM In his Own Voice
- 7:35 PM What he meant to you—stories from the audience
- 7:55 PM Closing Remarks: Wendy Stout, MD | Todd Stout | Mike Taigman

In Jack's Own Words

"My own allegiance is to quality patient care, reasonable wages and working conditions, and economic efficiency... in exactly that order. Any organization, public or private, achieving all three of these objectives has my support and admiration. But, where even one is omitted, I may find a client."

—Jack Stout, JEMS, February, 1989, "Letters to the Editor"



Jack Leonard Stout, died peacefully in his sleep on July 17, 2020, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at age 76, after battling dementia for the last several years. He was renowned for his pioneering efforts in emergency medical services (EMS) beginning in the 1970s through the 1990s, with innovative ideas about how to deliver better service, saving untold numbers of people who have been ill or injured.

Jack was born on January 29, 1944, the fifth of five children, in Falls City, Nebraska to Leonard Thomas Stout and Mellie Mae (Staley) Stout, where he graduated from high school, but not before a stint at a military-style academy at age 14 in Southern California, where his parents hoped he would learn some needed discipline. He did not and he left after a year to hitchhike back to his hometown to finish high school.

He went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska in 1967 and then taught high school English in rural Nebraska. Jack always had a rebellious streak, and that showed up in every chapter of his life, whether teaching, starting a construction company to make geodesic dome homes (in which his family once lived), to running consulting firms helping communities bring better EMS to their citizens.

He met his first wife, Linda Murphy, in junior high school. They were married in 1963, and their only child Todd was born that year. They divorced in 1989 and Jack married Wendy Jones, an emergency physician,



in 1990. Todd went on to work with Jack in his EMS consulting business, and later formed his own company, FirstWatch, in 1998. Jack commented on many occasions that Todd was his proudest legacy.

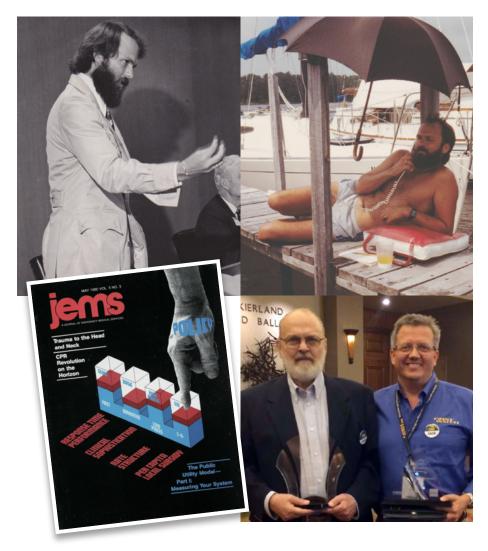
Jack always had a way with words, and he loved writing and public speaking, contributing to textbooks, trade publications and serving as faculty on many workshops and conferences. He gained a large following of devotees, many of whom he mentored throughout his life. In 2014, he received a prestigious lifetime achievement award from his peers in emergency medical services.

True to his rebellious spirit, although he grew up land-locked, Jack had a love for ocean sailing. For many years he lived aboard a 36-foot sailboat as his home-base as his consulting efforts took him around the world. Through it all, he had a love for animals and especially dogs and had many four-legged friends throughout his life, including a Schipperke named Rachel who sailed with him, and Vinu, a sick and injured dog he "smuggled" back from a trip to India. His constant companion in the last few years was a German Shepherd named Maggie, who he and Wendy trained to be his service dog.

Jack is survived by his wife Wendy, his son Todd, granddaughter Samantha, grandson Benjamin, ex-wife and friend Linda, and many loving relatives.

The Jack Stout Archive

In 2021, FirstWatch partnered with the Academy of International Mobile Healthcare Integration to preserve the written legacy of Jack Stout. The partnership funded an online archive hosted by The National EMS Museum, making more than 100 of Stout's articles and essays available to the public. Many of them appeared in *JEMS* (Journal of Emergency Medical Services) beginning with his pivotal series introducing the concepts of high-performance EMS and the public utility model in the May 1980 edition. emsmuseum.org/jack_stout



An excerpt from the writings of Jack Stout

The following passage represents Jack's guiding principles for high performance EMS systems. They were written by him more than three decades ago and are still actively referenced by EMS leaders today.

"As EMS providers, we invite the public to literally trust us with their lives. We advise the public that, during a medical emergency, they should rely upon our organization, and not any other. We even suggest that it is safer to count on us, than the resources of one's own family and friends. We had better be right.

Regardless of actual performance, EMS organizations do not differ significantly in their claimed goals and values. Public and private, nearly all claim dedication to patient care. Efficient or not, most claim an intent to give the community its money's worth. And whether the money comes from user fees or local tax sources, the claim is the same—the best patient care for the dollars available. It's almost never true

Our moral obligation to pursue clinical and response time improvement is widely accepted. But our related obligation to pursue economic efficiency is poorly understood. Many believe these are separate issues. They are not. Economic efficiency is nothing more than the ability to convert dollars into service. If we could do better with the dollars we have available, but we don't, the responsibility must be ours. In EMS, that responsibility is enormous—it is impossible to waste dollars without also wasting lives."

—Jack Stout

"Jack Stout was a brilliant communicator and storyteller, taking abstract, often dry concepts and making them come alive with clear, witty, down-to-earth prose that still resonates today."



The family wishes to thank everyone for their kind words and appreciation. If you wish to honor Jack in the form of a donation, please make it to the charity of your choice or to one of these worthy causes:

- Hoofbeats and Pawprints, a non-profit animal rescue run by Jack's friend and colleague Jay Fitch and his wife Kathy
- Shriners Hospital for Children, a non-profit that helps children
- Fisher House Foundation, a non-profit that helps veterans

This year, the Jack Stout EMS Fellowship endowed by FirstWatch was created in collaboration with the Fitch EMS Foundation to honor his legacy of mentorship. firstwatch.net/jack-stout-ems-fellowship



Todd Stout, Jack Stout, and Jay Fitch at Pinnacle 2018

"The most important job of field paramedics is to serve patients and to represent the organization. The most important job of management is to make available to field personnel the resources they need to serve patients and to represent the organization. Sort of symbiotic, isn't it?"

—Jack Stout, *JEMS*, May 1987, "Was It Good For You? Ten Great Expectations for Management and Paramedics"