



## Chris DiGiacomo

June 9, 2024

Chris DiGiacomo, 59, passed away on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at Lancaster General Hospital. With the love of his life by his side, his incredible heart took one final beat following years of struggles with Myotonic Dystrophy.

Born in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late Eugene P. and Claire L. (O'Brien) DiGiacomo. He graduated from Pennsbury High School, attended Temple University, and graduated from Millersville University with a B.A. in History and teaching certification.

Chris is survived by his wife, Susan (Dunkle); his sister, Gina, and her husband, William Trimble; brother, David DiGiacomo, his wife, Lauren and their daughter, Ella, Chris's beloved niece and Goddaughter; and Larry Hershberger, Claire's long-time companion who treated Chris like a son. Known by Uncle Chris to many, he was especially fond of his step-niece, Alice, and her husband, Mat Sugarman. Also surviving are his aunt Patricia (O'Brien) Dehnert, numerous cousins, friends and extended family. He will be profoundly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Throughout his life, Chris enjoyed many vocations, ranging from doing private security at Veteran's Stadium to various positions within the food service industry to his last career choice in education. His first teaching job was at Manos House, a place where he hoped he would help a few kids get back on

the right path. Prior to an early retirement due to health reasons, Chris last worked as a substitute teacher in the Manheim Township and Milton S. Hershey school systems.

Raised in the Catholic faith, Chris was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Ephrata, PA. He was an avid sports enthusiast and a former soccer player, coach and referee. His main sports passion was football and thankfully lived long enough to see his beloved Eagles win a Super Bowl! He loved music, animals (particularly cats), traveling to Las Vegas and the simple pleasure of a good meal with friends or family.

His whip smart mind and brave spirit served him well as he dealt with increasing debility. Never a word of self-pity was ever uttered by Chris. Illness may have weakened his body, but he displayed a strength few people possess.

Chris's family wishes to thank everyone in the healthcare community who was ever part of his care team. There are too many individuals to name who were key in keeping him in optimal health over decades. Know he was grateful for your care and compassion.

In accordance with Chris's wishes, no formal public viewing or funeral service will be held. A private memorial will be planned for a later date. To honor Chris, please donate to a charity of your choice or better yet, give a forever home to a dog or cat in need.

# Tribute Wall

TD

“ Susan, very sorry for your loss. I loved coming over and working with Chris. I know he'll have front row Eagles seats, ready to cheer the Birds on this coming season. My favorite memory was when I arrived for his treatment and he was able to vocalize- boy could he talk!!! What a wonderful and pleasant surprise. - Prayers sent your way.- Tony Dague

Tony Dague - June 19, 2024 at 07:25 AM

BD

“ Sue...my deepest sympathy to you.. I am so thankful I got to know Chris, even if it was only for a short timespan. What I remember most about him? His infectious, happy smile! That's what will stay in my mind when I think of him. Sending you lots of love and a big hug. ~ Beate

Beate S Duschl - June 18, 2024 at 08:55 AM

RW

“ My sincere condolences to all Chris's Beloved Family and Friends during this sad time of loss of a fine young, brave Man. I had the pleasure of meeting Chris on my travels as a Singer/Author, and let me tell You; His kind, gentle, loving spirit shall shine on forever in my heart. Such a gentle, loving, tender hearted Soul. His loss shall be never be forgotten through all the many lives he touched. Safely In Heaven with Jesus. We shall all meet again one day. Sending so much love, compassion, comfort and Peace. R.I.P. Chris. Safely Home. God Bless, A friend, Robyn Kirchner- Wolf



Robyn Kirchner - Wolf - June 17, 2024 at 10:39 AM

JH

“ Jody Hodges planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chris DiGiacomo.

Jody Hodges - June 16, 2024 at 04:36 PM

JH

“ Jody Hodges purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Chris DiGiacomo.



Jody Hodges - June 16, 2024 at 04:36 PM

GP

“ I met Chris as a teen who had just moved in after our family had also recently moved into the same development. I was desperately in need of a friend being new to the school district and quiet, but Chris’s energy ensured that that loneliness was at an end over the next five years which we spent growing up together. I may have been one of his earliest students in a sense; destiny drawing Chris into a role as teacher. The very first thing Chris suggested to occupy our free time was to play a round of “Fury Ball” that was inspired by the logo of the then Philadelphia based professional soccer team, The Fury. The logo was a soccer ball 🏈 racing across the field on Fire 🔥 with flames trailing behind it. It was pitch black outside, so, I was immediately concerned that we’d lose the ball or smash into each other and voiced my concerns. Then the professor began the lesson. “I’ve got the gasoline. All you need is find a couple of tennis balls 🎾 !

😞🌟😞

My sister and I followed our mentor down to the development’s new tennis courts and waited for instruction. If no one else has ever played before, keep in mind that it’s designed to be a very short game! We kicked that ball a fire around for maybe twenty seconds and my world changed. Running back to the house as criminal actors racing to escape the feds was like nothing I had ever experienced. The man was an inspiration. I’m fortunate to have met and spent many exciting moments in the presence of optimism and liberal spirits with Chris. When I read above that he was not in need of consolation, I could imagine things he might say along those lines as if he were in my kitchen. Few people posted what I saw in Chris.

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George Pingor - June 14, 2024 at 04:03 PM

TS

*George I couldn't have said it better, those days were remarkable and beautiful. A treasure of memories. Terri*

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**Terri Sarson** - July 27, 2024 at 07:19 PM

AT

“ *Uncle Chris--I always referred to him this way. He fought a valiant battle with class and dignity and never once complained or questioned why. Heartbreaking to lose him though I know he rests peacefully now. My thoughts and prayers are with Sue, his loving wife who never left his side and his family. Fly free, my friend until we meet again.*



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**Andrea' Bebee Tindley** - June 14, 2024 at 02:22 PM