



WILLIAM M. COLLISTER

April 16, 1955 - September 14, 2015

William M. Collister, 60, of Newfoundland, NJ, passed away on Monday, September 14, 2015.

William was born on April 16, 1955 in Herlong, CA to Janice and William H. Collister and was raised in Ringwood, NJ.

He married Christine (Flynn) in 1984 and lived in West Milford, NJ where they raised their three children.

William was a partner with the accounting firm of Gingras, Collister, Babinski, and Company in Fairfield, NJ.

He was a parishioner of St. Joseph RC Church where he also volunteered much of his time, as well as with many other organizations such as the PAL of West Milford, NJ.

William leaves behind his beloved wife Christine of 31 years; his loving children William C. Collister, Meghan Collister and her fiancée Anthony Cisternino, and Caitlin Collister; his cherished grandson Cash William Cisternino; his dear parents Janice and William Collister; his loving brothers Bruce and Richard Collister; many loving brothers and sisters-in-law and many dear nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 from 4pm to 8pm at the Stickle-Soltész Funeral Home, 187 La Rue Road, Newfoundland, NJ, 07435 (GPS use 1 Post Place).

The funeral mass will take place on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 11am St. Joseph RC Church, 454 Germantown Road, West Milford, NJ 07480.

Final disposition will be private.

Memorial donations may be made in William's name to the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231-9986.

Log onto www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com tribute wall to personally post your condolences, memories, photos, and videos, as well as obtaining driving directions to the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **16.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home

187 La Rue Road

(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)

Newfoundland, NJ 07435

(973) 697-6700

info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com

<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

SEP **17.** 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Joseph RC Church

454 Germantown Road

West Milford, NJ 07480

(973) 697-6100

Tribute Wall

LH

“ Bill, I really don't know where to begin. I am sitting here in my living room remembering so much. The PAL meetings, the girls rec soccer games, the tricky trays and carnivals, the club and high school soccer tournaments and games, the fun along the way, your beautiful way of making life shine in only a way you could. I thought there would be more time but I guess your job was done. There is a tear in the fabric of our lives now and it will take some time to adjust. You are one of a kind and we were blessed to know you.

Chris, Billy, Meghan and Caitlin, thank you for sharing Bill with all of us. You are in my thoughts and prayers every day. I pray that in time you will all find peace and any grief will be replaced with warm and loving memories of the times you spent together.

Our sincere condolences,
Liz and Mike Hodge

Liz Hodge - October 02, 2015 at 10:46 PM

FB

“ Our sympathies and prayers go out to Bill's wife Christine, their children and Bill Sr and Jan. Although Joann and I didn't know Bill, the messages below show us a guy loved by his friend's and co worker's. Knowing his mom and dad that's easy to understand. We pray God to give you the strenght and faith to get through this time of grief. Know that so many people are thinking of you and love you.

Frank and Joann Bruno

Frank Bruno - September 21, 2015 at 09:11 AM

PC

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy at the loss of Bill. As a fellow CPA I have know Bill for many years. He was an outstanding professional and more important a an all around guy.

Patrick J. Deo, CPA

Patrick J. Deo, CPA - September 18, 2015 at 06:56 AM

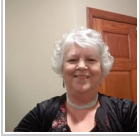
NV

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Collister family. My wife and I were in complete shock when we heard of Billy's passing and wish that we could attend his funeral services since we are both out of town. We have had the privilege of knowing Bill since 1978. First as a business associate and later we felt him as an enduring and dear friend. We will miss Bill's infectious laughter and smile. He was easy to love. He will be dearly missed.

Sincerely,

Nick and Nadine Vitagliano

Nick and Nadine Vitagliano - September 17, 2015 at 03:23 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to your family during this very difficult time. I went to Lakeland with Bill and he was our class President. I was so blessed to have worked with him on our last reunion. I'm so sorry I was unable to attend his viewings as I was with my children as we said goodbye to their father Tuesday night at D'Agostino's funeral home. This is a very sad time in all of our lives. Bill was a great man. Always laughing, many, many practical jokes. He could brighten up anyone's day!!! I will always cherish my memories of our days at Lakeland and our many reunions. Rest in Peace, Bill and may your love and smile live on in our hearts forever.*

