

Basil Wadkovsky

March 16, 1936 - July 7, 2024

Basil Wadkovsky, 88, of Chestertown, MD, passed away on July 7, 2024 at Compass Regional Hospice in Centreville, MD after a short illness.

Basil was born on March 16, 1936 in Sea Cliff, NY, the son of Basil Wadkovsky, Jr. and Natasha (Pouschine) Wadkovsky.

A descendant of Russian nobility, Basil spent his childhood years in a Russian community in Sea Cliff and only spoke Russian until he was enrolled in the local school in first grade.

At the age of 13, he moved with his family to Maryland, just outside of Baltimore. He then was enrolled in St. Paul's School for boys, from which he graduated in 1954.

Basil served for two years in the United States Army, stationed in France, and was a member of the Army basketball team which toured throughout Europe during his peacetime enrollment.

He attended and graduated from Washington College in Chestertown in 1961. He met his future wife Diane Lewis in Salisbury, MD, and they married on June 19th, 1963.

While working as a salesman for Moore Business Forms, Basil enrolled in Law School at the University of Baltimore where he attended night classes. During his three years of law school, he left Moore Business Forms and was employed during the day as a Probation Officer in Talbot County. He received his degree in 1968. Upon graduation and prior to his admission to the Bar, Basil was clerk for the Court of Special Appeals.

Basil was admitted to the Maryland Bar Association in 1969 and set up practice in Chestertown, where he continued to practice until 2023, a career spanning 54 years. Aside from his private practice, he also served as Deputy States Attorney for Kent County from 1970-1974, Attorney to Kent County Commissioners from 1976-1978, and States Attorney for Kent County 1978-1982. Basil was known for his compassion and sense of fairness, and on more than one occasion took payment for services in the form of bushels of crabs and oysters from clients who needed representation but lacked the ability to provide monetary compensation.

Basil excelled in athletics in high school and college, running cross country, playing basketball and lacrosse. He continued to play basketball in a pick-up league after college, and also played softball in a local league. When he could no longer play basketball and softball, he took up running, and when his knees would no longer allow him to run, he and Diane bought bikes and enjoyed the numerous bike trails on the Eastern and Western Shores. He also joined the Kent County YMCA where he worked out at least four days per week. More than anything, he loved swimming in the ocean.

His competitive nature was apparent on the court and field as well as in the courtroom. No matter the venue, Basil believed in sportsmanship and a handshake after the match despite the outcome. In addition to playing sports, he also enjoyed watching sporting events, and was, in particular, a dedicated fan of the Baltimore Orioles.

Basil loved the Eastern Shore and was very involved in the local community. He was a charter member of the Chestertown Elks Lodge 2474 and served four times as its Exalted Ruler. He was heavily involved in the Elks National Hoop Shoot and would, along with his wife Diane, accompany local youths to local, district, regional and national tournaments. He was at one time an assistant coach for the Washington College Lacrosse team. He also coached little league lacrosse and little league football. He was a past member of the Vestry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and was a member of the Washington College Hall of Fame committee.

Basil loved his family and enthusiastically supported his children and grandchildren in their extracurricular activities, whether athletic, artistic or theatrical.

Basil is survived by his wife of 61 years, Diane; his children Captain Nick Wadkovsky (Terry), Jenny Wayne (John), Judy Hogans (Vaughn), Alex Wadkovsky (Jen); his grandchildren Dylan, Emily, Vaughn, Nicholas, Katie, Aly, Ty and Tiffany and his great grandchildren Ryan and Alexa. He is also survived by his sister Natalie Donaldson of Buckinghamshire, England; two nephews and four nieces, all in the UK.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to the Chestertown Elks Lodge #2474 or to Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **12.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Service

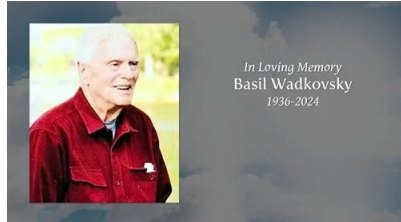
JUL **13.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Emanuel Episcopal Church
101 N Cross St
Chestertown, MD 21620

