



# Christine A. Bilyak

SEP 25, 2023



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Funeral Home, Inc.

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



# Christine A. Bilyak

SEP 25, 2023

**C**hristine Bilyak, 58, of Mystic, CT, daughter of the late Nancy Frassinelli Bilyak and Richard Bilyak, passed away on Monday, September 25, 2023, at Westerly Hospital. Chris is survived by her sister Dianne Bilyak; uncle, Gordon Frassinelli and his wife Barbara; aunt, Virginia Frassinelli Pisciotta and her husband Richard; aunt, Carole Frassinelli; uncle, Walter Bilyak; and many cousins.

Chris had a fantastic life. Born in Stafford Springs, CT, on May 18, 1965, she attended various schools around Stafford, and graduated from Woodstock Academy when she was 21. Over the years she travelled with her family to Baltimore, Washington D.C., New York, Chicago, Florida, California, Georgia, New Hampshire, Maine, and Misquamicut, RI. Chris brought laughter and joy to the people she met, and her infectious giggle could make anyone smile. She lived her life to the fullest by dancing with every guy at each wedding she attended, saying hello to fellow shoppers at the grocery store (where she once also almost succeeded in a daring yogurt theft), and doling out hugs and high fives like a motivational coach. If she is in a “better place” now, it must be triple fantastic because she made this world a better place every day.

Chris was genuinely funny and had excellent comedic timing (unless she didn’t get her daily Iced Dunkin’ Decaf exactly the way she wanted it). She enjoyed inventing counterfactual “truths” about her life. For instance, she was “married” to a variety of husbands and had between 14 to 21 children; she would name the first few and call the others, “all the rest.” She also claimed multiple mothers, daughters, fathers, and coaches, and when Chris renamed herself Dr. Irma King in the late 1990s, it became the impetus for her sister Dianne to write a memoir about them called, *Nothing Special: The Mostly True, Sometimes Funny Tales of Two Sisters*.

Besides being a high scoring bowler, for 40 years Chris was also a Special Olympian. She began in track & field, and tried gymnastics, but swimming was where she excelled. When she participated in the International Special Olympic Games during high school, Chris was appointed by the governor as one of Connecticut’s Athletes of the Year.



## Obituary

**Christine A. Bilyak**

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Before mainstreaming or inclusion, Chris went from being a Brownie to a Cadette with her sister, Dianne. Their mother, Nancy was a fierce advocate for Chris and others with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Chris was able to participate in Stafford's recreation program and she also attended Stafford Middle School on Fridays, where she played on the field hockey team.

Donations can be made to Stafford's Unified Sports Program in both Nancy and Christine's memory. Please send checks to: Stafford High School, 145 Orcuttville Rd., Stafford, CT 06076, and write "Nancy & Christine Bilyak Unified Sports" in the memo line. Memorial donations can also be made to: The Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut, 60 Peter Ct., New Britain, CT 06051 through use of this link:<https://mydsact.org/donate/> or via email: [info@mydsact.org](mailto:info@mydsact.org).


There will be no formal arrangements. Chris thought church was "boring" and per usual let everyone know it when she attended. A "Celebration of Life" will be held October 29. For details, email Dianne Bilyak at [nothingspecialbook2021@gmail.com](mailto:nothingspecialbook2021@gmail.com). The mailing address is: The Bilyaks, 2590 Gold Star Hwy. #107, Mystic, CT 06355. In lieu of flowers, Christine specifically requested that Dianne gets casseroles and baked goods.

Dianne would like to thank the wonderful staff at Westerly Hospital, Charlene Masker Fiore, Pat Beeman, George Ducharme, Comfort Keepers (Alta, Kim, Aly, Carla, Amy, and Lisa), Angelina Gill, Maria Santiago, Carole Crelin Frassinelli, Lynn Godin, and Lori Coughlin. Veronica Halloran, Joseph Primo, and Audrey Scussell Temelini were guiding lights through the hospice process. And Maria Frassinelli Sierra, offered too many gifts to list, including being with Dianne and Chris throughout hospice and helping each let go of the other, despite how fiercely neither wanted to.

Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., Stafford Springs, CT is taking care of the arrangements. To leave a message of sympathy for Christine's family please visit: [www.introvignefuneralhome.com](http://www.introvignefuneralhome.com).



**Cemetery Details**

 **St. Edward Cemetery**  
West Stafford Rd., Stafford Springs CT 06076





## Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

GF

**Gordon And Barb Frassinelli** posted:

to Dianne such a great sister to Chrissy, she featured her in her book, was by her side always and spent these last months being with her every single day as Chris went through the sad process of leaving us. Chris loved to sing (however could not carry a tune but was not inhibited by it AT ALL) However sister Didi with a beautiful voice, often allowed the light to shine on Chris and SHINE she did. Heaven will not be able to keep this voice quiet anytime soon....miss her, yes indeed, love always Uncle Gordon and Auntie Barb

November 4 at 11:33 AM

RC

**Robin Campbell** lit a candle in honor of Christine.



October 17 at 8:25 AM

SG

**Sherry Gregorio** lit a candle in honor of Christine.



October 9 at 10:57 AM

EG

**Edward & Barbara Galica** lit a candle in honor of Christine.



October 7 at 6:06 PM

ML

**Michele Collette Lerch** posted:

Dianne, We are so sorry to hear the passing of Chrissy. She always put a smile on face and I will never forget that or her unconditional love she had and gave to everyone. Blessings to you and your family. Michele Collette Lerch, Michael, Nick, and Suzhaunna Lerch