Sharon Lee Kraemer

Sharon Kraemer - September 17, 2015 at 08:09 AM

RA

“ *It was always such a pleasure driving from NYC out to see Bill annually to go over my taxes. He's the only accountant I've ever gone to. Waiting the few moments for him when I'd arrive "after hours" , sometimes just under the April 15th deadline, I'd hear his exuberant voice calling before I could see him. His incredible enthusiasm and energy made my evening. My father started having Bill do his company's taxes back in the 80's and my brother and sister-in-law did as well. I was always so impressed with his efficient and thoroughly professional manner and if handling a calculator was an olympic event, his medals would be numerous! I'm so deeply sorry and will really miss him but I'm so very grateful to have known and learned from him. Rand Angelicola*

Rand Angelicola - September 16, 2015 at 09:42 PM

JP

“ *My heart is too broken to even attempt to write all I feel. I loved Bill Collister, not only because he lit up any room he was in, but because he was a man of integrity who gave so much to all the people he loved. I am blessed to have known him for 30 years, and to have called him my friend. I just can't believe I won't hear that laugh again. I thought there was more time...*

Judy Pitchford - September 16, 2015 at 04:43 PM



“ *Bill ,
To a good friend and my account , from Ideal Sausage , to Fratelli Beretta , almost 20 years of laughs , a great man that loved his family and work , you will be missed ,my heart is sadden from you passing, until we meet again Bill , you may be gone to a better place but you will be in each of us you left behind , you touched all of us with your big smile .*

May God watch over you Bill , my deepest condolences to the family .

*Michele (MIKE) Romano
Fratelli Beretta*

Michele Romano - September 16, 2015 at 03:13 PM



“ *Gift of Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 16, 2015 at 11:29 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of **WILLIAM M. COLLISTER**.



September 16, 2015 at 10:18 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of **WILLIAM M. COLLISTER**.



September 15, 2015 at 10:45 PM



“ *Carole E.* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of **WILLIAM M. COLLISTER**.



Carole E. - September 15, 2015 at 08:03 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of **WILLIAM M. COLLISTER**.



September 15, 2015 at 05:21 PM

RS

“ I cannot count the times we shared great moments together. The dinners after soccer meetings, the sports we coached, the parties, poker games for 20 years, just to many to list. Your presence in my life will always be in my heart. The last year is when I needed you most and everytime I reached out to you you made me realize how precious life really is and kept me moving forward. The smile on your face, your laughter and just you being you could light up a room and create an atmosphere of joy.

The world is a lesser place to the people who never met you, but to your family and friends, your kind spirit and love made memories that could not be forgotten and will be cherished forever.

William H Collister, you are a true angel. God bless you and your family.

Rich & Patti Stewart and Family

Rich Stewart - September 15, 2015 at 05:14 PM

MA

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family, we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.
Rich & Wilma



Mr. & Mrs Richard Augustino - September 15, 2015 at 04:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



September 15, 2015 at 04:44 PM

“ Dear Christine, William, Meghan, Caitlin and family

I would like to express my heartfelt condolences. It is incomprehensible to believe that Bill is no longer here with us. Bill was not just the companies Accountant he was family. He was very special to us; I know that we were very special to him as well. I have known Bill for almost 17 years. In those short seventeen years he taught me the value of education, work ethics, professionalism, honesty, loyalty, laughter and most importantly the love of family. I don't think I got the opportunity to formally thank him enough, although I feel in my heart, that he knew the gratitude I felt for his encouraging words of wisdom in good times as well as difficult and challenge times.

Dear Bill,

I thank you for encouraging and mentoring me to pursue my career in accounting. I thank you for the laughs, the funny stories, especially those after you came back from family vacations. I thank you for the cries and everything in between, and for helping me with those dreadful yesterday deadlines, when Italy needed to have it absolutely “today and now”!. I thank you for helping me balance my debits and credits, especially when I would go crazy looking for that one penny LOLOL! I thank you for listening quietly on the other line when I needed to vent. I thank you for the ice cream on those hot summer days at the office, when we all needed to cool off. I thank you for making those 17 short years feel like forever and for giving us enough memories to last a lifetime. I thank you for the absolute privilege and honor of being able to work with you and call you my friend my Mentor.

May God Bless all you.

