



William "Jeff" Christie II

December 31, 1943 - June 2, 2025

William "Jeff" Christie, II, 81, of Spirit Lake, passed away on Tuesday, June 2, 2025, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

Services for Jeff will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Spirit Lake, IA. Burial will be held at a later date in the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Arrangements are under direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Jeff was born on December 31, 1943, to William J. and Bertha (Parsons) Christie in Hays, Kansas. Jeff enlisted in the US Air Force in 1967. During his 26 years of military service, Jeff did two tours of service in Germany and a tour in Vietnam. During that time he was awarded the Legion of Merit Award, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, Air Force Overseas Tour Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Longevity Service Award with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, and Vietnam Gallantry Cross with a Palm. He earned his Law Degree while in the service and served for 24 years as a Judge Advocate General (JAG). He was honorably discharged with the rank of Colonel in 1993.

Jeff was united in marriage to Bernadette Gales on December 21, 1968, at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. In his free time Jeff enjoyed hunting, skeet shooting, fishing, boating on Okoboji and traveling with Bernadette.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Bernadette Christie of Spirit Lake, IA, extended family, friends and his military community of Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his son William J. Christie, III.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave.
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St Alban's Episcopal Church
2011 23rd St
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
(712) 336-1117

Tribute Wall

CF

“ I had the honor of meeting and working with the Colonel nearly forty years ago when I was a young paralegal at the Pentagon. He was truly a remarkable man — kind, sharp, and always full of good humor. I’ll never forget how often he spoke so lovingly of his wife, Bernadette, and with such pride about his son, affectionately calling him “the Toad.”

*He left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. May his memory be a blessing to all who loved him.
Sgt Ford*

Charles Ford - October 27, 2025 at 04:10 PM

CP

“ My condolences on your loss. Jeff was a valued friend of my late husband, Jon Peters. I met him once and knew him to be a proud military man and friendly to everyone he met.

Carolynn Peters - October 24, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Jeff" Christie II.



October 24, 2025 at 08:46 AM



“ *I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket was purchased for the family of William "Jeff" Christie II.*



August 20, 2025 at 11:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Jeff" Christie II.

August 20, 2025 at 11:30 PM



“ *The Old Colonel- He was the best hunting partner I ever had and the finest advisor of life issues. I could depend on him to give me advice on hunting, work, dining, worldly travel, weather, religion, whiskey but he didn't "do domestics", lol. He taught me how to open a champagne bottle with a WWI bayonet. We were an odd couple but we worked, because he said we were "event guys". We travelled many states for hunts of quail, pheasants and grouse. There will never be a better man to grill a steak and drink whiskey with or pizza and beer at the Hoot n Holler in Alvwood, MN. The best trip we took we didn't take much game but we hung out in rustic places like The Bear and Musky Jacks laughing over many stories. We outsourced our "worries" to each other and there will never be another mentor like the Old Colonel. Waidmanns Heil!!*

Daren Baxter

Daren Baxter - June 15, 2025 at 09:51 PM

DF

“ Dick Mcnealy & Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of William "Jeff" Christie II.



Dick Mcnealy & Family - June 13, 2025 at 04:20 PM

DF

“ Dick Mcnealy & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Jeff" Christie II.

Dick Mcnealy & Family - June 13, 2025 at 04:20 PM

JS

“ Bernadette, so very sorry for your loss. So enjoyed getting to know you two at the bank & will cherish my memories of Jeff forever.
Julie Schultze



Julie Schultze - June 11, 2025 at 08:46 AM

GB

“ Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of William "Jeff" Christie II



Greg & Dee Baloun - June 10, 2025 at 10:55 AM

FF

“ Fred Kaminska Karrie Ferguson lit a candle in memory of William "Jeff" Christie II



Fred Kaminska Karrie Ferguson - June 04, 2025 at 02:43 PM

BS

“ Bernadette, all of us here at Pub19 are so heartbroken at this news. We will miss his smiling face. Our condolences to you. Bennie

Bennie Schnell - June 04, 2025 at 11:02 AM

TM

“ Bernadette,

Jane and I are so sorry to hear of Jeff's death. He was a special friend to me, and usually amused me with his timekeeping antics. I will remember him with special intention at Mass next Sunday. And on every St. Hubertus Day!

Blessings,

Fr. Carl

*Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon him.
May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

The Rev. Carl Mann - June 04, 2025 at 09:22 AM

JB

“ Jenny Bengs lit a candle in memory of William "Jeff" Christie II



Jenny Bengs - June 04, 2025 at 08:44 AM

JB

Prayers of comfort to Bernadette. I will never forget Jeff's kind words of support. I will always keep the generous letter of recommendation Jeff wrote on my behalf that lifted me up and gave me strength. He was a blessing in my life. Love and prayers to you Bernadette.

Jenny Bengs - June 04, 2025 at 08:57 AM

GR

“ *Condolences to Bernadette and all of Jeff's family and friends. Jeff was a truly rare, one-of-a-kind, genuinely unique soul. I'm glad I got to know him. I am especially glad for the few remarkable hunts I got to share with Jeff and Daren. Opening day of dove season 2020 and opening weekend of goose season that same year. There were limits of birds and laughs all around. But even the unremarkable hunts and simple visits were always a joy I looked forward to. Between that Parker shotgun and immense intellect of his, it was like spending time with one of those vintage gentleman 20th century American sportsmen you read about in old Field & Stream articles. I will cherish those memories forever. Anybody as well-read and well-traveled as Jeff was is a delight to be around. He was no exception. A model for a life well-lived. I'll miss having him here, but I know he'll still be out there wandering the switchgrass, grouse woods, and harvested corn fields with his friends every fall as long as they keep their eyes and hearts out for him.*

Grant Rodgers - June 04, 2025 at 01:42 AM