



Jeffrey R. Digel

October 18, 2017

Jeffery (Jeff) Robert Digel began his next adventure on October 18, 2017, in Hartford, Connecticut. He was born in Rantoul, Illinois on March 29, 1956, the first of Bob and Shirley Digel's four children, and acquired his love for the outdoors growing up in McKean County, Pennsylvania.

Jeff completed his undergraduate studies at Middlebury College and obtained a Master's degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He spent most of his business career in real estate finance and development, starting at Aetna before serving as a founding member, leader, and mentor at both iStar Financial in New York City and Figure Eight Properties in West Hartford. Real estate appealed to Jeff because it combined his interests in architecture, finance, geography and economics.

Jeff had a wonderful sense of fun and adventure. He was always in search of his next activity, which manifested itself in a broad array of interests including skiing, biking, sailing, golfing, hiking, hunting, and travel. In the rare event a friend or family member was going on an adventure that Jeff wasn't already leading, he immediately joined in. He was also an enthusiastic learner who always had a book at hand, typically involving American history or politics.

He was active in his community as a philanthropist. Notably, he was the co-founder and first chairman of the board of Covenant Preparatory School, an

independent, interfaith, tuition-free middle school for boys from under-served families in the Hartford area. He also served on the boards of several non-profit organizations including: Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford County Habitat for Humanity, and Achievement First Hartford Academy.

Jeff loved people and quickly endeared himself to them. He was an empathetic listener who truly cared about everyone he met and had countless dear friends. Most of all, Jeff loved, and was loved by, his family. They shared amazing times together that will never be forgotten: ski weeks, family holidays, summer vacations and spontaneous outings. No one could ask for a better husband, father, son, brother, or friend.

He is survived by his loving wife, Jane, his sons Sam and his wife Anna, Ben, his mother Shirley, and siblings Marty and his wife Debbie, Peter and his wife Pam, Julie and her husband Brian. Jeff will be dearly missed by his family and friends, who could not be more thankful for the compassionate care he received at Hartford Hospital. A Funeral Mass in celebration of his life will be held at the Church of Saint Peter Claver, 47 Pleasant St., West Hartford, at 11 AM on Saturday, October 21st. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Covenant Preparatory School, 135 Broad St., Hartford, CT 06105, to help create an endowment fund in Jeff's name. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Peter Claver
47 Pleasant St.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

WH

“ Paula and I were so saddened to hear of Jeff's passing. I worked with Jeff back in the Aetna Realty days. I found Jeff to be very easy going yet focused and driven. I had the opportunity to play golf with Jeff and sit next to him at dinner on Marco Island in 2016. I hadn't seen him in quite some time. It was so great to visit with him and listen to stories about his family and interests. I always enjoyed his company. Just a great guy!

Bill Harris

William Harris - October 21, 2017 at 05:00 PM

CP

“ We are so thankful for the gift of Jeff's friendship. We will never forget how he touched our lives and always made us smile. To Jane and all of the family, may you be comforted by the love that surrounds you.

Love, Chris, Peter, Ken and Nick Peterson



Chris Peterson - October 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM

PP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Peter Peterson - October 21, 2017 at 09:27 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Jeffrey R. Digel.* ”



October 20, 2017 at 02:04 PM

DR

“ I am sure there are countless fantastic stories and memories people can share about Jeff. I thought I would share a couple brief ones that will always stick with me.

At the time we left the Aetna Real Estate Group in 1998 and pondering what the next step in our careers was going to be, we happened to play a few rounds of golf together while trying to figure all that out. We would call our friend and former Aetna colleague Tom Dudeck, who was busy at work in his new job at Cornerstone Real Estate Advisers. Jeff and I would joke with Tom about us playing golf while Tom was busy at work. We then came to the reality that - we too "still have work left". Almost every time since then when we saw each the other, the phrase "still have work left" would be part of the conversation. Jeff, no more "work left" for you - you have accomplished so much and left such a great mark on so many people.

My second story is a skiing one. I took my son Tyler to Okemo when he was 6 years old (March 2001 I believe) for his first "big mountain" ski adventure. We met Jeff on the trails that day. Jeff being a fairly accomplished skier (I was not) took immediately to teaching Tyler how to handle the big mountain. I wanted no part of any mogul trail, so Jeff took it upon himself and gave Tyler his first mogul trail lesson. Tyler had a blast. Jeff, it's one of those days both Tyler and I will never forget.

To Jane, the boys and the entire family, our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Dave, Beverly and Tyler Romano.

Dave Romano - October 20, 2017 at 08:48 AM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ron Szabo - October 20, 2017 at 06:55 AM

RS

“ I will miss one of the greatest people
I have ever known



Ron Szabo - October 20, 2017 at 06:54 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for
the family of Jeffrey R. Digel.



October 20, 2017 at 06:32 AM

PP

“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute wall*



Peter Peterson - October 19, 2017 at 08:54 PM

VA

“ Vincenzo Salina Amorini purchased the *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray* for the family of Jeffrey R. Digel.



Vincenzo Salina Amorini - October 19, 2017 at 04:54 PM