



Dennis A. McCormack

July 16, 2018

Dennis McCormack was finally vanquished by cancer Monday, July 16, 2018. He died, too soon, after a five year battle, during which he demonstrated all the qualities that made him so loved, by so many.

Dennis Anthony McCormack was born November 19, 1951 in Hartford, and raised in East Hartford by his parents, Edward and Margaret (Rempe) McCormack. He is survived by his wife, Magda Regina Souza, his son, Michael and his wife, Selalah, as well as his sisters, Kathee McCormack, and her husband, Barry Cheslin, and his younger sister Patricia (Tia) McCormack and her wife, Kathy Anselmo. His eldest sister, Carolyn McCormack Ciagio predeceased him in 2016.

Dennis was a man of many accomplishments. He graduated East Catholic High School in 1969, the College of the Holy Cross in 1973, and the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1976. He was an Eagle Scout, and was inducted into the Northwest Catholic High School Hall of Fame as a Coach, and the East Catholic High School Hall of Fame as an outstanding Alumnus. He completed 53 consecutive Manchester Road Races, once finishing as high as 4th Place, and was inducted into the Manchester Connecticut Athletic Hall of Fame as an elite runner. As a young man, he rode his bicycle from Maine to California, riding into the prevailing winds for the extra workout.

Dennis was not defined by his accomplishments, but, they are emblematic of his strength of will, much of which was displayed in his career as a runner, and which again manifested itself in his struggle with cancer. He was a great

runner who fought his last foe as he would an opponent in a race; endure the pain, push on and sprint ahead when it appears that you have nothing left. Just as he was a mentor and coach to many runners at Northwest Catholic and the University of Hartford, he also gave of himself by participating in numerous cancer trials, not simply in hopes of extending his own life, but in the belief that his efforts would be of benefit to those that followed.

Dennis was a life long entrepreneur, starting with his college era painting company with his good friend John Quinn. He practiced law for more than 40 years, hanging his shingle in Windsor, before ending his career of counsel with Quinn & Quinn in Hartford. As with his running, much of the work was done alone, and there was nothing that he would not take on, always delivering for his clients. Although he knew the value of money, he was always generous with his spirit, his time, and his resources. He was a role model to many, and a significant benefactor to his high school alma mater.

He was a family man, but he also enjoyed his time with his buddies. The many years of Thursday evening runs were gradually replaced by golf, which included an annual trip to Myrtle Beach. Being the good lawyer that he was, he always knew that the rules of golf were subject to interpretation, and he had an amazing knack of always finding his ball. He was a good husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, coach and mentor. He will be missed by many, but never forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made payable to East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester, CT 06042 where a scholarship will be established in his memory. He will be waked at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 from 4-7pm. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Trinity, Capitol Avenue, Hartford. on Thursday at 10:00 am. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUL **18**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **19**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Church
53 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

DZ

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. Dennis was a huge help throughout the years for my real estate investments. He went above and beyond and was always there to offer advice and more recently based on what was happening in his own life was able to help me clarify what was important in my life which enabled me to move towards positive things to focus on and which things to let go of. You will be missed.*

*Warm regards,
Dawn*

Dawn Zukowski - August 17, 2018 at 02:18 PM

DD

“ *Magda,
I'm so extremely sorry for your loss. He was a terrific guy! I was very fortunate to get to know both of you.*

*Deanna DAgostino, RN
Care Coordinator, YNHH Smilow*

Deanna DAgostino - July 19, 2018 at 02:03 PM

LE

“ *Dennis was a friend, mentor and always gave of himself to others.
Will miss him.*

Leo

Leo - July 19, 2018 at 12:23 PM

HK

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Holly Keating - July 18, 2018 at 10:20 PM

“ If ever an obituary can bring solace, a smile, and sorrow all at the same time, those who wrote on behalf of Dennis did not miss their mark. All references told the story of what Dennis was made of. Every single characteristic that belonged to a truly perfect man, Dennis, apparently was known to all who knew him. Most accolades came from those who were lucky enough to know him the longest, buddies who also seemed to promise loyalty in sickness and in health, just as Magda has done as his caring and loving wife. She will be able to lean on them to survive the passing of such a great human being.

In spirit, of course, Dennis knows everthing will be just fine.

Knowing Dennis for less than two short months, we got a glimpse of what everyone is talking about: he boasted he had a lot of friends and shared with us many positive experiences, and challenges in his life. We exchanged some stories that had some parallels; he smiled a lot, and had an unbelievable attitude toward everything. He said he could tell stories all day long. In just a few conversation we knew he was positive-thinking, selfless, happy-go-lucky, a self-made man with enough charm to erase any notion of negativity within him during his last fighting battle to live. How can one assess or judge a person after such a brief period of time? All those unbelievable qualities we read about today were right there. We are lucky we met you, Dennis. We are lucky we met you, Magda and Mila. Thank you for the opportunity to have known you.

