



Christopher Gerard Holtz

May 21, 1951 - July 10, 2025

Christopher Gerard Holtz, 74, finished his life's work on July 10, 2025, after a multi-year battle with Primary Progressive Aphasia. He was born May 21, 1951, to Donald and Carol (Bailey) Holtz at General Hospital in Elkhart, Indiana. He was their 3rd child of 13, 11 of whom survived him.

Chris loved to be around water and boats, mostly sailboats. He participated in sailboat regattas while at Indiana University. Upon graduating from IU with degrees in History & English, he then moved to St. Petersburg, FL and worked at a marina selling boat equipment. Chris also crewed and sailed up and down the Florida coasts and the Caribbean during this time. He eventually moved to Maryland, first in Annapolis, then settled in Cambridge to be near the water. There, he started his own company, Atlantic Floating Docks, selling and installing boating equipment up and down the east coast. He was a born salesman and boat fanatic! Whether it was organizing and running regattas as the Commodore of the Cambridge Yacht Club, collecting sailboats for his family in his backyard, or racing one of his own, he loved it all.

He joined the Christ Episcopal Church, where he met and married the love of his life, Jeanie. Together they had a daughter, Patsy, who was/is his pride and joy. He and Jeanie both served on the vestry at different times and the Holtz family participated in many church activities, including singing in the choir and making snow-cones at the Triathlon food booth. Jeanie and Chris believe God

truly brought them together and the church became the center of their life.

Chris was the epitome of “Joy of Life.” He worked hard, played hard, spoke loudly, argued loudly, laughed heartily and loved deeply. He was a good and helpful friend and brother. His favorite place to shop was the Auction Barn and he couldn’t pass up bargains on eBay!

He is survived by, and will be terribly missed by, his wife, Jeanie Theresa Holtz, daughter, Patsy Carolyn Holtz, 7 brothers, Donald, Jonathan, James, Peter, David, Andrew, Daniel Holtz, 4 sisters, Letitia Cohoon, Cecilia Hayes, Monica Swygart, Amy Patrick, and 129 (and counting!) additional relatives.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, August 27 at Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge, 601 Church Street, Cambridge, MD 21613. Reception to follow in Whatley Parish Hall.

Memorial donations may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, Altar Guild Fund. 601 Church Street, Cambridge, MD 21613-1729 or Talbot Hospice, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601-3805.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church
601 Church Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

Tribute Wall

“ Uncle Chris, as I knew him, was a gregarious, engaging character. I remember his enthusiasm teaching sailing class to dozens of Holtz nieces and nephews during the family reunions. I was a teenager at the time, and I will never forget shortly thereafter when Chris encouraged me to enter a Maryland bay sailing regatta piloting his personal Laser sailboat. To this day I still occasionally wake up in cold sweats remembering as the regatta about to start, other boats frantically shouting instructions in my direction to avoid ramming their boats, and nearly falling out of the Laser. After I retired from the regatta attempting to sail the exact opposite way of all the other boats, I remember seeing Uncle Chris on the pier watching. I attempt to limp into dock in front of the main restaurant of his yacht club during lunch hour. I proceed to ram the dock, snapping off the bow cleat and then capsizing the boat trying to untangle myself in the process. Chris kept his composure and gave me a pat on the back, likely trying to remember if he'd ever seen a regatta entrant \$#@& up that poorly before.

I recall fondly Uncle Chris letting us nephews and nieces play Minesweeper on his laptop during Holtz Thanksgivings for hours on end. I remember his love of the water, from selling boat docks with my brother Mark to his training us how to roll a submerged kayak. I remember Chris and my father Don having to approach grandpa Donald Holtz when one of us grandkids rammed a sailboat into grandpa's motorboat punching a hole in the hull. Uncle Chris was a storyteller, and I remember spending Thanksgivings listening to his tales of sailing, selling aquatic gear, and generally being entertained. I remember the whitewater rafting trip with Uncle David in my junior high years, and how Uncle Chris sold the boat guide on buying some of his fleece gear.

I picture Uncle Chris in a better place, drinking one of the cheap Holtz-brand beers, sailing or paddling some seafaring craft, and telling his entertaining tales. Love you, Uncle Chris. You were a character and you will be missed.

Nephew Brian Holtz

Brian Holtz - August 21, 2025 at 10:49 PM

PA

Love this! ❤️ 🎨 Patty Holtz

Patty - September 09, 2025 at 07:14 PM

RH

“ I met Chris when we were assigned as roommates as freshman at IU. We basically roomed together for the next 3 years (I graduated in 3 years and I think Chris's brother Don took my place in the four person apartment we had lived in for our third year.) Some time after graduating and before the rest of my classmates did, I began my 2 year Army commitment at Fort Lewis in Washington state. I had no idea where my roommates headed after graduation. I totally lost track of Chris and most of my college (and high school) friends. And I have spent most of my adult life west of the Mississippi. No internet back then.

It wasn't until the pandemic that I started reaching out to high school and college friends. Found one of our roommates in Cincinnati and he gave me Chris's number and we had a couple of good conversations. But as I lived in Washington and he in Maryland visiting wasn't easy. Finally in the late fall of 2023 I went to visit and dog sit for my daughter in DC and I made a trip to Cambridge and had a lovely visit with Chris and his wife Jeanie. We shared stories, not sure how many Chris remembered as he was already having his medical challenges. But Jeanie was wonderful in filling me in on Chris's life.

I regret not having tried to reconnect with Chris years earlier. Being connected with Chris at IU was one of the good things that happened to me. I'm not very outgoing and never even had a Facebook account. I'm so happy that he continued with his love of sailing and living a good life.

Rest in peace Chris and my condolences to you Jeanie and the rest of his family.

Ron Huggins. Vancouver, WA - August 1

Ron Huggins - August 01, 2025 at 08:35 PM

PA

Thanks for sharing this Ron. I remember our fun times in those apartments at IU. Patty (now) Holtz

Patty - September 09, 2025 at 07:13 PM

RH

Hi Patty. I remember you. Tom told me that you had married Don.

Ron Huggins - September 14, 2025 at 07:17 PM

AF

“ *As being at the end of the cousin line, I didn't have the pleasure of a close relationship with Chris. I remember him as a working man before his foray into becoming a man of the sea. See you in heaven cousin.*

Anne Froelich Chicago, IL

Anne Froelich - July 27, 2025 at 05:15 PM

BV

“ *So very sad to hear of Uncle Chris' passing. I have such wonderful memories of him. Always laughing and smiling and just such a truly kind and heartwarming person. I'll second what Jess said...I too learned how to right a kayak and learned how to sail from Uncle Chris. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to Jeanie and Patsy.*

Beth Vogel - July 22, 2025 at 08:20 PM

JZ

“ So sad to hear of his passing. Love to you all. He was just the BEST uncle!! He taught me how to right an upside down skirted kayak, taught me (very patiently) to sail and how to right a tipped sunfish. Also taught me how to go so fast that you tip the Sunfish and how not to be scared when you do. I will carry these lessons with me forever and keep his spirit with me. He truly was full of life and adventure and although it is sad that he is gone I have peace knowing he really did live life to its fullest while he was with us. I know he will be missed by all who knew him.

Jessica Zebrauskas - July 22, 2025 at 07:10 PM