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 11, 2024 at 08:19 AM

MP

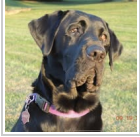
I was very sorry to hear of his passing he was very good attorney honest and caring man and will very missed by all who know him .Best wishes to family and friends who knew him

Michael C Patrick - February 01, 2025 at 03:40 PM

RS

“ *My sincere condolences to Diane and all of Basil's family and loved ones on his passing, which I just heard about, minutes ago ,from a close friend in Chestertown. Then reading the obituary of his wonderful family and full, giving, caring, community and professional life brought back so many memories of connection starting at WC, his freshman year with roomies Russ Summers and Joe Sievold. Then through occasional contacts with Basil across the years until I moved to AZ in 2006. I remember joking with Basil,Russ and Joe, across the years, how lucky they were to have my roomy Bob Sullivan and me there at WC as primary influences in their "formative years" !So the Roomies are together again. Thanks for many special memories !RIP GOOD MAN BASIL !!! It's been many years since seeing sister Natalie ,so please give her my best regards. Ron Sisk*

RONALD C SISK - July 22, 2024 at 08:28 PM



“ *I just saw this. A true friend and mentor. I always loved speaking and being around Mr. Basil. Our prayers for all of the family*

Matt Larrimore - July 20, 2024 at 11:43 AM

AC

“ *Alan Carroll lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Alan Carroll - July 19, 2024 at 08:59 PM

AC

Basil was a great friend.

Alan Carroll - July 19, 2024 at 09:03 PM

PK

“ *Paul Kelley lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Paul Kelley - July 18, 2024 at 11:03 AM

SB

“ We are very sorry for the loss of Basil, who was an accomplished and loyal alum of Washington College, and a lawyer whose presence in the Kent County Bar enhanced the profession for the rest of us. He was a superior athlete and an excellent lawyer known for his honesty, integrity, friendliness and sense of humor. RIP, friend.

-Stewart & Judie Barroll

Stewart Barroll - July 16, 2024 at 03:00 PM

GJ

“ My condolences to the families.



George Short Jr. - July 15, 2024 at 06:15 AM

EG

“ Erin And Jim Gillespie lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Erin and Jim Gillespie - July 14, 2024 at 09:11 PM

EG

“ Erin & Jim Gillespie lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Erin & Jim Gillespie - July 14, 2024 at 09:00 PM

CW

“ Basil will be missed. He was an institution in Chestertown.



Cliff Wilson - July 13, 2024 at 07:30 AM

BB

“ Bill and Sharon Boulter



Bill and Sharon Boulter - July 12, 2024 at 10:31 PM

DD

“ Debbie Dalrymple lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Debbie Dalrymple - July 12, 2024 at 10:22 AM

NB

“ Nancy and Bulldog purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Basil Wadkovsky.



Nancy and Bulldog - July 12, 2024 at 06:27 AM

CL

“ Chuck And Julie Langenfelder lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Chuck and Julie Langenfelder - July 11, 2024 at 07:32 PM

JH

“ Joan Hatcherson lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Joan Hatcherson - July 11, 2024 at 06:54 PM

BR

“ Very sweet man. I'm so sorry!



Britnie - July 11, 2024 at 06:29 PM

JR

“ Jerry Roderick lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Jerry Roderick - July 11, 2024 at 05:56 PM

HD

“ Was a excellent lawyer saved me an really worked with me may God be with you an family



Heather d - July 11, 2024 at 01:07 PM

KA

“ Kent County Bar Association purchased the Senti ments of Serenity Spray for the family of Basil Wadkovsky.



Kent County Bar Association - July 11, 2024 at 12:29 PM

LH

“ Love,Bayard,Kathy,Ella & Claire Hogans purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Basil Wadkovsky.



