



Nicholas Gene Ricciardelli

December 15, 1959 - October 3, 2025

Nicholas Ricciardelli, 65, passed away on October 3, 2025, in Summerville, South Carolina shortly after moving there from Waterbury, Connecticut to begin his retirement. Born on December 15, 1959, in Southington, Connecticut, Nick lived a life defined by adventure, generosity, and an unwavering zest for living.

A graduate of Southington High School and Southern Connecticut State University, Nick built a career rooted in leadership and service. He spent many years in retail and service management before retiring from Homestead Comfort in Ellington, Connecticut. His professional journey reflected his dedication to helping others and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

Nick's passions extended far beyond the workplace. A true adventurer at heart, he embraced life with open arms and boundless energy. By land, sky, and sea, he pursued every opportunity to push limits, seek joy, and share it with others. He was an avid rugby player, a founding member of the SCSU rugby team, and was inducted into the first class of its Hall of Fame. A lifelong skydiver, he made over 2,000 jumps—flying solo, with students as a certified tandem instructor, and with teammates on the Go Big jump team. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Nick joined the Run 169 Towns Society and ran a road race in each of Connecticut's 169 towns. And his love of the ocean led

him to become a skilled scuba diver, a PADI instructor, and an enthusiastic fisherman. Nick's adventurous spirit knew no bounds, and his life was a vibrant journey through every element.

His commitment to making a difference was just as remarkable as his sense of adventure. In honor of his skydiving friend, Nick founded Tom Dore's Run the Runway 5K to raise funds for ALS research. Held at his skydiving airport in Ellington, Connecticut, the event combined Nick's passions, love of community, and drive to support meaningful causes.

Nick is lovingly remembered by his partner Kate McKenna; his brothers Mark (Nancy) and John (Kathy) Ricciardelli; nephews Pace (Bess), Paul (Carrie), and Geoff (JoAnne); niece Mara (Bryan) Molinaro; grandnephews Geoff "LG," Mason, and Liam Ricciardelli, and Leo Molinaro; grandnieces Mia Ricciardelli and Nora Molinaro; Kate's children Casey (Josh) and Alex. He was predeceased by his parents Eugene and Mary Ricciardelli and his brother Paul Ricciardelli.

A Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later date to honor Nick. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Nick's name to the ALS Clinical Trials Fund at Hospital for Special Care, New Britain, Connecticut.

Nick loved life—and lived it fully. His passion for adventure was only matched by his passion for those he loved. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him and inspiration to all who hear his story.

Tribute Wall

MD

“ I met Nick in 1990 when I moved to Connecticut for work. I needed a place to live so Nick let me temporarily rent his back bedroom. We wound up being roommates for 10 year. Nick became much more than a room mate or a friend to me. He looked after me like a big brother looks after his kid brother. I learned a lot from Nick. Nick had an endless hunger for adventure. He taught me scuba diving, and tried real hard to get me to jump out of an airplane. Nick left us way too soon, but I do know Nick lived life everyday the way it was supposed to be lived. I wish I could thank him for everything he did for me. I'll miss my big brother Nick.

Matt Duffy - October 22, 2025 at 10:03 AM

FM

I met Nick in 1985 when we both worked at the Wayside Furniture stores. I casually asked him if he'd like to go scuba diving. Nick had never thought of it. He trained and became a certified diver and off we went to USVI for 7 days of diving. Before I could turn around he had 450 dives under his belt! Nick had many great attributes but his zest for life was undeniable.

Fred Mink - October 25, 2025 at 04:53 PM

SM

“ My heart goes out to all of Nick's friends and family. We spoke just before he moved and he was looking forward to this next chapter. He was always kind, always positive, and I can't think of a time I ran into him and he wasn't smiling. The world lost someone really special.
~SM in CWH



sm - October 21, 2025 at 04:48 PM

SD

“ I met both of them at our driveway party. We are so happy we could meet Nick and Katie. Sorry that we will not be seeing Nick anymore but we will love to have Katie be a part of our wonderful street of people.

Sue ans Darrell - October 14, 2025 at 08:21 PM

JZ

We were neighbors to Nick and Katie for years in CT...what a shock...our sincerest condolences 🙏

Jim & Maryellen Zukauskas - October 20, 2025 at 06:36 AM

BE

“ I met Nick during the pursuit of running a race I all 169 towns in Connecticut. Nick was always the first person to say “Hello” and make sure you felt included in whatever was going on. He was so outgoing and friendly. He was an inspiration.

Becky - October 14, 2025 at 08:08 PM

SR

“ My Husband Mike and I met Kate and Nick at the driveway party. We could immediately tell how friendly and warm they were. Kate, we are here for you.
-Sincerest condolences,
Sandy and Mike Ropka

Sandy and Mike Ropka - October 14, 2025 at 04:07 PM

LW

“ Nick and Kate moved to Summerville, South Carolina into the neighborhood we live in and we just recently got to know them at one of our driveway and dives full of life and stories he was my husband and I had a wonderful time getting to know him and looked forward to many more events with him and Kate.

We are honored to have known him for the short while that we got with him and will cherish the memory



Leah Weigel - October 14, 2025 at 03:53 PM

GB

“ We are without words. Nick was my first boss after graduating from Duquesne University. We started Scuba Diving and Skydiving together. He was the impetus for what would be my life long passion and connection with the sea. Our years of misadventure and mischief when he lived on 3rd Avenue provided ample stories for us to relive over a good bourbon and a warm fire. The years we all spent in Old Saybrook and our yearly midnight plunges at Cornfield point on New Years Eve will be forever remembered. Nick lived his life on his terms. Kate was a life boat for Nick and provided him safe harbor and his own loving family. He was truly happy and content as he began his next adventure in life. Nick was my best man. God Father to my Emily and my brother from another mother. Praying for calm winds, gentle seas and clear sky's, endless free fall and bottom time as you forge ahead of us. See you on the bottom brother.

Gene Bagnoli - October 14, 2025 at 06:18 AM

LU

“ Nick was my manager at Homestead for the entirety I worked there on the service department, he was genuinely the best manager. He helped me out countless times and always had my back even when I didn't deserve it. And he never held back advice and life growth. I will miss him. Rest in peace Nick

Luke - October 13, 2025 at 11:05 PM

BB

“ Nick was always full of joy. He loved life. Nick was so very generous. He gave of himself and celebrated others. His spirit will live on in all of us

beth bunko - October 13, 2025 at 09:14 PM

MC

“ Mena Shehata - Empire Timing Co. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Nicholas Gene Ricciardelli.



Mena Shehata - Empire Timing Co. - October 13, 2025 at 07:15 PM

MC

“ Mena Shehata - Empire Timing Co. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nicholas Gene Ricciardelli.

Mena Shehata - Empire Timing Co. - October 13, 2025 at 07:15 PM

DE

“ I work with him he was great guy to know

Deb - October 13, 2025 at 06:35 PM



*Nick, Going to miss the fishing trips we took together through
homestead and the Drifter RIP 🙏👍📱*

chris DiNardo - October 15, 2025 at 09:04 AM