October 7 at 10:03 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

ML

**Michele Collette Lerch** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 7 at 9:54 AM



**Linda Dalpian** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 4 at 1:47 PM



VH

**V Halloran** posted:

Christine, what an honor to know you and be your cheerleader in the last leg of the race. A fighter throughout everything. I learned much in the brief time we were connected here. I imagine you dancing down Heaven's road with a tub of yogurt under arm waving to all with the other. Wave on, my friend, until I see you on the other side. You are certainly Heaven's gain. Blessings and comfort to your earthly family

October 3 at 7:31 AM

MF

**Mandy Fisher** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 2 at 5:30 PM



AG

**Alyson Gunzinger** posted:

Chris always kept me on my toes with her unpredictable humor and lol comments. She was a pure soul, full of love, laughter and many special and specific requests. She will be dearly missed and I was honored to be one of her "Comfort Keepers" I think she liked my singing that day on hospice Aly Gunzinger

October 2 at 11:28 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

DF

**Dino Frassinelli** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 2 at 8:14 AM



JM

**Jill Ference-Moulton** posted:

Chrissy was one in a million. Oh the memories of family functions through the years growing up. She always had a smile on her face and laughter in her heart. She always made you feel like you were the only one in the room. Rest east Chrissy. You are now a beautiful angel in heaven. You will be missed my sweet cousin.

October 2 at 6:53 AM

CJ

**Cindy Janiak** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 2 at 5:45 AM



JM

**Joyce Murray** posted:

such a beautiful person. She will be missed

October 2 at 5:17 AM

DN

**Donna Niewinski** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 1 at 1:17 PM



DM

**Debra Martorelli** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 1 at 11:49 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

BK

**Betty Lou Kessler** posted:

Diane I am so sorry to hear about Chrissy. She sure was a hoot and loved to play with the radio! Heater and A/C whenever I gave her a ride home from Vernon office.

October 1 at 9:53 AM

MG

**Michele Roberts Guertin** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 1 at 9:09 AM



DP

**Dickie & Lynn Pisciotta** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

October 1 at 3:53 AM



KH

**Kathleen Hartley** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

I remember Chris from also being her school bus driver many years ago..I remember her as always having a happy day as she would put it..or at least that's what she would say to her mom how her day went. Rest in Peace Chrissy..you will be missed by all that knew you.. Fly high with the Angels...

September 30 at 5:40 PM



DA

**Debbie Alberts** posted:

A beautiful tribute to your sister, I know how important you both were to each other. She is now dancing with the angels. Sleep in peace Chrissy ♥

September 30 at 4:58 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

AC

**Altagracia D-Colin** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

Chris you are one of my best client of all. Thank you for always making me laugh, smile and most of all you makes me happy each night I spend with. I will never forget you Chris. Thank you for every single day that you keep my spirit alive. Again you will always be one of the greatest. I love you. My sincere condolences to your sister Diane.



September 30 at 4:17 PM

**MS** **Maria Santiago** September 30 at 4:38 PM

Chris how I am going to miss you. Thank you for letting me be a part of your life I will cherish the time we spend together laughing at all your jokes your humor made me cry at times how much fun we had. I will miss you so much. Now heavens has one of the best angels of earth. Rest in peace my friend I love you. My sincere condolences to your sister Diane. I know that you will watch over her.

MF

**Mary Frassinelli** posted:

To all advocates of human rights who do so much to help the human condition.Chris, you are the brightest star.~mary, of the Memphis Frassinellis.We love you 🍷❤️🍷

September 30 at 3:29 PM

WS

**Walter & Mary Smith** posted:

Chris was a bright light to all she met and gave love to everyone she met. Our life is so much richer because she was our friend Nancy and Rich now have Chris with them and Heaven is richer and more fun for all. Much love Mary & Walter Smith

September 30 at 3:18 PM

PF

**Peter Ference** lit a candle in honor of Christine.



September 30 at 2:47 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

JR

**Jane Rubino** posted:

I am cousin Linda's friend Jane, and I wish to offer my sincere condolences to Chris' family and friends. I really enjoyed reading this obituary because it made Chris come alive. What a delightful person she was! So smart, sociable and caring. I know Chris will continue to live in so many people's hearts, and for that I am very grateful.

September 30 at 2:34 PM

SO

**Susan Olson** posted:

I am so sorry, Diane.

September 30 at 1:26 PM

JB

**Jo-Ellen Benson** lit a candle in honor of Christine.



September 30 at 1:19 PM

AS

**Ann M. Soucy** posted:

I met Christine, back when she was a young kid, riding on my school bus. She was always a delight and could cheer up everyone even on our worst day. May she rest in peace and sing with the angels now. ❤️

September 30 at 7:19 AM

MM

**Mitchell Muzio** posted:

My sincere condolences to Christine's family

September 30 at 6:32 AM

MM

**Mitchell Muzio** lit a candle in honor of Christine.



September 30 at 6:31 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Christine A. Bilyak**

DF

**Donna Ference** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

September 30 at 3:53 AM



RD

**Roger Dalpian** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

Roger and Beverly DalPian

September 30 at 1:19 AM



MS

**Mary Satkowski** posted:

I will always remember Chrissy as my homey-ec partner in Mrs Jeans' class at SMS.... such a darling person. God bless her! RIP my friend 🍷

September 29 at 6:19 PM

MS

**Mary Satkowski** September 29 at 6:20 PM

So sorry for your loss Diane ❤️

PB

**Paul Burns** lit a candle in honor of Christine.

September 29 at 3:18 PM



CF

**Carole Frassinelli** posted:

Such a sweetheart. I will always remember Chrissy being the life of the party. Always laughing, singing and most of all her dancing. She will be greatly missed . Auntie Carole

September 29 at 11:31 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Christine by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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