Love,Bayard,Kathy,Ella & Claire Hogans - July 11, 2024 at 12:24 PM

SS

“ Sharon Stafford lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Sharon Stafford - July 11, 2024 at 09:51 AM

EY

“ Elizabeth J Young lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Elizabeth J Young - July 11, 2024 at 09:01 AM

EY

Basil was one of the first to reach out his hand when Larry Heinle and I moved to Chestertown area and joined the Chestertown Elks Lodge. His kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity was beyond reproach. In every sense a true gentleman. He asked me to do the Public Relations for the Lodge during his term of office. He was a pleasure to work for and with during that time. Since he was a member of the Lodge from its inception. His insight was a constant, as a respected and valuable asset. He was always there with a helping hand to whoever needed it. No one needed to ask, he was there to help them. Whenever we saw him he would always ask us how we were doing. I will always think of him as a kind and soft-spoken force to be admired as a man and a leader.

BJ Young~~

Elizabeth J Young - July 11, 2024 at 09:04 AM

LH

*Sincerest Sympathy for Diane and The Family.
Larry Heinle*

Larry Heinle - July 11, 2024 at 09:09 AM

HC

“ *Herschell & Gail Claggett lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Herschell & Gail Claggett - July 11, 2024 at 07:08 AM

CJ

“ *Carla Fletcher Johnson lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Carla Fletcher Johnson - July 10, 2024 at 10:29 PM

ML

“ *Mr. Basil always had a kind wave and on occasion would stop by the counter to ask how we were doing. Always a gentleman. My condolences to the family.*



Melissa Lenzi - July 10, 2024 at 09:06 PM

JB

“ *My thoughts go out to all of you. Basil was a great man.*



Jodie Iseman Bornman - July 10, 2024 at 07:26 PM

TK

“ *Tom Knox lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Tom Knox - July 10, 2024 at 06:17 PM

PT

“ *Our deepest condolences xo*



Pam (Cayer) Teat - July 10, 2024 at 03:38 PM

MH

“ *Melissa & Gary Horsey lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Melissa & Gary Horsey - July 10, 2024 at 03:06 PM

SW

“ *Shelley Williams lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Shelley Williams - July 10, 2024 at 02:49 PM

SW

Sending our condolences to Diane & Family we will keep you in our Thoughts & Prayers to get through the days ahead.

Shelley Williams - July 10, 2024 at 02:51 PM

BC

“ *Barbara Calder lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Barbara Calder - July 10, 2024 at 01:42 PM

JF

“ *J.S. and family. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Basil Wadkovsky.*



J.S. and family. - July 10, 2024 at 01:22 PM

WK

“ *Will & Glenda Kelly lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Will & Glenda Kelly - July 10, 2024 at 12:10 PM

TM

“ Tommy & Pam Marvel lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Tommy & Pam Marvel - July 10, 2024 at 11:46 AM

SM

“ So very sorry to hear this, he was a real gentleman. Prayers for his family.



Sandy McClary - July 10, 2024 at 11:22 AM

CM

“ Basil was a joy to work with. He was always willing to help our office in its time of need. We will truly miss this remarkable man who was dedicated to serving his clients with vigorous advocacy and compassion. The Office of the Public Defender is proud to have worked with him.



Christopher Mayer - July 10, 2024 at 10:31 AM

BL

“ My sympathies to the family



Brenda K Lyons - July 10, 2024 at 10:24 AM

HF

“ I'm so very very sorry for the loss of this wonderful man. My deepest condolences to Mrs. Diane and all the family. 🤍🙏



heidi fuchs - July 10, 2024 at 10:07 AM

TL

“ The Legg's lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



The Legg's - July 10, 2024 at 10:04 AM

TS

“ Todd And Diane Smith lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Todd and Diane Smith - July 10, 2024 at 09:52 AM

DR

“ Rest in peace Basil. My sympathies to Diane and the family



Don and Ruthie Russ - July 10, 2024 at 09:09 AM

LP

“ Sincere condolences to all the family.



