



Christopher John Nicolini

July 14, 1946 - September 27, 2021

Christopher J. Nicolini, 75, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease on Monday, September 27, 2021 in Merrillville. He was the first born to Thelma V. and Lewis F. Nicolini on July 14, 1946, in Mishawaka. He found an early love of athletics, particularly football. He was a loving husband to his wife Gail (Marich) for 45 years, marrying on June 17, 1977. He loved his children: Stephanie (Jason) Borem of Brownsburg, IN; Dominic (Kristin) of Lutherville, MD; and Gina (Nick Green) of Noblesville, IN. He was proud to be Papa to his six grandchildren, Simon and Jude (Brownsburg, IN); Sutton, Campbell, and Quinn (Lutherville, MD); and Ogden (Noblesville, IN). Christopher is also survived by two brothers, Timothy of Mishawaka, and Mark of Milwaukee, WI, and one sister, Mary (James Schmidt) of Mishawaka. He was a devoted son-in-law to Frances (Spiller) Marich, who died in December 2018. Christopher graduated from St. Joseph High School in South Bend in 1964. He held a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Educational Guidance both from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He played four years of football for the Musketeers. After collegiate ball, he played semi-pro football for the Chicagoland Bulls. He was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at Xavier. He served 22 years in the Army Reserves, retiring with a rank of Major. He later served as an Admissions Representative for the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served the Catholic Diocese of Gary for 43 years, shaping the students of both Andean High School and most recently Bishop

Noll Institute. In addition, he taught at Lowell High School. He taught social studies and was athletic director at Andrean and was a guidance counselor / director of guidance at Bishop Noll. He coached hundreds of student athletes in football and track at both schools. He was a certified official for the Indiana High School Athletic Association. He loved being in education because he saw it as the chance to develop our number one resource- the human resource. Christopher was inducted into the Andrean Hall of Fame in February 2010 and was inducted into the Bishop Noll Institute Hall of Fame in April 2012. In February 2017, he was honored for his 43 years of service to the Diocese of Gary. He amassed countless coaching awards, particularly for producing strong track and field athletes. Christopher enjoyed attending Army-Navy games in all kinds of weather with his son and timing his daughters in track and swimming. He had a wry sense of humor, and always had an anecdote to share. He loved all things related to his Italian culture, from cannoli to his wife's stuffed rigatoni. He was truly a servant of Christ. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Andrean High School, 5959 Broadway, Merrillville, or Bishop Noll Institute, 1519 Hoffman St, Hammond, IN 46327, Merrillville Education Foundation, P.O. Box 14475, Merrillville, IN 46410. A prayer service will be held on Friday, October 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, where a visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A funeral mass will be celebrated on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc, 200 East 78th Avenue, Merrillville, where Chris was a member. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 1. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Prayer Service

OCT 1. 5:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

OCT 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
200 East 78th Ave.
Merrillville , IN 46410

Tribute Wall

LH

“ Dear Gail and Family,
Please know that you were in our thoughts as you laid to rest your beloved husband, father and grandfather. My siblings and I, who knew 'Mr. Nicolini' while at Andreat, shared fond stories with one another upon hearing of his passing. The consensus. he was truly a nice man!
Prayerful Love,
Lisa Richter Hargarten



Lisa Richter Hargarten - November 24, 2021 at 03:50 PM

LM

“ Gail, I just found out that Chris passed away. May God bless him for the kindness he showed to others. Peace to you and your family.
Laura Monteen

Laura Monteen - October 09, 2021 at 03:05 AM

JS

“ Chris was such a good guy. At Andreat, he always found work for me to do to make a little extra cash --- run clock at events, announce, etc. Sometimes I think he paid me out of his own pocket. That was just Chris.
I was glad we had lunch together a couple of times recently.
Gone too soon.
John Szot

John Szot - October 05, 2021 at 08:08 PM

JS

“ *Such a good Man - not a negative memory at all w/Mr/Coach Nicolini when I attended Andean - Coach probably had issues w/me - but as an adult now I reflect on his guidance - Gail, kids & family - my condolences & thank you Coach Nicolini for your service to your country!!!*

