



Jeff Hilgert

September 2, 1944 - December 9, 2020

Jeffrey R. Hilgert, 76, of Rio Grande, NJ, passed away at home with his family on December 9, 2020. Jeff will be missed by his loving family which includes his wife of 53 years, Patricia; two children, Jennifer (and Kris) Clark and grandson Jacob and Greg (and Melissa) Hilgert and granddaughter Everly; four sisters, Judith (and Blaikie) Hines, their daughter Christina (and Peter) Hastings and their sons William and Henry; Donna (and John) Rhode and their daughter Abbey; Dianne Hobbie; and brother-in-law Roger Boyle and his sons Michael and Christopher. He is predeceased by a sister, Wendy Boyle.

Jeff was born September 2, 1944, in Berkley, CA, the son of Charles and Dorothy (Reeves) Hilgert and grew up in Darien, CT. He graduated from Darien High School in 1962, and then attended Mitchell College and University of Bridgeport where he earned his Master of Arts in International Marketing. He married Patricia in Wilton, CT in 1967 and they moved to Newtown, CT, where they raised their family. Jeff spent his professional career working for Branson Ultrasonics (Emerson Electric Corporation) in Danbury, CT as Director of Marketing and Business Development. After retirement, he and Patricia have divided their time between New Berlin, NY, and Cape May County, NJ.

Jeff enjoyed sailing, fishing, soaring, working in his garden, travelling and genealogy but most of all he enjoyed precious time with his family and friends. He loved learning new things, was a friend and helper to everyone he met and never gave up reaching for what he wanted to accomplish, pushing himself even when faced with adversity.

Jeff was related to many of the founding families of Cape May, NJ including the Reeves & Matthews families. He enjoyed researching family and Cape May history and in his retirement spent many hours serving on the Board of Trustees at the Cape May Historical & Genealogical Society, Cape May Court House, NJ.

Livestream accessibility (click on this link <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/30566918>) beginning at 12:50pm on Saturday (December 19th) for Jeff's graveside service beginning at 1pm at Cold Spring Presbyterian Cemetery, Cape May, NJ. A memorial service will be

arranged at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jeff's memory may be made to The National Kidney Foundation at www.kidney.org or Amyloidosis Foundation at <https://amyloidosis.org>

(Spilker Funeral Home, Cape May, NJ) info and condolences: spilkerfuneralhome.com

Events

DEC **Graveside Service** 01:00PM
19

Cold Spring Cemetery
780 Seashore Road, Cape May (Lower Township), NJ, US

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Spilker Funeral Home - December 16, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ I loved this man so much. He was always a pleasure to take care of and brightened the room the moment I saw him.

Rachael Tenner



Rachael Tenner - March 01 at 11:58 AM



“ Pat,
When we think of Jeff, we will always remember our special times together, from Branson (& Jeff's pet spider under his desk!) to Puerto Rico, to sailing Long Island Sound together so many years ago, to recent Cape May visits and guided tours. You and Jeff always made us feel special. Jeff orchestrated an incredible life right to his last days. He was a great friend, we were so lucky to have him in our lives, and he will always be in our hearts.

Our love and sympathy to you and your family,
Pat & Bernie

Pat & Bernie LaRiviere - January 05 at 04:44 PM



“ I am so sorry that we lost Jeff. He was a great DHS '62 classmate and a very welcome friend at all our alumnae luncheons. Jeff was always so very pleasant and fun to be around. He had a quietness about him that was so welcoming! I recall having many discussions with him about genealogy -- an interest that he and I shared. He will be missed.

Barbara Patterson

Barbara Patterson - January 04 at 04:48 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Jeff's passing. He was a wonderful friend and classmate at DHS'62. Jeff befriended me right in the beginning when I moved to Darien and we remained friends ever since. He was such a great guy! The video was so very well done!

