



Paul Czajka

March 9, 1954 - September 3, 2024

Elizaville - Paul Czajka, 70, of Elizaville passed away September 3, 2024 with his sons Chris, Nick, and Tim at his side.

Born to John Casmir Czajka and Carmela Mangiafico in Hudson, NY on March 9, 1954, Paul had a very active childhood growing up on the family farm with his siblings John, Marie Rose, Mimi, and Franny and many other family and friends who rotated through on a frequent basis.

Paul was born and raised a dairyman. Life on the farm was always an adventure for Paul and his pals and he learned a lot of important lessons the hard way as one should. This life also instilled in him a commitment to hard work, as well as his characteristic stubbornness.

Once PC was politely asked to not come back to Hamilton College, he decided a change was warranted and joined the Peace Corps. During his time as a Peace Corps volunteer in The Philippines, he once again made lifelong friends. While helping rural communities and farmers, he continued to learn some valuable lessons, some of which he even followed.

Upon returning from The Philippines, he finished up his college and then law school, somehow with just a handful of minor breaks, cuts, bruises, and bans from certain watering holes. While he loved learning, he would be the first to tell you he loved having a couple of beers with interesting people even more.

PC briefly returned to farming while starting his legal career in various roles, including private practice, Assistant District Attorney, and Public Defender. In each of these roles he cherished the opportunity to help his friends and neighbors however he could. During this time, Paul met and married Dr. Ellen Marie Cosgrove Czajka, with whom he went on to have his three sons, Chris, Nick, and Tim.

In 1987, PC was elected Columbia County District Attorney. DA Czajka hit the ground running, focusing his first terms combating drug trafficking, sexual and child abuse, and endemic corruption in what one State Police Superintendent referred to as the “unalterably corrupt city of Hudson.”

DA Czajka became Judge Czajka in 1995 and earned a reputation as a tough but fair jurist. No gum in his courtroom and if you showed up late or unprepared it was probably better that you didn't show up at all.

After seventeen years as judge, he knew that his passion remained in the District Attorney's Office. Beginning in 2012, DA Czajka (part 2) continued his pursuit of justice for all Columbia County residents and visitors, with a particular focus once again on the most vulnerable, until his retirement in December 2023

PC often told friends, family, and acquaintances he was most proud of his three sons, and his five, soon to be six, grandchildren. “Old Man” as his kids affectionately refer to him, among other nicknames that may not be suitable for this column, cherished fatherhood and being a grandfather.

Paul is survived by his sons, Chris (Ann-Marie), Nick, and Tim (Jen), and his beloved five grandchildren. Paul is also survived by too many friends to name, but they know who they are. Paul is predeceased by his sister, Marie Rose, and his best friend, Bobby Moore.

A public wake will be held at Bates and Anderson Funeral Home in Hudson, NY from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 8. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, September 9 at St. Mary's Church / Holy Trinity Parish, Hudson, followed by burial at Holy Trinity Parish Nativity Chapel in Germantown. A celebration of life will be held at the Hudson Powerboat Association following PC's burial. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Columbia Greene Humane Society. No gum allowed at any of the events, and please be on time.

"He who does justice, will live in the presence of the Lord". Psalm 15

Previous Events

Visitation Hours

SEP 8. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler
110 Green Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3371
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity St. Mary's Parish Hudson

Tribute Wall



“ We were saddened to hear of Paul's passing. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to all his family. He was a wonderful judge in a difficult time for our family, and we are forever grateful for his help.

Deb Drennon - September 11, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ Here’s to

*The concerts Mr. C took us to
Clark Terry in the SUNYA Ballroom
Dave Brubeck with Gerry Mulligan in the SUNYA gym
Nick Brignola with the Colonie H.S. Jazz Band*

Here’s to

*Hours spent talking and listening to music
Cream
The Doors (YOU CANNOT PETITION THE LORD WITH PRAYER!)
Mile Davis
B, S & T
J & K (Israel, Betwixt and Between)
Ray Charles (The Sun Died, Granny Wasn’t Grinnin’ That Day)*

Here’s to

*The ballgames
Old Timers Day at Yankee Stadium
Whitey Ford grooving fast balls to Mickey Mantle
Mick hits one almost off the upper deck façade down the left field line
Just foul (the crowd groans)*

*Wilbur Wood pitches in both ends of a double header against the Yanks
And loses both
Sonny Siebert blowing smoke*

A Yankee-Red Sox double header at Shea Stadium

*And of course WS Game 6 1977 Reggie hits three home runs
(Tickets courtesy of John Westervelt)*

*(I promise not to mention the Rangers and Penguins playing to a 0-0 tie
Try to make a hockey fan out of me will ya)*

*There were a lot of good times
There were some difficult days
We did some dumb things but lived to tell the tale
And we tried to always be there when we were needed*

Sleep well my friend

Stephen Pratt - September 07, 2024 at 09:14 PM

RH

“ I will always remember Paul as a positive lightWhen he entered a room, he had a way of conveying warmth and safety. His kindness and thunderous laugh will be missed. Remember: John 13: 1-3....