*Elsie Steinlin
Fratelli Beretta USA*

Elsie I. Steinlin - September 15, 2015 at 04:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 15, 2015 at 04:10 PM



“ *From Everyone Here at Chilis purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



From Everyone Here at Chilis - September 15, 2015 at 03:49 PM



“ *My family is very sad to learn of this and our deepest condolences go out to The Collister Family. Billy and I went back to Paramus when he first started with Eccleston & Eccleston and PMC was his first account going back over thirty five years. He has always been my friend and in fact was the executor of our will. We did not socialize however, we both shared many family joys and secrets with each other when a shoulder was needed. My family will forever miss his wonderful laugh and how he cheerfully went through whatever was needed good or bad in fact helping to make light of stressful situations. Miss you already.....my friend.*

*Robert V. Lanotte & Family
Paramus Maintenance Company Inc.*

Robert Lanotte - September 15, 2015 at 03:21 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 15, 2015 at 02:35 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 15, 2015 at 02:17 PM



“ *Sending thoughts and prayers to Chris and the entire Collister family. This is an unbelievable loss. Although it's been many years since Bill and I worked together, just looking at his picture brings back a flood of memories...his friendly smile, kind personality and infectious laugh.*



*With deepest sympathy,
Wendy Lugie*

Wendy Lugie - September 15, 2015 at 01:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Halloween 2015



Andrea Santora - September 15, 2015 at 01:41 PM



“ Mom Tonkin, Ginna, Kathy, Kelly, Dorothy and Tim purchased the Tropical Tribute Spray for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



Mom Tonkin, Ginna, Kathy, Kelly, Dorothy and Tim - September 15, 2015 at 01:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Andrea Santora - September 15, 2015 at 12:58 PM

WL

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers to Chris and the entire Collister family. This is an unbelievable loss. It's been many years since Bill and I worked together, but just looking at his picture brings back a flood of memories....his friendly smile, kind personality and infectious laugh.*

*With deepest sympathy,
Wendy Lugie*

Wendy Lugie - September 15, 2015 at 12:40 PM

LT

“ *Laura, Michael and Elliot Trento purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



Laura, Michael and Elliot Trento - September 15, 2015 at 12:02 PM

JM

“ *JIM MUIRHEAD, GWEN JONES AND CHRISTIE MUIRHEAD purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



JIM MUIRHEAD, GWEN JONES AND CHRISTIE MUIRHEAD -
September 15, 2015 at 11:29 AM

JM

“ I Liked Bill from the moment I met him. He has been my accountant and good friend for 10 years now. I can't believe he is gone. His laugh was always infectious and always left me smiling every time I talked to him. I will miss him dearly like so many others. My sincere condolences to his family.

Jeffrey McCurdy - September 15, 2015 at 11:13 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



September 15, 2015 at 10:38 AM

HB

“ Howard B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



Howard B. - September 15, 2015 at 10:05 AM



“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



September 15, 2015 at 10:00 AM



“ Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



September 15, 2015 at 09:54 AM



“ Peggy, Mark, Kristen & Leisha Noble lit a candle in memory of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER



Peggy, Mark, Kristen & Leisha Noble - September 15, 2015 at 09:39 AM



Bill always had a great big smile and such a great guy. So nice to everyone. Bill... You and your wonderful family have been in our thoughts and prayers. We know you will forever watch over them. RIP 🙏

Peggy, Mark, Kristen & Leisha Noble - September 15, 2015 at 09:43 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.



September 15, 2015 at 09:11 AM

CR

“ *Chrisanne Rancati lit a candle in memory of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER*



Chrisanne Rancati - September 15, 2015 at 09:01 AM

HB

“ *I remember Bill from the time he joined the Bergen Chapter of NJCPA, and we consulted on many matters. He was a wonderful friend. I remember when he married Chris and the first child arrived. He will be sorely missed as a friend and colleague. Bless the entire Collister Family on this sad occasion.*
Howard Bookbinder CPA

Howard Bookbinder - September 15, 2015 at 08:58 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 15, 2015 at 08:45 AM

OO

“ *Wow... I cannot believe this. We will all miss his smile, his laugh, and everything about him. Love to all of the family from Cousin Meg and family!*

OMG Optical - September 15, 2015 at 08:38 AM

JC

“ *Sharing the birth of Cash William as we were all together in Valley Hospital for many many hours, what a wonderful memory with Bill xo*

joann cisternino - September 15, 2015 at 08:02 AM

BK

“ *Memories are too many to list, but my fondest is just his great laugh and personality. How every tax season he would just sit and laugh while I emptied my paper bag of stuff onto his desk. I will always love you Bill. My deepest codolences to your family and all who will miss him like I will. Brinda Lydecker Kostro.*