Lisa Plummer - July 10, 2024 at 08:43 AM

VR

“ Valerie Reihl lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Valerie Reihl - July 10, 2024 at 08:21 AM

SW

“ Sherry Williams lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Sherry Williams - July 10, 2024 at 07:44 AM

JW

“ Jack & Sherry Williams lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Jack & Sherry Williams - July 10, 2024 at 07:43 AM

PF

“ *Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Phil Foster - July 10, 2024 at 01:03 AM

MM

“ *Mark Mumford lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Mark Mumford - July 09, 2024 at 10:42 PM

WK

“ *W. Kevin & Ella L. Kerr lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



W. Kevin & Ella L. Kerr - July 09, 2024 at 09:09 PM

RK

“ *Rita And Eddie Kulley lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Rita and Eddie Kulley - July 09, 2024 at 08:42 PM

RK

“ Eddie and I are so deeply saddened about Basil's passing. He was a kind, honest and generous man. He had a quiet demeanor about him but was always aware of what was happening - a sign of a great lawyer. Diane and Basil are the epitome of what we all strive to be. He loved talking about his family and their accomplishment. The community and the Elks Lodge are sadly missing a great man.

Rita kulley - July 09, 2024 at 08:41 PM

JC

Condolences to Basil's family. I knew him in and out of the courtroom. He served his clients well while not being vindictive or disrespectful to Troopers and other law enforcement personnel. We always talked frequently over many years. He served his clients well while not being aggressive or disrespectful to my fellow Troopers or other law enforcement officers. He always inquired of my family and I of his. A nice gentleman

Jim Culp - July 10, 2024 at 01:19 PM

BB

“ Barney & Kaye Barnes lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Barney & Kaye Barnes - July 09, 2024 at 04:23 PM

DB

“ David&Stefanie Blyman lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



David&Stefanie Blyman - July 09, 2024 at 04:04 PM

RW

“ Basil was a great man ! I am deeply sorry for your loss

Ruth Wilds - July 09, 2024 at 03:22 PM

RK

“ My condolences to Basil's family. He will be greatly missed by many!!



Ruth Kerr - July 09, 2024 at 02:42 PM

FE

“ Faye Evans lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Faye Evans - July 09, 2024 at 02:04 PM

HW

“ Hugh And Marian Wyble lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Hugh and Marian Wyble - July 09, 2024 at 02:01 PM

LF

“ Basil gave me some free advice many many years ago when I was about 20. He was a good man. So sorry to see this.

Larry Faulkner - July 09, 2024 at 01:24 PM

RA

“ *The number of people Basil has helped in our community is unfathomable. He was a wonderful family man.* ”

Retha Jo Arrabal - July 09, 2024 at 01:16 PM

DH

“ *Denny And Judy Hickman lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky* ”



Denny and Judy Hickman - July 09, 2024 at 01:13 PM

SF

“ *Shirley Foster lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky* ”



Shirley foster - July 09, 2024 at 11:55 AM

SS

“ *Steve And Terri Smith lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky* ”



Steve and Terri Smith - July 09, 2024 at 11:53 AM

MM

“ *Mark Mumford lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Mark Mumford - July 09, 2024 at 11:41 AM

LW

“ *Louis And Betty Wheat lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Louis and Betty Wheat - July 09, 2024 at 10:20 AM

LW

Sending sympathy and love to Diane and her family. Basil was a true gentleman and an all around great guy. He thought of others always and gave of his time to many people and organizations. There are not enough words to express how much he will be missed,

Louis and Betty Wheat - July 09, 2024 at 10:25 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Basil Wadkovsky.*



July 09, 2024 at 10:15 AM

TS

“ Thinking of you all. With deep sympathy, Todd and Diane



Todd and Diane Smith - July 09, 2024 at 10:10 AM

NM

“ Basil was a client of mine, and he always knew how to make everyone smile when he came in. I only knew him for short while, but he always made me feel seen and had a smile while doing it. He will be missed!