He will be missed by all

My condolences to you Penny and the entire family

Evonne Mesologites Fell

evonne fell - January 01 at 11:08 AM



“ Pat please excuse the error for some reason the self correct was obviously incorrect so very very sorry

evonne fell - January 01 at 11:13 AM



“ Pat,
I am so sorry to hear about Jeff's passing; We worked together at Branson for over 20 years. During that time Jeff was my boss, mentor and above all a friend. He helped in developing my professional career. He will be missed. My thoughts are with you and your family.
May his memory be eternal.
Nick Kaplanis

Nick Kaplanis - December 23, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ Jeff's Graveside Memorial Ceremony was recorded on December 19, 2020. It is available for the next 90 days and can be viewed by clicking this link
<https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/30566918>

Dennis Spilker - December 19, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ Everything I remember about Jeff is good so there is not enough space here to write about all of them. I can summarize by saying he was one of the kindest people I have ever known. He has earned his wings!
God Bless his Memory
Ruth Anne

Ruth Anne Ramsey - December 19, 2020 at 12:56 PM



“ I met Jeff and Pat in 1970 (50 years ago !) when I joined Branson in Stamford Ct. He taught me everything I ever knew about Branson and ultrasonic technology.

Interestingly we both ended up living in Newtown and we remained in touch over many years.

Jeff was the consummate professional, always unflappable , but more importantly a caring and compassionate individual.

I was touched by the photo of Jeff, Tom Thill, and me on Brett's sailboat in the 70's. Three experienced sailors and me !

Dear Pat: As you know Jeff and you were a special part of our collective lives. Our sincere condolences—Jeff will always bring a warm smile to our face as we remember his wonderful legacy.

Bob and Kathy Geckle

Bob Geckle - December 18, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ Dear Pat, Jen and Greg,

We grieve for you all for your loss of Jeff.

Jeff was a special gem and a vital source of energy and enthusiasm for our Reunions, DHS lunches and our Christmas gatherings.

Louie liked Pat and Jeff immediately and shares our grief. We loved having the opportunity, Pat, to talk to you and Jeff at the lunches. His love for you and family was evident and heart warming.

We will miss his positive attitude, smile, great laugh, and under his breath funny comments. Sitting in back of me in one of our high school classes, he would make slightly snide comments. Hard a hard time not laughing out loud.

We have all lost a special person at the young age of 76, but he got the mileage of 100 years out of those 76 years.

You are in our hearts.

Kathy and Louie Chiappetta

Kathy Chiappetta - December 18, 2020 at 11:57 AM



“ My deepest sympathies
Hugo O Bogani

Hugo O Bogani - December 17, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ I was lucky enough to speak to Jeff at length a week before his passing and we discussed and had laughs about the 4 high school reunions (DHS 62') we ran as a committee over the past eighteen years. Jeff played such an important role insuring the success of our reunions. Pat and Jeff never missed our DHS lunches and our annual Christmas lunch.

All of this and the love for his family really kept Jeff focused. Jeff was truly a role model always having a positive outlook and always a witty sense of humor.

Dottie & I will always remember Jeff's wonderful smile, positive attitude and the love for his family and of life. Jeff will be truly missed.

With sympathy and love to Pat and family,

Gil & Dottie Kellersman

Gil & Dottie Kellersman - December 17, 2020 at 09:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Thomas Thill - December 17, 2020 at 08:48 AM



“ Jeffery, when I joined Branson in 69, you were a friendly face, and without your guidance and mentoring over the years, I'm not sure I would have had the career I had. You were always there when I needed you the most, like moving my life and family from MD back to CT in a U-Haul.

We may have been separated at times by miles, but you were never far from my heart, and you will be missed my friend.

To Pat, Greg and Jenifer, I'm sorry for your loss.

I wish we could be there on Saturday.

Martha & Tom

Thomas Thill - December 17, 2020 at 09:00 AM



“ To the Hilgert family, I am so sorry for your loss. We were both so glad to have known him. The video was wonderful and showed he had a wonderful life with his beloved family. May you keep those memories in your heart to help you through this difficult time. Love and Hugs to you all.

Hilary and Rich Pandorf

Hilary Pandorf - December 16, 2020 at 10:02 PM



“ Jeff was one of the nicest people i have known. Endlessly helping wherever he saw a need. He beat the odds and lived many more years with his shear determination. He will be greatly missed by all who call him friend. Now with his Lord we look forward to seeing him again. Love you, Pat.

