



Christopher H. Orlicz

SEP 4, 1949 - MAR 1, 2025



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Christopher H. Orlicz, 75, of Syracuse, NY, passed away on March 1, 2025, at Strong Memorial Hospital, after a courageous two-year battle with leukemia, with his beloved wife, Linda, and sons, Greg and Rich, by his side. Chris faced his illness until the very end with the same strength, determination, and grace that defined his entire life.

Chris was born on September 4, 1949 in Chicago, IL, to Hubert and Rita Orlicz who raised him with love, provided him with opportunities, and instilled in him the values he carried throughout his life. At a young age, Chris had a deep love for learning and intellectual pursuits, having read the Iliad and the Odyssey by the time he was 10 years old and excelling as a competitive chess player. He graduated in 1971 from Loyola University Chicago and completed Master's coursework dreaming of a career in education administration, but the realities of the job market during the baby boomer generation led him instead to begin a public service career with the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) in Chicago. After ten years, Chris transferred to Syracuse in 1984 to serve as the Regional Office Manager, where he and his family made their home. Chris later continued his federal career with the Social Security Administration in Syracuse, where he utilized his work ethic, intelligence and compassion to help those in need, ensuring they received the benefits they deserved. His dedication to his work lasted until his retirement in 2011. During his over 30 years in public service, Chris was known for his commitment and support to both his clients and colleagues.

A devoted husband and father, Chris' family was the foundation of his life, and his love for them was always clear. He and Linda shared a deep bond that lasted through their nearly 50 years of marriage. He was immensely proud of his sons, Greg and Rich, and he was an adoring grandfather to Evan and Haley. Chris dedicated himself to his family with selflessness and unwavering loyalty. He was a father who led by example, teaching his sons the importance of responsibility, honoring commitments, kindness, and ethics. His sacrifices for his wife and sons were made with love and without hesitation. Chris was also a loving and caring brother, uncle, cousin and friend.



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As a man of integrity, Chris was principled, honorable, ethical, and always believed in treating everyone equally. He deeply valued his friendships and was naturally drawn to people who were authentic. His ability to connect with others—whether longtime friends or new acquaintances—was one of his defining traits. In bowling leagues at Lakeview and Flamingo Lanes, in interactions with vendors at the CNY Regional Market every Saturday, or in casual encounters, Chris made a point of showing kindness and gratitude to everyone he met. Over the years, he built lasting relationships, and many knew him as a genuinely good man.

Chris had a passion for bowling and was well-known and accomplished in the sport over the course of decades. He regularly bowled multiple times a week in various local leagues, achieving many perfect 300 games and several 800 series. He loved the camaraderie and friendships developed at the lanes, as well as the competitive nature of the sport.

Among his other passions, Chris enjoyed nature, road trips, boating, and marveling at sunrises, sunsets, waterfalls, and autumn colors. He was also an avid reader, with a wide range of interests in history, philosophy, current events, and business news. And in his younger years, Chris was an accomplished chess player, learning the game from his father and playing competitively in Chicago. Chris' strategic, logical mind and love for intellectual challenges served him well both in chess and throughout his life.

In the face of his illness, Chris never lost his way with people or his sense of humor. Throughout his treatment, he often quipped with the doctors, nurses, and others who cared for him despite the seriousness of his disease and the many severe health issues he faced. His medical team appreciated his positive attitude and his genuine kindness, with many of them noting what a pleasure it was to care for him. Even in his final days, Chris maintained his strength, grace, and humor, leaving behind a legacy of thankfulness and kindness.

Chris was predeceased by his parents, Hubert and Rita, as well as his life-long friend, Rick Carter. Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Linda Orlicz; his sons, Greg (Mattie) Orlicz of Santa Fe, NM, and Rich (Kim) Orlicz of Albany, NY; his grandchildren, Evan and Haley; his brother, Hugh (Linda) Orlicz of Chicago, IL; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home, 3401 Vickery Rd. (corner of Buckley Rd.), North Syracuse, with a funeral



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service immediately following at 12:00 P.M.

In memory of Chris, the family requests that donations be made to the B. Thomas Golisano Hope Lodge in Rochester, NY, (<https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&&id=1217>) which provides generous accommodations to out-of-town patients and caregivers in a warm, home-like environment, or to the The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (<https://givenow.lls.org>), which offers valuable disease information and nurse navigators who connect patients and caregivers to essential resources. Both organizations were a tremendous support to Chris and his family throughout his two-year battle with his disease. The family would also like to extend their appreciation for the wonderful and compassionate care that Chris received from the Strong Memorial Hospital Wilmot Cancer Center, Hematology Oncology Associates, and Roswell Park Cancer Center.