Natalie Mumford - July 09, 2024 at 09:59 AM

SJ

“ prayers for Basil family.



Suzanne Jackson - July 09, 2024 at 09:51 AM

LH

“ Lisa Hague lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



lisa hague - July 09, 2024 at 09:36 AM

PN

“ *Phil And Susan Nickerson lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Phil and Susan Nickerson - July 09, 2024 at 09:22 AM

JS

“ *Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Jeanette Stubbs - July 09, 2024 at 07:55 AM

JC

“ *Many prayers, hugs and love sent to Diane and her entirely family on the loss of a great man. He surely will be missed by many. Jimmy and Joe.*

Joe Curley - July 09, 2024 at 07:06 AM

GW

“ *Greg And Janie Welch lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Greg and Janie Welch - July 09, 2024 at 06:13 AM



“ *Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Sherrie Jacobs - July 09, 2024 at 04:21 AM

PS

“ *Patricia And Billy Sutton lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Patricia and Billy Sutton - July 08, 2024 at 10:01 PM

WH

“ *Wendy Hutchinson lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Wendy Hutchinson - July 08, 2024 at 09:08 PM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Jo Ann Edwards - July 08, 2024 at 08:54 PM

DN

“ *Debbie And Bob Nickerson lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Debbie and Bob Nickerson - July 08, 2024 at 08:43 PM

DN

Our thoughts and prayers are the family!

Debbie and Bob Nickerson - July 08, 2024 at 08:44 PM

DS

“ *Dave And Donell Smith lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Dave and Donell Smith - July 08, 2024 at 07:33 PM

KL

“ *Katherine Langenfelder lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Katherine Langenfelder - July 08, 2024 at 07:02 PM

LJ

“ Lee And Joyce lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Lee and Joyce - July 08, 2024 at 06:32 PM

LP

“ Lee Phillips lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Lee Phillips - July 08, 2024 at 05:55 PM

CE

“ Charles & Donna Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Charles & Donna Edwards - July 08, 2024 at 05:33 PM

KG

“ Kevin Naundorf And Sandy Green lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



Kevin Naundorf and Sandy Green - July 08, 2024 at 05:28 PM

KG

Dear Nick and Terry. Kevin and I are so sorry to hear this sad news

Kevin Naundorf and Sandy Green - July 08, 2024 at 05:30 PM

KG

He was a kind man, looked up to by a lot of people

Kevin Naundorf and Sandy Green - July 08, 2024 at 05:31 PM

KG

Kevin feels so sad for Nick

Kevin Naundorf and Sandy Green - July 08, 2024 at 05:33 PM

WB

“ *William Bright lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



William Bright - July 08, 2024 at 04:35 PM

WB

*So sorry to see this. Basil will be missed by so many and remembered with fondness
Prayers for the family.
Bill & Thelma Bright*

William Bright - July 08, 2024 at 04:38 PM

TM

“ *Tommy & Pam Marvel lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Tommy & Pam Marvel - July 08, 2024 at 04:28 PM

KO

“ Basil will truly be missed, condolences to the family.



Kristi Osborn - July 08, 2024 at 04:03 PM

JL

“ John M Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



John M Larrimore - July 08, 2024 at 03:48 PM

JL

A friend of the entire Larrimore Family.

John M Larrimore - July 08, 2024 at 03:49 PM

HJ

“ Our sincere condolences to all the family, Mike and Holly Johnson

Holly Johnson - July 08, 2024 at 03:48 PM

JF

“ Jane And Frankie sent a virtual gift in memory of Basil Wadkovsky



jane and Frankie - July 08, 2024 at 03:48 PM

JD

May the wonderful memories shared by Diane and her family help to ease the pain. We will surely miss our good friend.

Jane Dill - July 08, 2024 at 07:50 PM

MR

“ *Max & Maryann Ruehrmund lit a candle in memory of Basil Wadkovsky*



Max & Maryann Ruehrmund - July 08, 2024 at 03:37 PM