



## Christopher V. Dietz

February 14, 1936 - September 14, 2019

The Honorable Christopher Valentine Dietz, passed away peacefully at his home in Cape May, NJ surrounded by his loving family on September 14th, 2019. Chris, who was born on February 14th, 1936, lived many lifetimes. Born in Bayonne, NJ to Pauline and Casper Dietz, he was raised in Jersey City along with his younger sister, Patricia. His family later moved to Rahway, NJ, where he graduated from high school. He completed his undergraduate degree at Georgetown University. He attended Naval Officer Candidate School in 1958, and subsequently served in the United States Navy until 1961 when he was honorably discharged. He furthered his education at Rutgers Law School. Upon completion of law school, he opened a private law firm in Rahway, NJ. Chris began his political career in 1966 when he was elected as the youngest delegate to the Constitutional Convention and served as the Chairman of the Rules Committee. He held the position of Assistant Counsel to former Governor Richard J Hughes before working on Lyndon B Johnson's Presidential campaign and becoming the youngest Chairman of the Democratic Committee in Union County. Chris also ran for New Jersey State Senate in 1971. In 1975 he was appointed by Governor Brendan Byrne to become Chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board, a title he held until 1985. He was the president of the Association of Paroling Authorities International from 1983 to 1985. While holding both titles, he revolutionized and reinvented the parole system in New Jersey to refocus its efforts on rehabilitation and reintegration. Upon leaving the Parole Board, Chris received an appointment as a New Jersey Administrative Law Judge in Trenton, NJ. In 1991 he was appointed to the Superior Court of New Jersey in Elizabeth by Governor James Florio. He finished his judicial career as a Worker's Compensation Judge in Camden, NJ. Aside from his many esteemed educational, political, and career achievements, his greatest achievement of all was to have met and married his soul mate, Tina Marie Grover. They had two beautiful, loving, and caring children, Cassandra and Christian, and enjoyed 30 years of marriage. Christopher had a heart so full of love and a personality so large that everyone who met him fell in love with him. It is without question that he changed the lives of every person he came in contact with. He was charismatic, intelligent, and had a wicked sense of humor. Christopher truly lit up a room. Even after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2009, he never lost that sense of humor or his unflinching

love for his family. He lived every day doing whatever he could to make you laugh and feel better. He bought a home in Cape May for his parents 50 years ago and was a long-time summer resident. He moved to Cape May full time with his wife in August of last year to celebrate his daughter's wedding. He spent the final days of his life in a home he loved surrounded by his adoring family. He often said, "Life is a tolerated intrusion upon my eternity". To those of us who have loved and lost him, we feel as if it will be an eternity until we see him again. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Tina, his daughter, Cassandra Dietz, her husband, Michael Rabito, his son, Christian, his sister, Patricia Dobson, his nephew, Nicholas Gervasoni, and many friends and family. To say he will be missed dearly is an understatement. There will never be another man like The Honorable Christopher Valentine Dietz. There will be a viewing on Wednesday, September 18th from 6pm – 8pm in the Spilker Funeral Home, 815 Washington St., Cape May. A second viewing will be held the following day, Thursday September 19th in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 525 Washington St., Cape May from 12:15pm – 1:45pm where Mass of Christian Burial will follow and begin at 2pm. Interment will be private and at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to be made to The Christopher Valentine Dietz Scholarship Fund through "In Memory Of" for your convenience and acknowledgment, online at [www.inmemof.org/chrisdietz](http://www.inmemof.org/chrisdietz) or checks can be mailed to "In Memory Of" PO Box 5472, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (re: Christopher Dietz). Info and condolences: [www.spilkerfuneralhome](http://www.spilkerfuneralhome)

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**18**

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Spilker Funeral Home

815 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US, 08204

**SEP** **Visitation** 12:15PM - 01:45PM

**19**

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Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

525 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US

**SEP** **Service** 02:00PM

**19**

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Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

525 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ, US

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Spilker Funeral Home** - September 18, 2019 at 06:14 PM

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“ Of the many memories I have of him, I remember Chris's (Mr. Dietz to me at the time) incredible storytelling ability. He used to invent detailed bedtime stories on the spot and weave all the improvisation together with a happy ending. And of course I'm sure most will remember his sense of humor and innate ability to make others smile and laugh.

**Christopher Holmes** - September 26, 2019 at 07:34 PM

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“ It was an honor to know Chris, my sincere condolences to the family.  
- Dave Green



**DAVID R GREEN** - September 19, 2019 at 03:53 PM

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“ Annie Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Annie Mitchell** - September 19, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ Today, my thoughts and prayers go out to both my aunt Tina & cousins cassie & Christian.