Rich m Hallenbeck - September 07, 2024 at 08:18 AM

NC

“ The District Attorney and office family.....



Neal Conolly - September 07, 2024 at 08:14 AM

FF

“ I graduated with Paul and I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. I ran into Paul a few years back and we had a great time catching up. The thing I remember the most about that conversation was Paul telling me about his beloved boys. My deepest condolences to all his family and friends.

Faith Hull Foster - September 07, 2024 at 08:12 AM

LT

“ My condolences to the Czajka family. I met Paul through medical school classmates. I always liked Paul and was so happy to see him briefly when he stopped by our 40th reunion 2 years ago. So sad that he has passed

Lonnie Thomas

Lonice Thomas - September 06, 2024 at 12:45 PM

JF

“ Paul was the friendliest, nicest, most considerate person I've come across in quite some time. I will miss seeing jazz shows with him, tilting one at Swoon late on Thursday afternoons and discussing various points of law. I wish him and his family peace.

John Friedman - September 06, 2024 at 12:01 PM

IE

“ Paul helped my family when we most needed it. We are saddened to hear this news - and eternally grateful for his steadfast passion to protect the vulnerable.

Ilze Earner - September 06, 2024 at 07:57 AM

DD

“ 14 years ago we did foster care and you let us adopt our little man you are such a great person may you rest in peace mister czajka I seen you alot in Hannaford we always talked you will be missed

David Dougherty - September 06, 2024 at 06:38 AM

TS

“ So many happy memories. Paul was a very special man, always with a smile, willing to help anyone if needed. He was so very proud of his boys! We were both born in 1954, he was a month older. We joked about that often. He will be missed.



Terry Sullivan - September 05, 2024 at 09:57 PM

CA

“ I was very sad upon hearing about Paul' s passing. I knew Paul since coaching soccer at Ichabod and developed a friendship with him. He was always so friendly a with his characteristically smile and pushing you as his way to give you a hug. I will surely miss him.

Carlos Araoz- Interpreter

Carlos Araoz - September 05, 2024 at 07:40 PM

AD

Lost my twin. I went to Germantown Central School with Paul. I've known him since the fourth grade. We share the same birthday of March ninth 1954. I've spent lots of weekends at the farm in Livingston. He stood up for me as my best man at my wedding in the Catskill Catholic Church. What a great friend. Love you Paul. Andy Dougherty

Andrew Dougherty - September 06, 2024 at 04:56 PM

JD

“ It was an honor to know Paul and to work for Paul. I will forever cherish his memory.

Jill Delaney - September 05, 2024 at 02:35 PM

AW

“ *My family and Clinton County is sorry for your loss. Our deepest condolences.
Andrew Wylie, Clinton County District Attorney*

Andrew Wylie - September 05, 2024 at 11:07 AM

JC

“ *Paul was one in a million! A great public servant and a great human being who
will be sorely missed but highly respected by many. May he rest in peace.*

Jay Carlisle - September 05, 2024 at 11:05 AM

JO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



John,Bill,Gary,Birk - September 05, 2024 at 10:04 AM

DV

“ *I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Paul. He was a
wonderful man.*



Deborah Vandenburg - September 05, 2024 at 09:43 AM

KA

*He was one of the best...my family knew him for years,may he rest in peace as he was
an with integrity and a heart of gold*❤️🙏🏻✝️

Karinvucich - September 06, 2024 at 07:16 PM

JC

“ While being a deputy with the Columbia county sheriffs office, I happen to be in court many times with the judge there was an inmate before him from the county jail that was being sentenced The inmate attorney mentions to the judge that the inmate was a magician, and could he perform a card trick for the judge, he said OK when they got done with his car, I don't think the judge was very impressed because he said to the inmate not bad but I bet you can't make that sentence disappear. I almost burst out laughing in the courtroom, but I kept my cool, that was the great sense of humor the judge had

John cordato - September 04, 2024 at 07:39 PM