Brinda Lydecker Kostro - September 15, 2015 at 07:49 AM

BS

“ *A group of us would walk to High School together every morning and Bill was always bright eyed and bushy tailed, "Good morning everybody, it's a beautiful day!" We would just grumble, too funny. I will always remember his upbeat personality and kindness. He was a very special person.*



Barb Schaumburg - September 15, 2015 at 07:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 15, 2015 at 07:18 AM

GH

“ It pains me to write this, but then I can't begin to imagine the pain that Bills family is going through right now. I am a member of his high school class of 1973 and have known him since 1969. Everyone is aware of his accomplishments (there were many), his love of life (it was never ending), and his devotion to his family and his friends (which was unparalleled). But what none of us knew was that his time left was going to be so short. Bill and I were not friendly in the normal sense, we didn't hang around together, and our family's weren't close since I moved away right after high school. But we shared some of the same close friends, and when the time came to reconnect, he was always there bringing much fun, laughter, and good times with him. The guy just loved life... there was no way around that. Almost 2 years ago Evelyn and I had the good fortune to spend some quality time with him and his wife at Glenn and Kathys house and I remember his laugh and personality like it was yesterday. But as I said... we didn't know that his time left was going to be so short and we didn't know that this would be the last time we'd see him. Perhaps if we had, we could have said, done, and shared more. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers are offered to Chris, his children, his grandson, his parents, and the rest of his family. We will miss you Bill... RIP and Godspeed.
Gene and Evelyn Heil.

Gene Heil - September 15, 2015 at 06:02 AM

Curt
Coenen

“ It is near impossible to express the sorrow in learning of a dear old friends passing. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends at the sudden loss to your family. Bill will always be remembered as a guy with so much energy that it was practically shooting out of him. And always the first on the dance floor! A loving and devoted husband and father and grandfather. His extended family of friends go back into grade school. He excelled at all that he set out for, President of our class, National Honor Society, an advocate at an early age as president of Opponents of Hunger and member of the Tutoring club in high school, delegate of American Legion Jersey Boys State and an accomplished accountant, coach and mentor and much, much more! He was always the life of the party with quick wit and an infectious laugh. Too many good times to share here from the schoolyard and beyond, but stories will be told many times over in the years to come when we all gather together again. God Bless the whole Collister family, our prayers are with you. Your old friend, Curt Coenen

Curt Coenen - September 14, 2015 at 10:08 PM

Curt
Coenen

“ 2 files added to the album E.G Hewitt School - Ringwood, NJ



Curt Coenen - September 14, 2015 at 10:03 PM

Curt
Coenen

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



Curt Coenen - September 14, 2015 at 09:56 PM

PS

“ Dear Chris and Family:

My deepest sympathies are with you as you grieve the loss of Bill.

A remembrance:

I came to New Jersey in the early 90's when Colleen and Bruce Robinson were married, I think, and the beginning of the weekend found Judy Pitchford and me in New Jersey, catching up with the Hoboken team.

For some reason, Bill and I had to go somewhere to pick up something, a gift, an airport arrival, a Collister youngster. I cannot remember what errand had to be run.

We were talking about the upcoming wedding and I remember Bill telling me how he and Chris met. How they were a few years apart, but it didn't seem to matter to her or to him. He knew, immediately, that she and he were meant to be together, regardless of the obstacles and challenges that life threw in front of them. He was committed and he was very proud of that.

I remember listening to him as we drove and I remember being very proud of him, too.

He lives on in the people he loved and who loved him. He is in a place, now, that he recognizes and understands. One day, he will meet us there. We, too, will understand.

