

JOHN J. CHESTER

## 'Unusual' local legal juggernaut dies at 91

By Suzanne Hoholik  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

John J. "Jack" Chester served three terms in the Ohio House of Representatives, counseled city-council members, state lawmakers and a president, and represented the famous and powerful in tight situations in court.

Chester, a community activist and a leader in the legal community, died yesterday morning at his Upper Arlington home. He was 91 and had been ill.

Chief among those he counseled was William B. Saxbe, former U.S. ambassador to India, former U.S. attorney general and U.S. senator. The two met while serving in the Ohio House.

When Saxbe was named President Richard M. Nixon's fourth attorney general in 1974, Chester went with him to Washington and became a special counsel to the president, a post he held for eight months.

His son, James J. Chester, described his dad's life as "remarkable," saying he was a hard worker and a good

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### CHESTER

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listener, two skills that helped him as a lawyer and a father.

"He had a way of telling us what to do without telling us what to do," James Chester said. "He'd make us think for ourselves after listening to what we had to say. He always was a person who listened first and then gave some premium advice later."

During his years of practice, Chester made marks in the fields of family law and business litigation.

The famous and/or powerful often called upon him, including the Ohio-based Mead Corp., Federated Department Stores and former Ohio State University quarterback Art Schlichter.

Chester found real satisfaction in the courtroom and as an adviser to other officeholders.



FILE PHOTO

John J. "Jack" Chester spent three terms in the Ohio House and counseled many lawmakers and a president.

"Jack was an unusual person in that he had everybody's respect," said Keith McNamara, a Columbus lawyer. "He was a person who could deal with all of the business and community

leaders of Columbus."

McNamara said he went to Amherst College because Chester went there and became a lawyer because he respected Chester. McNamara succeeded Chester in the

Ohio House.

"I held him in the highest regard," he said.

When asked on more than one occasion, Jack Chester said he entered his family's profession entirely of his own will. He said he wanted to be a lawyer since he first considered his future.

"He's a guy who loved the law," said Charles R. "Rocky" Saxbe, one of Chester's partners and the son of William Saxbe.

"He saw the importance of lawyers being involved in community service and public service. For me, (his death) was a great loss."

Chester continued practicing law until he was 89½, his son said, and still loved taking his Mercedes-Benz 500 SL out with the top down.

He enjoyed being socially involved in the Columbus community with his wife, Cynthia, who died last year, he said.

And he liked spending time with his family.

"Later in his life, he would expect us to gather every Sunday evening for dinner at his house," James Chester said. "He wanted his family to come to his house for Thanksgiving, and that's what we did."

Almost every summer of his life, Jack Chester spent time in Michigan at the 2-acre Lake Huron island his father bought in 1934.

He graduated from Bexley High School in 1938 and from Amherst in 1942. That year, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve, serving as executive officer and chief engineer on destroyers during World War II.

He returned to inactive duty in 1946, entered Yale Law School and graduated in 1948. That year, he entered private practice with his father, John J. Chester Jr., who had been police prosecutor

for the city of Columbus and Franklin County prosecuting attorney.

Chester was elected to his first term in the Ohio House in 1952.

Besides the law and politics, Chester was interested in medicine and served on several local hospital boards, including Riverside Methodist and Doctors, his son said.

Saturday night, Chester had dinner with his family.

"We had a wonderful evening telling old stories about things we did as a kid and things he used to do," his son said.

Chester is survived by his children, John J. Chester '78, James J. Chester, Joel J. Chester and Cecily Chester Alexander, and 11 grandchildren.

Former Dispatch reporter Robert Albrecht contributed to this story.

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Volunteers from Columbus Academy (from left) Mark Morford, Tim Morford, Cami Mampieri and Alex Shahade work amid the tornado wreckage in Joplin, Mo. Not pictured are Stephan Kim and Karen Mozenter. '11 '79

# Columbus Academy group provides relief to residents after tornado

By MARLA K. KUHLMAN  
ThisWeek Community Newspapers

Tornado-ravaged Joplin, Mo., was a classroom of life lessons for Columbus Academy students and teachers who spent a week performing relief work there recently.

"It was one of those experiences that slaps everything in your life into perspective," said Karen Mozenter, an academy teacher from Gahanna. "It makes you see everything with a new lens. I'll never look at things the same way again. Those people went from life like ours to nothing but the clothes on their back and the few items they could sift out of the rubble."

Academy senior Mark Morford saw pictures of Joplin before and after the May 22 tornado.

"The pictures didn't tell the tale," he said. "It was kind of hard at some points. There was so much wreckage."

