



## Christopher Mathew Novak

January 20, 1964 - September 17, 2025

Chris Novak of Chester, Maryland died at home on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. He was 61.

Chris was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on January 20, 1964, to Tom and Shirleyan Novak. He grew up in the Pines on the Severn of Arnold, Maryland with his older brother, Ken, and his younger brother, Tom. He graduated from Severna Park High School in 1982. After that Chris went on many adventures, living in Florida and St. Croix and joining the Army National Guard. For the past 25 years Chris worked in the IT field and retired as the Director of IT at Montgomery College. Chris loved his years at Montgomery College, enjoying the strong connections that he had with the members of his work family. In 2024, Chris married Ramona Groh. They spent their time together vacationing in Maryland, visiting family in Florida, and watching his son, Benjamin and her daughter, Molly perform with the Towson University Marching Band.

Chris loved to garden, read, play fantasy football, and shared the love of wine and good food with his family members. Chris loved trains, and when the holidays came around, he took great pleasure in setting up his train garden around the Christmas tree.

Chris is survived by his mother Shirleyan, wife Ramona, his beloved son Benjamin, stepdaughter Molly, brothers Ken (Trudy) and Tom (Bobbie),

nephews and nieces Erica (Dan), Courtney (Evan), Aaron, and Addison, great niece Shay Rose, and many beloved cousins.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, September 27 at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home at 106 Shamrock Road, Chester, Maryland 21619. Friends and family may visit starting at 11 am. The service will start at 12 pm. Lunch will follow at the Dock House Restaurant at 110 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, Maryland 21619.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

SEP 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.  
106 Shamrock Road  
Chester, MD 21619

## Memorial Service

SEP 27. 12:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.  
106 Shamrock Road  
Chester, MD 21619

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Livestream Link in memory of Christopher Mathew Novak*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - September 27, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Christopher Mathew Novak*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - September 25, 2025 at 12:44 PM

MP

*I really enjoyed working with Chris for nearly 18 years. He was a kind and supportive colleague, a thoughtful and fun human being who will be sorely missed by many.  
I am very sorry for your loss.  
Deepest sympathies and condolences.  
Melissa Pace and friends from MCTV*

**Melissa Pace** - October 08, 2025 at 07:48 AM

SC

“ I am so sorry to hear about Chris's passing. He fought hard. I met Chris many years ago. Montgomery College has been a customer of mine through my years at IBM, Dell, and now Cisco. He was kind and fun and very good at what he did for the College. He will be greatly missed. Heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Chris's famil and to his work family at Montgomery College.

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**Susan Cargill-Collura** - September 29, 2025 at 12:11 PM

CP

“ I met Chris in 2014 when I was consulting at Montgomery College. Chris and I became immediate friends and although I left in 2016, he and I would regularly meet for a beverage to catch up and talk about our lives.

Chris was universally known as a tremendous person, with a good heart, mind and never-ending passion to help everyone. We lost a good person, far too young. Thoughts and prayers for his entire family.

Chris Peabody  
Bethesda, Maryland

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**Chris Peabody** - September 29, 2025 at 09:40 AM

TJ

“ I was on a work teleconference call with Chris. We were chitchatting before anyone else join the call. I discovered during that chit chat that he grew up in Pines on the Severn, which is where I lived at the time. We developed a connection after that was even deeper than we had before. He was such a good dude and he will be missed. — TJ

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**TJ** - September 28, 2025 at 10:23 AM

TL

“ Our deepest sympathies to Ramona, Ben and Molly and all of Chris' family and friends. May God be holding Chris in his loving arms. I am praying for him and all who loved him.



Teresa Love - September 27, 2025 at 08:15 AM

FM

“ From David and Melissa.... purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



From David and Melissa.... - September 26, 2025 at 01:49 PM

FM

“ From David and Melissa.... planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

From David and Melissa.... - September 26, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



September 26, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

September 26, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



September 26, 2025 at 01:12 PM



“ As I entered the Gaithersburg Marriott for the Employee and Retiree Recognition Luncheon in 2023, Chris saw me and crossed the entire length of the venue to greet me. This was typical Chris. He was more than a colleague, he was a valued friend. Chris went out of his way to provide exceptional customer service and IT advice. He treated everyone with utmost respect and solved computer problems professionally without making the user feel dumb. We had many great conversations about his brother who had a successful cocoa plantation somewhere in south America. (At least that is how I remember the story.) He drove a long and lean classic car, perhaps a Caddy. I remember sharing observations about life with Chris. I am very sorry that he died so young from such a cruel disease. I guess the old saw is true, "only the good die young." With deepest sympathy, Sandra Filippi

Sandra Filippi - September 25, 2025 at 08:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.*



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September 25, 2025 at 05:46 PM



“ *I remember when Chris was a baby and Shirl asked me to watch him while she had to pop out. He was such a lovely boy. So sad, too young. X*



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**Jacqueline Freeman** - September 25, 2025 at 02:54 AM

MI

“ I remember when Chris become an employee at the college over 20 years ago. He was a contractor at the time and I suggested to him that he apply for the network engineer position the college was running because I knew he would be a valuable asset for Montgomery College IT department. He was a great colleague and friend. We spent many late nights and early mornings working on network issues while talking about many things to pass the time. As I look back on those times, they truly are cherished moments forever.