May God's angels carry His servant, Bill, to the shining city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Eternal rest grant unto him., O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

With deepest sympathy

Paul Stack

Paul Stack - September 14, 2015 at 09:14 PM

KT

“ *My heart is so heavy at this time.... It aches with sadness. I will be your friend for ever, so until we meet again safe travels on your journey and may there always be a light that shines on you. You leave here but with the love of everyone you've touched..... My heartfelt condolences to you Chris and to Billy, Megan and Caitlyn as well as to his brothers Bruce and Richie and last but not least to his Parents who had brought a child into this world who has touched so many lives in so many ways... Thank You, he was a true friend. May God Bless all of you in your time of loss. I am truly sorry. Love always*

Kathy Tonkin

Kathy Tonkin - September 14, 2015 at 08:50 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER.*



September 14, 2015 at 08:21 PM

PM

“ *Phyllis Montanari lit a candle in memory of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER*



Phyllis Montanari - September 14, 2015 at 08:09 PM

JG

“ *Janet Grisso lit a candle in memory of WILLIAM M. COLLISTER*



Janet Grisso - September 14, 2015 at 07:07 PM

JG

My deepest sympathies to the Collister family. Although I never spent a lot of time with Bill when I did he was always fun to be with. May you find comfort in your faith at this time. Janet Grissom

Janet Grissom - September 14, 2015 at 07:11 PM

BH

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to Chris, Billy, Meghan and Caitlin. Your dad was a great man, a giant among men. I know how much he loved all of you as we spoke often about each of you. May God shine his face upon you at this difficult time! We are here for whatever you need! The Hemstead Family.*

Bill Hemstead - September 14, 2015 at 04:17 PM



Monika
Karlik

My deepest sympathy to the Collister family - may your and your friends wonderful memories help ease the sorrow you are certainly feeling.

Monika Karlik

Monika Karlik - September 14, 2015 at 06:49 PM



David
Harris

My heartfelt condolences to Bill's family. He certainly passed too soon. He was an inspiration to all of the Class of 1973 at Lakeland Regional High School, while we were in school and afterwards.

-- David Harris

David Harris - September 14, 2015 at 07:04 PM



RZ

still in disbelief, prayers for you..

rich zahn - September 14, 2015 at 08:06 PM



Janis
Gangi

Deepest sympathy to you all. May your family continue to remember Billy in all the years to come in the brightest of light that I have heard he illuminated.

Janis Gangi - September 14, 2015 at 08:45 PM



PP

My deepest condolences to Bills family. He was a great guy and was loved by his LRHS classmates. I am deeply saddened by his loss. Fly with the Angels Bill. You will always be remembered.

Penny Smith Parker

Penny Parker - September 14, 2015 at 09:23 PM



JN

"Praying for friends to comfort you, faith to uphold you, to help you smile again." I will always remember Bill as an energetic, enthusiastic high school student.

Julie Nealon - September 15, 2015 at 08:34 AM

NS

It was such a shock to hear of Bill's death. He was so full of life - his sense of humor, his laugh, his energy. He will certainly be missed by all who knew him. My sincere condolences to his family and those who worked with him.

Nlna Sorelle - September 15, 2015 at 01:50 PM

JC

I had the wonderful good fortune of becoming neighbors of Bill and Chris in Bald Eagle Village. Spontaneous cookouts, dinners and parties were a regular occurrence. These and other treasured memories shall stay with me forever. My deepest and most sincere condolences to Chris and the kids. He was taken much too soon.

Joseph Campisano - September 15, 2015 at 03:16 PM

MP

To Bill's family & friends, I am so stunned & saddened by this news! My deepest sympathy, love & blessings to you all! As alumni of the class of '73, we all remember & thank you Bill for your inspirational powers on this Earth & now in heaven! Amen.

Margaret Di Pietro - September 15, 2015 at 03:28 PM

DO

Our deepest condolences to Chris and the family. Bill was definitely a wonderful man and will be deeply missed by all.

Debbie O'Brien - September 15, 2015 at 09:31 PM

RB

*Dear Chris and Family;
My family's thoughts and prayers are with you during this unbelievable and difficult time. I am so sorry I could not make it to his services but Bill was constantly in my thoughts over that time period. My memories of Bill will always be his smiling face, his constantly upbeat attitude and his laugh and giggle. His positive outlook and friendliness are the memories I'll keep. Although we have lost touch over the years I will always remember Bill as a close friend. From reading these comments he has touched many lives and will be sorely missed. I just described Bill to someone as "everybody's best friend". He was taken from us way too soon.
Robert Baldassari and Family.*

Robert Baldassari - September 22, 2015 at 08:08 AM

BH

Just heard of Bill's passing a few days ago. Worked with Bill many, many years ago for a while at an accounting firm in Paramus. He was friendly, smart, professional and kind. Even after all these years I have fond memories of him and can only imagine what a tremendous loss it was to his family.

B. Horton - March 01, 2017 at 11:04 AM