The school's volunteer service group of two teachers and four students worked through the National Relief Network, performing residential demolition and volunteering at a Salvation Army distribution center.

"It was a very powerful experience," said Tim Morford, an academy history teacher. "The scope of the destruction is indescribable. The work, mostly demolition and removal of debris, as well as some sorting and distribution of donated goods, was exhausting and yet immensely rewarding. The stories we heard and the gratitude shown by the residents of Joplin will remain with us long after the town is rebuilt."

Even though the work from June 19 to 25 felt like "a drop in the bucket," Mozenter said, it was rewarding as a teacher to see the effect the trip had on students.

"It was transformative to see how responsible they were and how they dealt with the people they met," she said. "We had the opportunity to meet with the homeowners of our work sites."

In a trip blog, Morford describes the experience of Sam, a high school art teacher.

"He saw a wall of black clouds approaching, heard the familiar railroad sound and hurried into his base-

ment as things started crashing around him," Morford wrote. "He crawled under a table and says he thought he was going to die. ... He came outside to an unrecognizable but silent scene. The next thing he saw was one man running down the middle of the street, screaming, 'like in a horror movie.' It was his neighbor's son, looking for his parents."

Senior Stephan Kim blogged on June 23 that his arms were scraped, his legs bruised and his entire body itched of fiberglass.

"But my experience here has been priceless, indescribable and will forever be in my heart," he said. "Today we attacked a new house that looked like it was impossible, but I wish I could show you the improvement we made just in one day: amazing. This trip overall was so humbling and made me realize the small things in life."

Kim said he hopes Columbus Academy students could try to empathize with a tornado victim.

Mozenter has performed a variety of service work, but she said nothing compares with

the Joplin relief efforts.

"You felt that you were part of it, making a difference," she said. "You really got a sense of what it was like. It wasn't like we were helping a community different from ours."

While student Mark Morford worked at the Salvation Army center, he lent his cell phone to a man so he could reconnect with his family.

"I told him I was from Ohio," he said. "The people there were so happy and surprised for the help. They treated us like heroes. They're in such a terrible situation and focused on you. It was pretty amazing. It's a life-changing experience."

Morford said he would like to return to help again.

"An anonymous donor covered our fees," he said. "It's probably hard to get the means and time to do it. Another school or church that works with National Relief (Network) took over where we left off."

Others from the Columbus Academy who participated in the service trip were senior Cami Mampieri of Westerville and recent graduate Alex Shahade of Dublin.

To read the group's blog and view photos, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CAJoplin>.

# SCHOOLS

## Cleanup duty in Joplin 'powerful' for Academy group

■ *Students and teachers helped to clean up debris and interacted with families in the tornado-ravaged town.*

By PAMELA WILLIS

Suburban News Publications

A small group from Columbus Academy donned hard hats and swung sledgehammers to tackle mounds of debris and help residents of a Missouri town clean up after a devastating tornado.

Teacher Karen Mozenter, a Gahanna resident, said the group from the school's Service Board arrived in Joplin, Mo., on June 19 and stayed through June 29.

The group included Mozenter, teacher Tim Morford and senior Mark Morford, all from Gahanna; senior Stephan Kim of Dublin; senior Cami Mampieri of Westerville; and recent graduate Alexandra Shihade of Dublin.

Kim and Mampieri will be the leaders of the school's Service Board in the fall.

The tornado hit Joplin on May 22, but the area was so devastated that the cleanup efforts are expected to continue well into the future, Mozenter said.

"It was one of the worst tornadoes and the highest loss of life in decades," she said. "I think the number of people who died was 155. One died while we were there, a month after the tornado."

With winds in excess of 200 miles per hour, the tornado carved a path of destruction three-quarters of a mile wide and six miles long, Mozenter said.

"It was overwhelming that first morning when we were given a tour of the destruction," she said. "I'm getting chills just thinking about again. It was debris as far as you could see."

She said the group kept a blog and tried to report on each day's activities.

Her blog entry for June 20:



Volunteers from Columbus Academy (from left) Mark Morford, Tim Morford, Cami Mampieri and Alex Shihade, as well as Stephan Kim and Karen Mozenter (not pictured), worked June 19-29 amid the tornado wreckage in Joplin, Mo.

"We met a number of survivors today. One couple survived the tornado by huddling in a shower stall with their 7-year-old, 4-year-old and 1-month old twins. We met Tim ... His daughter's house next door was completely blown away by the storm. Last week, nearly a month after the storm, a crew was clearing shovels full of debris from Tim's yard. They found his daughter's engagement ring in the debris. Her fi-

ance got down on one knee and proposed to her all over again in front of volunteers.