Uncle Chris, you had one impressive life that you lived....i never knew you had accomplished so much!!!! I knew you for your early morning cape May deliveries from sams club, always couponing, always down to have a meal, loved your coffee with a sweet dessert to go along with....most of all you loved your family & would do anything for them!!!! I'm glad we spent some time together over this last year when me & mom would come to visit....who will i hang out with on the porch now....rest in peace & watch over us all...as we will look up to you....you will be missed uncle Chris!!

Love your niece,  
Tara

**Tara Mulholland** - September 19, 2019 at 08:01 AM

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“ Tara Mulholland lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Tara Mulholland** - September 19, 2019 at 07:46 AM

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“ Roberta Ward lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Roberta Ward** - September 18, 2019 at 05:18 PM

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“ Chris was an extraordinary person Linda and I believe were fortunate to have known. We are very sorry to hear of his passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tina and the family.

Linda and Martin Schulman

Linda & Martin Schulman - September 18, 2019 at 12:21 PM

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“ We fondly remember the years we worked with Chris and Tina.  
Chris was a most kind and generous person.  
Our hearts go out to Tina and family.  
Cindy and Stan Saperstein



Cindy and Stan Saperstein - September 17, 2019 at 07:49 PM

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“ To the Dietz family,  
The Chairman, and he was, and always will be the Chairman, to many of us that  
worked for him, was brilliant, funny, nutty, and thought provoking, all at once. He was  
bigger than life.  
I am so, so sorry for your loss. The Chairman was a grand man.  
May he rest peacefully with God.

Donna Sweeney

Donna Sweeney - September 17, 2019 at 07:41 PM

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“ Your obit beautifully captured Chris's essence. He was a larger-than-life figure who  
influenced the course of so many lives, including mine, for the better. He will be  
missed and Georgia and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to Tina and the family, while  
knowing that his was a life well-lived. Sincerely -- Joe & Georgia Hartnett

Joseph Hartnett - September 17, 2019 at 01:10 PM

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“ Cathi Kattermann lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



Cathi Kattermann - September 17, 2019 at 11:47 AM

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“ My sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Tina and all of the family. May happy memories help ease your pain at this most difficult time.

Susan T. Kane



Susan T. Kane - September 17, 2019 at 01:30 AM

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“ Very sorry to hear of Chris passing. A big influence for me. Now he can rest. No doubt he already has the entire group up there all laughing together-As he so often did while he was with us. What a unique man. Condolences to his family in this time of grief.

charles Jantz - September 17, 2019 at 12:40 AM

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“ Dear Tina, Cassandra, and Christian - I am so sorry to hear about Chris' passing. He was instrumental in my decision to pursue a legal career and the path I would take on after law school. I learned so much from him. He had a great sense of humor, loved his family, and adored his children. I wish you all comfort during this time. May your sorrow be lessened with fond memories of Chris. I remember his penchant for General Tso's chicken when I worked with him in Elizabeth - he said he could eat it everyday and I believe he did!

Martha Hom



“ JoAnne Mulholland lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



JoAnne Mulholland - September 16, 2019 at 09:34 PM

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“ Valentina LaRae lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



Valentina LaRae - September 16, 2019 at 08:41 PM

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“ Aunt Tina, Cassie, Christian I'm so sorry for your loss. I will always remember Uncle Chris as funny, loving, hardworking, honest, family man who always made sure everyone had something good to eat and how he loved being around his family. He was kind, compassionate, never had a bad word to say of anyone and made sure he always included extended family in everything. I have many memories of Uncle Chris but one of my fondest is how he instilled in not only his kids but his nieces and nephews how to be an honest, hardworking person. Even when he wasn't working, he was still working making sure to have a beautiful yard around the house, always telling a good story and making me laugh. I was blessed to have known him. He was a great man and will truly be missed. I love you Uncle Chris.



Marcella Gervasoni - September 16, 2019 at 06:59 PM



“ Beautifully written sis <3

**Valentina** - September 16, 2019 at 08:42 PM

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“ Garry And Beth Feltus lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Garry and Beth Feltus** - September 16, 2019 at 06:15 PM

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“ Michael Rabito lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Michael Rabito** - September 16, 2019 at 06:09 PM

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“ Christian Voorhees lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Christian Voorhees** - September 16, 2019 at 06:09 PM

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“ Cassandra Dietz lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Cassandra Dietz** - September 16, 2019 at 06:08 PM

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“ Tina Dietz lit a candle in memory of Christopher V. Dietz



**Tina Dietz** - September 16, 2019 at 06:07 PM

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“ Dear Tina and family,  
So very sorry to hear about Chris. You will be in our prayers.  
Love, Linda & Jack Connolly

**Linda Connolly** - September 16, 2019 at 02:55 PM