Bonnie Jean Bauer - December 16, 2020 at 09:24 AM



“ Pat, sorry to learn about Jeff's passing last week. We have been friends since grade school. I twas always a pleasure to see you both at the many Christmas lunches we had throughout the years and also at our class reunions.

Please feel free to reach out if there is anything I can do.

Hoping you find some comfort in knowing that so many of Jeff`s classmates share in your sorrow..

Preston

preston - December 15, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ Jeff Hilgert was a ray of sunshine and a good friend. We shared our talents together through the DHS reunion committee for many years. Thanks for your service, Jeff.

In high school Steve White and I shared our photography interests and activities with Jeff. His family ran Hilgert & Gough Photography.

May he rest in peace. I shall miss you old friend, and I know that you shall see God.

My sincere condolences to Pat and the family.

Yours in Christ,
Bob Galbo

Bob Galbo - December 15, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ Rest in peace, Jeff. I will miss your warm smile and quick wit. We never had the visit in North Carolina that we talked about. My condolences to Pat and family. Fondly, Maryann Monti St. John.

Maryann Monti St. John - December 15, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ It is always sad news when we learn of the passing of one of our classmates. But it is comforting to know how loved Jeff was and is by his family and friends. I too went on to Mitchell and then graduated from U of Bridgeport, turns out we were not alone! A beautiful place to be is Cape May and I will stop by next summer to say goodbye.
Steve Woodcock

Steve Woodcock - December 15, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ Pat, it is with much sorrow that I learned of Jeff's passing. I cherish the friendship we have shared over many decades and join his many friends in mourning his death. May the memories of the love you have shared over the years comfort you during this difficult time of bereavement. Sincerely, Drew Koehler

Drew Koehler - December 15, 2020 at 11:47 AM



“ Our high school class has been blessed to be in active contact with each other - there is nothing like friends who knew you when! Jeff was instrumental in establishing that contact and preserving it, which is a tremendous gift to all of us. And it's for sure that we are not the only ones who have benefited from his thoughtfulness and energy. I'm sure that Pat and all of his family know that there are people all over the place who are bound together and to them through Jeff's goodness! You are held close by all of us.

Donna Maulsby Asnani

Donna Asnani - December 15, 2020 at 11:04 AM



“ Dear Pat,
You are in our hearts today just as Jeff is. Although in later life we only saw each other at reunions, Jeff holds a precious place in my heart. Jeff was my first friend when we moved from Birmingham AL to Maple Lane (aka Old King's Highway, South) Darien before kindergarten. Some memories never fade — like the time we innocently almost set the lumberyard on fire. And less amusingly as I worried for Jeff as he battled polio. He was an amazing kid! And a truly fine man!
Caring thoughts to you, Pat.

Judith Watkins - December 15, 2020 at 08:15 PM



“ Pat, Jen, and Greg, my deepest sympathy for the loss of your wonderful Husband and Dad. Many years have passed but the memory of so many happy times with you in Newtown remains clear. May angels surround you with peace in your hearts.
Claudia Mitchell (Clancy)

claudia mitchell - December 20, 2020 at 07:12 AM



“ May God be with the Hilgert family at this time. Jeff will be missed by all.

Allen Barraclough class of 62

Allen Barraclough - December 15, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ May God bless the Hilbert family. We are sad for us. But glad for Jeff.

Chuck DeFarkas - December 15, 2020 at 06:46 AM



“ I remember Jeff as a genuinely warm, caring person. He always made you feel important to him. He was so proud of his family and was willing to share stories of his children and grandchildren. He and Pat were so good together. My husband Jim and I will miss him. Though we hadn't visited in awhile, it feels as if there is something significant missing in our lives without him. Love to Pat and family, Judi and Jim Bunting

Judith Bunting - December 14, 2020 at 11:27 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Hilgert's passing. I have so many fond memories of our families spending time together in Newtown. Sending my love during this difficult time for you all.

Keri Mella Zalewsky

Keri Zalewsky - December 14, 2020 at 02:35 PM