"Stories like this one spread quickly among the townspeople and relief workers, giving everyone hope."

Mozenter said her group used shovels, rakes and sledgehammers to clear debris.

"It was hard, dirty and physical work," she said. "We wore hard hats, gloves and safety goggles, but we still got sore and

dirty. Once in a while we would find a photograph or something that we could set aside for the homeowner."

She said the group also volunteered at a distribution center, where they sorted through donations of clothing, food and cleaning supplies, or worked in the Salvation Army tent called the Oasis, where workers and residents could come to eat or sign up for relief services.

"We worked with volunteer groups from all over the country," she said. "We slept in a church in a small town just outside of Joplin and used their kitchen to prepare our meals."

Showers were at the local YMCA each night, after a long day of hard, physical labor, she said.

"One of the most satisfying things was seeing the kids work so hard and so well on long, hot days," she said. "We got to meet the homeowners at each site and they would talk about what they have been through, which put a face on the disaster. It is very sobering when you realize it is someone's life, that someone's beautiful neighborhood was destroyed."

Mozenter said the devastation was so overwhelming that it was hard to think of their efforts as more than "a drop in the bucket."

"Our efforts made a big difference to each family, though," she said. "Personally, it was a very powerful and rewarding experience to see the impact the effort had on the kids, because they could see they could make a difference in the lives of a few families in Joplin."

Kim wrote on his blog entry: "My arms are scraped, my legs are bruised, my chest is sore and my entire body is itching with fiberglass, but my experience here has been priceless, indescribable and will be forever in my heart."

The daily blog and photos from the trip can be found at the website <http://tinyurl.com/CAJoplin>.

# parties

Compiled by Emma Frankart

See more party photos at [columbusmonthly.com/parties](http://columbusmonthly.com/parties)

## MERRY GO ROUND

The 63rd annual Merry Go Round May 7 at the Aladdin Shrine Center generated more than \$460,000 for the Childhood League Center, which serves children with special needs and their families. More than 600 guests enjoyed dinner, a raffle, live and silent auctions, entertainment and dancing to music by Dwight Lenox. Tickets were \$75; patron dinner \$200. (Photography by Photo Images by Randy Rosen; IDs courtesy Childhood League.)



Anna Gsanger, Tammy and Mark Berven and Emily Gerber.



Cristine Dennis and Kurt and Kim Stuckenbrock.



Laura Cooke, Lisa Ingram and Todd and Tia Kegler.



Diane Ingber and Maria Anthony.



Anne DeVoe, Amy Wagenbrenner, Jen Haase and Kristin Ray.



Chuck and Debbie Penzone and Gavin and Maggie Freytag. 185



Thad Matta and Mike Vrabel.

Carrie Allen and Jody White.

Tina and Trenton Manning.

SUNPICS PRODUCTIONS (2)

## BIG WISH

The Make-A-Wish Foundation, Central Ohio Region, held its third annual BIG Wish Gala at Ohio Stadium May 14. The event celebrated the 10,000 wishes the chapter has granted since its inception in 1983. Around 670 guests mingled with regional celebrities, professional athletes, Wish children and their families and enjoyed a gourmet dinner, live and silent auctions, flash mob, Wish family parade and music by New Hollow and Teddy Gentry and his Best New Nashville. Tickets were \$500, tables started at \$4,000; the event raised \$620,000 for the foundation. (IDs courtesy Make-A-Wish.)

## CARE FOR THE UNDERSERVED

*Individual – Honorable mention***Dr. Jonathan Feibel '87***Orthopedic surgeon, partner | Cardinal Orthopaedic Institute*

**J**onathan Feibel believes doctors should take a multifaceted approach to helping others.

In addition to offering free or reduced care to those without insurance and volunteering their time for free clinics, doctors should donate money to fund care for the poor, he said.

"We as physicians have the means to give back to the community in different ways," said Feibel, an active member of the Mount Carmel Foundation.

Feibel co-founded the Physician Philanthropy Committee in 2004 as a way to help engage physicians at Mount Carmel in the foundation's fundraising efforts.

He helped found the Tom F. Lewis Spirit of Philanthropy Award, which each year recognizes Mount Carmel physicians who generously give of their time, talent and resources to support patients and the community.

Feibel motivates others by leading through example, wrote Cardinal Orthopedic Institute spokeswoman Stephanie Rauschenbach in materials nominating him for a Health Care Hero award.