Chris was a joy to work with while demonstrating his passion for his work. He was a good leader with his colleagues. I enjoyed taking off our work hats off and just being friends who could talk and laugh about anything. We shared many good, crazy, and sad conversations through our time working together. We shared personal stories that were funny and sometimes sad. He stated to me one day how very proud of what his son had accomplished. We had our share of sessions where we privately aired our annoyances to blow off steam and then laugh about it. Those moments will forever be imbedded in my memories of Chris.

He definitely had a big heart and cared about his family and work. I watched Chris work his way through ranks and making it as supervisor, manager, and IT Director, which was a great accomplishment. Through these changes in management he still kept his good hearted attitude and continued to be a respected leader.

Chris was just a good-hearted person. May he rest in peace now that his pain is over. He will be forever in my thoughts and greatly missed.

My condolences to his family and friends.

Mike Shipe

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**mike** - September 24, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.*



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September 23, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

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September 23, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ *Chris was very kind to my parents visiting them often when he would visit his parents. My Mother always had a picture of Chris on the refridgerator.  
God Bless!*

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**Rob Murray** - September 23, 2025 at 05:52 PM



“ *Chris was the best man at my wedding in 1991. My ex-husband, Mitch and I were best friends with him back then! We were even roommates for a few months! I'll never forget his humor, kindness, and friendship!! Also, I will never forget the almost lifesize cardboard cutout he had of Jack Nicholson! He'd put it in a potted palm tree; or the bathroom; or the kitchen! He was always a joy to be around!! I'm sorry I lost touch with him years ago but I know everyone he touched was blessed!!! RIH my friend!!* 💜💜💜

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**Joanie McKnight** - September 22, 2025 at 09:26 PM

GW

“ I will always remember Chris for his caring and gentle manner. He will be sorely missed. My condolences to his wife Ramona, son Ben and brothers Ken and Tom and their families.

Greg Whipp - September 22, 2025 at 03:05 PM

GP

“ Gregory P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

Gregory P. - September 22, 2025 at 02:57 PM

GJ

“ Chris's gentle spirit will be missed by so many at MC. Rest in peace my friend.

Geri Johnson - September 22, 2025 at 12:15 PM

GJ

“ Geri Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

Geri Johnson - September 22, 2025 at 12:01 PM

GJ

“ Geri Johnson purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



Geri Johnson - September 22, 2025 at 12:01 PM

RB

“ Chris’s mother and my mother have been best friends since they were 7 years old and it was through this friendship that our families were friends. It was always happy times visiting the Novaks with sailings on the Chesapeake and swimming in their pool. I have fond childhood memories of Chris, Tommy and I, riding to an adventure, squished in the backseat of one of our parents’ cars where there was always alot of giggling because of Chris’s dry wit and sense of humor. And on a few visits, older brother Ken had the unfortunate duty of babysitting the 3 of us where laughter and contrariness were on the menu for that evening while our parents were out. Good times.

We are very saddened by this loss. Rest in peace, Chris, and say hello to your Dad for me.

Renee (Pozzuto) Bennett

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Renee Bennett - September 22, 2025 at 11:37 AM

AD

“ Our deepest condolences  
- Aimee and Gabby



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Aimee DeRenzo - September 22, 2025 at 10:51 AM

AD

“ Aimee D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

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Aimee D. - September 22, 2025 at 10:50 AM

RB

“ Renee Bennett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

Renee Bennett - September 22, 2025 at 10:28 AM

RB

“ Renee Bennett purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



Renee Bennett - September 22, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



September 22, 2025 at 09:39 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

September 22, 2025 at 09:39 AM

SC

“ Stephen C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

Stephen C. - September 22, 2025 at 08:27 AM

RC

“ I met Chris about 20 years ago in a small closet inside the Assessment Center/Rockville campus. He was sitting there with his laptop doing his IT magic. I remember being so impressed by what he was doing I just sat there in awe watching him and asking questions. Although Chis and I rarely crossed paths after that I always felt he inspired my chosen career.

Thank you, Chris, for taking the time to show me a thing or two on that day. I'll never forget how humble and respectful you were. You will be missed.

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**Rob Carvallo** - September 22, 2025 at 06:32 AM

BM

“ Beth and Jeremy McCoy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.



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**Beth and Jeremy McCoy** - September 21, 2025 at 07:45 PM

TN

“ Chris is my older brother by 2 years 2 days and 2 hours. He meant everything to me, my parents would dress us as twins because we were so close in age. He drove me to my 1st concert which lead to a lifetime love of music. I have lost a part of my sole, but he will always remain in my heart.