Jan Harper and Nan Morelli

JL

“ On behalf of President and Head of School, Christian Cashman, I offer my deepest sympathy on the passing of Dennis McCormack. Dennis is a valued member of the Northwest Catholic community, so we mourn his loss along with all who love him. Please know that we will remember Dennis and his entire family in a special way at our school-wide Mass in September. We are very sorry for your loss. ~ Jane Leary, Director of Constituent Relations, Northwest Catholic High School.

Jane Leary - July 18, 2018 at 02:49 PM

PG

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Peter Good - July 18, 2018 at 01:51 PM

NS

“ It is with great sorrow that I learned of Dennis' passing. We met in Bevin Hall at Holy Cross in the fall of 1969 and shared some rides back and forth to the Hartford area. We were basketball partners against a couple of our classmates from the corridor and enjoyed our Grilled Cheese franchise until we were shut down by the powers that be. Dennis was our Dining Hall connection grabbing cheese and bread for our enterprise. May you rest in peace. Nicholas Simeone Holy Cross Class of 1973.

Nicholas Simeone - July 18, 2018 at 01:02 PM

JQ

“ *Our sympathies to Dennis’s family and friends.*

Dennis was not just a good guy; he was one of the all-time greats, another brother.

He personified the traits we all cherish in good friends, honesty, integrity, character, empathy, ethics, humor, wisdom, common sense and a quiet and humble strength.

He bore his last struggle with amazing grace, stoic perseverance and no apparent fear.

We will miss him dearly and think often of him with a smile.

Maggie, you and Dennis blessed me July 24, 2015 with the honor of participating in your wedding ceremony, a truly joyous day.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Joe and Lucille Quinn - July 18, 2018 at 11:38 AM

JQ

A joyous day, July 24, 2015.

Joe and Lucille Quinn - July 18, 2018 at 11:40 AM



“ *Dear McCormack family,
I met Dennis a few years ago when he and Maggie joined the Thursday night golf league at Buena Vista Golf Course in West Hartford. Every time they came to the course I was treated to the terrific smile and handshake from Dennis and he made me feel like we had been lifetime friends. I knew he was a special person by the love and respect he received by his fellow golfers. I'll certainly miss seeing that smile. You fought a tough battle my friend and deserve a peaceful rest. Maggie my heart goes out to you!*

Gerry Aldrich - July 18, 2018 at 08:08 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Marty Kearns - July 18, 2018 at 07:38 AM

AN

“ Dear McCormack Family,

I am very sorry to hear about Dennis passing. To me he will always be Coach, as he saw something in me that nudged him to take a chance on adding me to his inaugural University of Hartford teams. I credit all the success our teams had to his ability to get the most from us. I still use the methods he taught us in my attempts to run today.

Thank you for sharing Dennis with us. I know there were times he sacrificed family time to train us and take us to meets because we would talk about it riding in the vans to the course or tracks. Sometimes even stuffing a couple of us into his little red Porsche when the fledgling program didn't have the funds for a van.

Coach was a great person and more importantly a great friend. He will be truly missed.

*Sincerely,
Andrew Schiffer*

Andrew - July 18, 2018 at 06:51 AM

RH

“ Dennis was a great man in so many ways. The Holy Cross track and cross country family will miss him sorely. He was an inspiration to me from the time he was an athlete running the hills of Worcester up until the annual HC track golf outings. My condolences to his family and wife circle of friends. Although I can't make the wake and funeral, my thoughts and prayers will be there. Rich Houston



Rich Houston - July 18, 2018 at 06:40 AM

JB

“ Saw Dennis two years ago at an EC game. As always, he was generous with his time as we caught up. He was just a genuine "good" guy. Some of my fond memories include seeing him on the mound during our Mota's days, bus rides to school, but most of all, our snowball fight during catechism class in 8th grade! Wishing all the best to his family and friends, especially JQ.

John Barry - July 18, 2018 at 05:44 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Dennis A. McCormack.



July 17, 2018 at 09:39 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jane Good - July 17, 2018 at 06:40 PM



“ *Dennis was My Fabulous Brother !
I will love him always. RIP*



Tia McCormack - July 17, 2018 at 04:28 PM



Dennis and His Sister Tia 2016

Tia McCormack - July 30, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for
the family of Dennis A. McCormack.*



July 17, 2018 at 03:02 PM

JS

“ Dear McCormack family,
I am deeply saddened to hear of Dennis' passing. I first actually met Dennis at Northwest Catholic in the 1970's when we both were coaches there. Since we were both graduates of Holy Cross (I am class of '71) we had some things in common and got to know each other pretty well. Over the years we would run into each other, shared mutual friends, and had many a good discussion on a multitude of topics. Once Dennis' became a parent of East Catholic athletes we saw each other at athletic contests, as Northwest and East competed within their great rivalry.

The wonderful obituary written about his life is so true. He was all that was said and more. One could not help but be impressed with his intelligence, character, and passion for life. He was a wonderful coach and his athletes truly loved him. He touched everyone that he came in contact with in the most positive way. I regret that time and distance make it impossible to share my condolences in person but please know that he and all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely, John Shukie, Northwest Catholic High School retired,
Baltimore MD.

John C. Shukie - July 17, 2018 at 02:14 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Jane Good - July 17, 2018 at 01:49 PM