Jim Spasoff - October 02, 2021 at 07:01 PM

EZ

“ *Coach Nico was a Special man, Did everything he could for his players and never backed down from a Challenge. We ways had a talk when I saw him in the Halls at Noll. A True Legend.*

Edward Z. - October 01, 2021 at 06:54 PM

SE

“ *Coach Chris and Family,
Please accept my condolences. Chris was one of the 'good guys' in area high school sports. He always wanted the best of athletes, on and off the field, to carry themselves with class.
Steve Euvino*

Steve Euvino - October 01, 2021 at 04:47 PM

BL

“ *Rest In Peace Chris
We were St. Joe grade school and St. Joe High School friends and I have never forgotten what a true friendship we shared . Till we meet again...!!!!*

brian linson - October 01, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



October 01, 2021 at 09:36 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



October 01, 2021 at 06:27 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



September 30, 2021 at 10:30 PM



“ *Dear Gail, I am so sorry for you and your family. My prayers have been with Chris as he battled through the changes he endured. My prayers are with you and the family as you walk through these days missing him. Be at peace knowing he is. Marilyn Baran*

Marilyn Baran - September 30, 2021 at 09:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.



September 30, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.



September 30, 2021 at 02:47 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant* was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.



September 30, 2021 at 02:20 PM

EG

“Gina, Gail, Dominic, and the Nicolini Family. I first met Chris as "Gina's Dad" and not long after enjoyed one of his most obvious traits, his wry humor. Those two marked so much of his essential grace. A dad, a family centered person, which he expanded to the broader circle of those he helped. The multiple gifts he left you, as your dad, as your husband, survive in you. Don't mourn that you will not have them any longer because by that he lives, in his best, in each of you. See that in yourselves, and in each other.
Ed Grimmer

Ed Grimmer - September 30, 2021 at 01:24 PM

TF

“The Roth/Reynolds Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.



The Roth/Reynolds Family - September 30, 2021 at 10:42 AM

Jeff Nelson

“Dominic and Nicolini Family so sorry for your loss. Your father never said "NO" when we asked him to "UMP" our Little League games. Chris was always there. He always had a smile. Our deepest sympathy. Jeff and Martha Nelson

Jeff Nelson - September 30, 2021 at 10:24 AM

ML

“Gail, my condolences to your and your family.

Mary Lewis - September 30, 2021 at 07:32 AM



“ *Tim and the Nicolini family. My wife and I send our prayers and condolences.*

John Gleissner - September 30, 2021 at 02:24 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



September 29, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ *Robin Polt, Nancy Hill & Phoebe and Adam purchased the Sweet Remembrance Spray for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



Robin Polt, Nancy Hill & Phoebe and Adam - September 29, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ *A great friend from the time we coached together at Marian HS in 1969. He will be greatly missed.*

John Cybulskis

John Cybulskis - September 29, 2021 at 04:14 PM

TM

“ To Mrs. Nicolini and family,

May you all continue to be guided and strengthened by God's eternal light.



Toi Lisa Mark - September 29, 2021 at 03:47 PM

CD

“ We have such wonderful memories of Chris from our Navy baseball days! He was just the nicest guy, and really fun to be around. He sure loved his family, and always had entertaining stories to tell. Our heartfelt condolences to Gail, Dom, and the rest of the family. With love, Cathy and Marty Deafenbaugh

Cathy Deafenbaugh - September 29, 2021 at 03:24 PM

JC

“ I hired Chris in his first job at Andean. He was so thrilled to get the job to work in the guidance office. He was so wonderful working with the freshman and sophomore boys. He was a great man who I love teasing about his St. Joe football team. Years and years since I have spoken to him, but I always had the greatest respect for his love of people and dedication in everything he did. I am sure he is in heaven. Sorry for your loss

John Coggins - September 29, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.



September 29, 2021 at 10:45 AM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



September 29, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



September 28, 2021 at 10:08 PM



“ *Dennis E. Piechocki purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Christopher John Nicolini.*



Dennis E. Piechocki - September 28, 2021 at 04:44 PM