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**Thomas Novak** - September 21, 2025 at 05:51 PM

SW

“ Sam W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.

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**Sam W.** - September 21, 2025 at 02:20 PM

JY

“ Ever since I met Chris in my beginner days in IT, he left an impression on me that's truly unforgettable. Chris is someone who I looked up to and I always enjoyed casual and/or work related talks throughout the years. Chris, you will be missed. My heart and prayers go out to you and your family. Love and will miss you brother! We will meet again.

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**Jay Yu** - September 19, 2025 at 11:24 PM

CH

“ Chris was more than just my boss—he was a great leader, and someone who truly cared about the people around him. He treated me like a brother, and I'll always remember the laughs, guidance, and friendship we shared. I miss him deeply.

- Chandru

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**Chandru** - September 19, 2025 at 09:41 PM

NF

“ On a day-to-day basis we do not always recognize the significance of the relationships with our co-workers, with whom we spend more waking time than with our own families.

*Since the day I began at Montgomery College more than 21 years ago, Chris has been a colleague, a partner, and a friend. We have shared work-life stresses, extraordinary professional accomplishments, and personal stories.*

*When Chris took a step back from work to begin his battle over the last year, we connected periodically so I could offer my support. Looking back over our conversations, Chris never failed to return the favor, stepping out of his own struggles to empathize with work challenges, ask about my daughter, etc.*

*He was an extraordinary man with a huge heart who cared deeply about his family, embraced and nurtured his team at work, mentored MC students (helping many of them to make connections with Network Engineering and Cybersecurity professionals as stepping stones to career positions in those fields) and of course, was a friend to me and many others.*

*I want to extend my deepest condolences to Chris's family, friends, co-workers, and the Montgomery College community.*

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**Nell Feldman** - September 19, 2025 at 05:29 PM

AK

“ Chris was always a pleasure to work with. He always treated the OG Service Desk team with great respect. I will always treasure the morning talks we had in CT.

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**Azeem Khan** - September 19, 2025 at 04:40 PM

DJ

“ Chris was always a pleasure to work with. May his soul rest peacefully and condolences to his family and friends.

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**Donovan Jenkins** - September 19, 2025 at 01:57 PM

JJ

“ Chris Novak

*He was my friend.*

*We would sit together and talk about work, and life, and family. Inevitably he would tell another story about his son, whom he loved so much and was so proud. If you want to know why there is a Father's Day, it is because of fathers like Chris.*

*We would trade pictures of beautiful wooden sailboats. He was always proud to say as a kid he was a Chesapeake Bay Waterman, going out early in the morning to collect the crabs from his traps and bring them back to sell.*

*Chris Novak was and is a great human to know, work for, work with, laugh together. For me, he is not gone, he lives on, because those of us who knew him take a part of him with us.*

*Rest my friend this fight is over.*

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**JimD** - September 19, 2025 at 12:30 PM

PH

“ It was never a dull moment working with you Chris. You always found a way to make us laugh even when things got crazy. Rest in peace.

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**Phil Hajjar** - September 19, 2025 at 11:49 AM

TT

“ *The Bush Family & Marathon Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Mathew Novak.*

**The Bush Family & Marathon Team** - September 19, 2025 at 10:39 AM

TT

“ *The Bush Family & Marathon Team purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Christopher Mathew Novak.*



**The Bush Family & Marathon Team** - September 19, 2025 at 10:39 AM

SA

“ *1 file added to the album Chris*



**Sarah** - September 18, 2025 at 03:39 PM

KL

*great picture* □

**Kelly Leskovic** - September 18, 2025 at 04:23 PM

SW

*Dear Chris. You'll be greatly missed. May you rest in peace.*

*--Sam Wiseman*

**Sam Wiseman** - September 19, 2025 at 11:58 AM

BT

*When I came to MC over 20 years ago, you were one of the first people in IT I interacted with. I was very impressed. Sincere sympathies to your family.  
Rest in Peace. - Bill Tata*

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**Bill Tata** - September 19, 2025 at 01:13 PM

GV

*Chris, thank you for the trust, the guidance, and the belief.  
You helped shape not just our work, but our growth.  
You'll be missed not just for what you knew—but for who you were.  
May you rest in peace*

*Guillermo Vega*

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**Guillermo M Vega** - September 19, 2025 at 02:17 PM

JC

*Chris was a great person and friend. I met Chris while I was working in Baltimore around 2002. We talked about a a lot of things and he helped me a bunch. He had a great spirit and great heart.*

*Not only was he a great colleague and manager of our team, but just an all around beautiful human being and he will be missed.*

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**Juma Conway** - September 22, 2025 at 12:06 PM

EC

“ *Eastern Shore Dental Care lit a candle in memory of Christopher Mathew Novak*



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**Eastern Shore Dental Care** - September 18, 2025 at 09:50 AM