Rest in peace, Chris. You were truly one of a kind, and you will always hold a special place in our hearts. Your spirit will remain with us in the way we live on and honor your memory.




Events


Christopher H. Orlicz

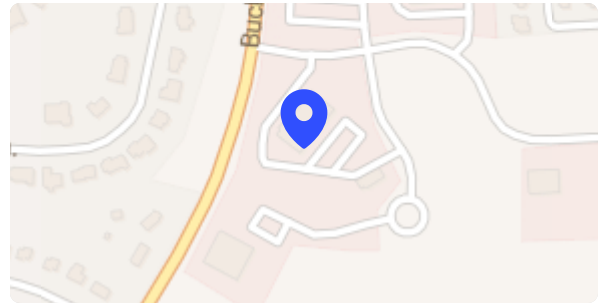
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Visitation

 **Saturday**, March 15, 2025


 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET


 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212

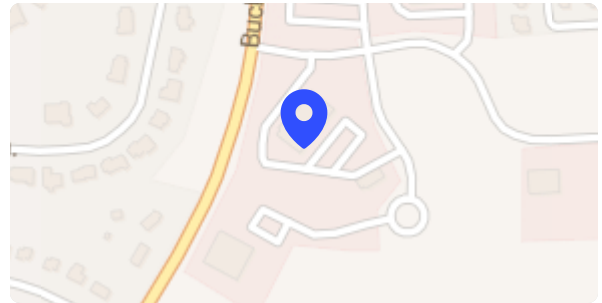


Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, March 15, 2025

 12:00 PM ET

 **Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home**
3401 Vickery Rd, Syracuse NY 13212





Tribute Wall

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Mike Mueller posted:

On behalf of the Syracuse Thunderbirds Aero Radio Society (radio control airplane club in Pennellville), we would like to share our deepest condolences to Linda and her family. While Linda and Chris weren't active in our club for very long because of Chris' illness, we very much enjoyed both Linda and Chris being part of our little "family" of radio control pilots. It was always a pleasure to have them at the club. May you know peace and grace in your loss. Mike Mueller, President, S.T.A.R.S.

March 13 at 8:49 AM



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Janet Green posted:

I've known Chris since I was a kid (I'm now 67) because he was my older brother Rick's best friend. They were more like brothers, than friends. They went through school together, went through life's ups and downs together, celebrated milestones together and traveled together, along with Linda. I remember one of the times in my life that I laughed the hardest was when I joined Rick, Chris and Linda in Kauai. I was probably 18, so Chris would have been about 25. We had had a long day of hiking up a mountain to a waterfall. That evening, tired, we watched the original movie "Superman" and when it was over, I remember Chris getting up and making some sort of joke, like he was a lot like Superman and then proceeded to walk right through the sliding screen door leading to the balcony, thinking it was open, completely knocking it off and almost falling on his face, lol! It was one of the funniest things I've ever seen (maybe you had to be there) and still makes me laugh to this day. It was made even funnier because Chris was always a very laid back, kind of slow moving guy, so to make that comparison and then do that was so funny! When Rick got sick with a terminal illness, which he had for many years and passed away in 2020, Chris was heartbroken, but he was always checking with me, as was Linda, if there was any way they could help me, as I was the main person handling Rick's care and finances. It was overwhelming at times. But Chris helped me get Rick's social security figured out, since he had worked there at one time, helped me reach the right person without going through red tape and hours on the phone. He and Linda visited Rick in Alaska and also many times when Rick was moved back to Illinois. He and Linda always stayed in touch with Rick, as well as me, to see if there was anything they could do to help. Chris was a very kind, compassionate, caring man and I know he loved Linda, his sons and grandkids deeply. In a way, he was like Superman, because good people, who look to do good and willing to help others, seem hard to find. I'm glad his suffering has ended, I know he fought hard, but it's comforting to know that Rick was there to greet him with a big hug and the two lifelong friends are happy and healthy and together again. I will always remember him and the kind man and good friend he was to Rick and to Rick's "little sister", me. R.I.P. Superman.

March 11 at 9:44 AM



Greg Orlicz March 13 at 7:09 AM

Janet, thank you for sharing this story about my dad that I had never heard before! It made me laugh and was very touching at the same time. Rick was like an uncle to us, and as kids we always looked forward to his visits, all the adventures he would take us on, and the fun times we had.



Greg Orlicz shared 12 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dad, thank you for all the opportunities you provided me, the sacrifices you made, and the endless love and support.

March 11 at 9:44 AM





Greg Orlicz shared 12 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 11 at 9:44 AM





Media

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Memories only last if you share them

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



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