"He contributes his own financial resources to many of the foundation's fundraising efforts, and is tirelessly work-

ing to implement new, innovative ideas to increase physician giving at Mount Carmel," she wrote.

The orthopedic surgeon also has served as a co-chairman for the foundation's fundraising gala, Champagne and Diamonds. Under his leadership, attendance increased from 200 people to more than 550. The most recent event netted about \$200,000 compared to around \$50,000 in previous years.

"It really grew and physicians started to recognize the spirit of giving," he said.

Feibel said he tries to help other physicians realize that giving to the foundation, which funds a number of initiatives to care for the poor, helps their patients, too.

He said he hopes "physicians would see this group is really helping my patients who can't afford their own health care," he said.

His parents are the role models who inspired his passion for helping others, Feibel said.

"My parents have given back to the community in so many different ways – way beyond their ability," he said.



**J. Feibel:**  
Cardinal  
Orthopaedic

—MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON

## Government/ Nonprofit

**Asim Haque**,<sup>198</sup> an associate with Schottenstein Zox & Dunn Company, has been elected vice president of the board of trustees for **Community Research Partners**.

The **Columbus Symphony Orchestra** has appointed **Joel Brown**, **Ted Finn**,<sup>195</sup> **Marilyn Harris**, **James Hess**, **Cynthia Hilsheimer**, **Alan Litzelfelner**, **Michael Mahaffey**, **Greg Overmyer** and **Sue Zazon** to the board of trustees. **Robert Massie** has been named an honorary trustee.



Haque Hilsheimer Porter

Gov. John Kasich has appointed three members to the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Nominating Council**: business representative **Mitchell Grindley**, utilities representative **Michael Koren** and organized labor representative **Mark Totman**. Other gubernatorial appointments include: Republican **Merom**

**Brachman** and Democrat **Maryann Gall**, the **Ohio Ethics Commission**; **Angela Thi Bennett**, the **State Board of Education**; **Matt Carle**, director of legislative affairs, **Jai Chabria**, senior advisor to the governor; **Beth Hansen**, chief of staff; **Tracy Intihar**, cabinet secretary; **Ben Kanzog**, deputy director for policy; **Mike Grodhaus**, chief counsel; **Mike Hartley**, director of public liaison; **Scott Milburn**, director of communication; **Rob Nichols**, press secretary; **Jeff Polesovsky**, director of boards and commissions; and **Andre Porter**, the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**. ♦

# COLUMBUS Local News

## Society

### Kirby Doran and Kyle Schuchter

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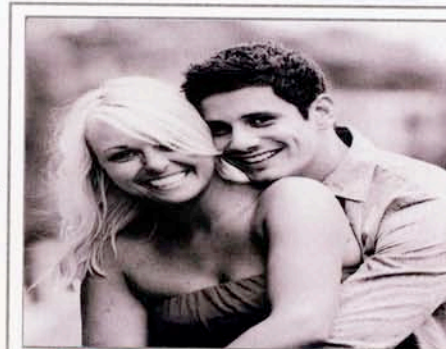
Tim and Mary Jo Doran of Dublin announce the engagement of their daughter, Kirby, to Kyle Schuchter, son of Ken and Dodie Schuchter of Morrow.

The bride-to-be graduated from Columbus Academy and the University of Cincinnati. She is a teacher for the Seven Hills School in Cincinnati.

Her fiancé graduated from Little Miami-Cincinnati and the University of Cincinnati. He is employed with Valley Vineyards in Morrow.

The wedding will take place at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at Indian Run United Methodist Church in Dublin.

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Kirby Doran and Kyle Schuchter

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Lauran Young** of New Albany was named to the spring semester dean's list at the University of Findlay.

**Nicholas Spadafore** of New Albany received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mount Union at its spring commencement.

<sup>'07</sup>  
**Paul Dean** of New Albany has been named to the dean's list for spring semester in Villanova University's College of Engineering.

**Lindsey Hanners** of New Albany was named to the spring semester dean's list at Wittenberg University.

Hanners was also inducted into the Gamma Sigma Alpha Honor Society, Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society, Mortar Board Honor Society and was the recipient of the 2011 Virginia Lucas Silver Apple Award.

<sup>'08</sup>  
**Anthony Simmons** of New Albany was named to the spring semester dean's list at the College of Wooster.

<sup>'08</sup>  
**Michael Lopresti**, son of Rick and Debbie Lopresti of Westerville, was recently tapped for membership into Mortar Board honor society during the 84th annual Tap Day ceremony at the University of Missouri.

Lopresti also was named to the All Big 12 Conference Academic First Team for men's swimming and diving.