



Jeff Morris

August 31, 1960 - May 25, 2026

Jeff Morris Obituary

Soccer coach, entrepreneur, world traveler and inspiration to many aspiring young soccer players, Jeff Morris departed this mortal coil on Monday, May 25, 2026. Trained as a teenager to be a goalkeeper by Hungarian legend Geza Henni and always a vocal presence on the field, Jeff is undoubtedly now working between the pipes for his celestial teammates and bilingually barking orders at Pele and Diego Maradona to 'mark their men.' He was 65.

Albert Camus said "The little of morality that I know I learned it on the soccer fields...which remains my true university." Jeff absorbed valuable lessons on the pitch and built an athletic institution, World Cup Soccer Academy, where he spent his life teaching children around the globe the beautiful game while maintaining an unwavering focus on sportsmanship and respect.

Born in Syracuse, NY on August 31, 1960, Jeff was raised by his loving parents and role models, Robert and Irma Morris. Moving to Pittsfield, MA at age 12, he formed a deep bond with nature that lasted a lifetime. He and his high school cohorts built a log cabin in the woods of Washington Mountain, where they developed a woodsman's bond with the legendary hermit of the Berkshires, Henry Strong. It turns out when given the chance, hermits can be quite chatty.

The Berkshire Mountains were simply too convenient for Jeff to resist the lure of 7 day a week skiing. He developed his downhill skills and became a ski instructor at Bosquet Mountain, eventually taking up ski jumping, cross country and competing in Alpine races. He always described the ski mountain as his happy place.

His soccer roots took hold during these formative years and he was inducted into the Berkshire County Soccer Hall of Fame in 2016. He also captained the Muhlenberg College soccer team in the early 1980s. Ultimately, Jeff combined his love of soccer and travel, and found himself adventuring to Patagonia, Galapagos, Germany, Belize, The Andes and Costa Rica, generally finding his way onto the pitch where ever he went. He even had a brief stint living with a native tribe in Panama, as he built a reputation for taking the path less traveled.

Mr. Morris was named Best Dancer in his high school class and was known to bust a move at the drop of a hat. He also considered himself a world-class competitor at rock-paper-scissors. Jeff's entrepreneurial spirit gave birth to a variety of ventures, including travel company Adventure Alternatives, Pepper's Café, WCUPSA, Central League Soccer and Central League Events. His parting message to the wide community of soccer aficionados and other supporters was 'Play on.'

He is survived by his partner and love of his life, Heidi Meertz, her three children Sophie, Isabelle and Julie, his brothers Robert and Richard, sister in laws Mary Helen Morris and Anne Morris and nieces and nephews, Elizabeth, Robert, Sarah, Wilson, Natalie, Caroline and Luke. He is predeceased by his brother Scott and his parents Irma and Robert.

Visiting hours will be held Monday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Chadwick &

McKinney Funeral Home, 30 E. Athens Avenue, Ardmore, PA. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Fresh Air Fund www.freshair.org

Previous Events

The family will receive guests

JUN 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chadwick & McKinney Funeral Home, Inc.
30 East Athens Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
(610) 642-6303

Tribute Wall

EL

“ *Ellen L. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Jeff Morris.*



Ellen L. - June 04 at 05:28 PM

GC

“ *Jeff, your friendship was a gift. From the moment I met you on the steps of the Adventure Alternatives tour bus to the many concerts we shared—and all the times we simply hung out over the years—you brought joy wherever you went. You were always the life of the moment, the one who made every experience more fun and every memory more special.*

I will miss you dearly, my friend, as will so many others. But I know you're somewhere beautiful, playing on a soccer field, making friends with everyone you meet, and spreading the same laughter, kindness, and happiness that you gave to all of us.

Play on, my beautiful friend. ❤️ Georgeanna

Georgeanna Costello - June 03 at 11:47 AM



“ Jeff will be greatly missed by so many. He made a huge impact on our son Charlie & our family. Jeff made last minute space for Char & his buddies to join a MLS team after they endured a horrendous year with another soccer club that decided to cut the entire team of 3rd graders. MLS was a safe haven for our boys to regain confidence in their abilities & reignite the passion they once had for the game. There are no words to express our gratitude. I could tell from our very first intro to Jeff that my son would be in excellent hands!!!!

Jody Staples - June 01 at 09:22 PM

TC

“ So much positive influence over so many of our youth! A life of value and purpose. RIP Kaiser.....

Tim Chung - June 01 at 02:54 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim Chung - June 01 at 02:50 PM

CT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Totherow - June 01 at 02:44 PM

CT

Coach Morris identified and nurtured qualities in our son that will extend well beyond the soccer pitch. For this we will be ever grateful. I can only imagine he did the same for my brothers when he coached them in the 90s. Delivered along with an affectionate nickname, we will miss Coach Morris's direction, passion, and humor from the sideline. His influence certainly lives on. Deepest condolences from the Totherow & Doubman families. We were happy to be able to be a part of Jeff's celebration of life.

Carolyn Totherow - June 01 at 02:50 PM

LM

“ *Louis M. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jeff Morris.*



Louis M. - May 31 at 03:17 PM

LG

“ *Coach Morris made a tremendous difference in the lives of so many young men - my son Charlie Anderson - being one of them. What impressed me so much about Coach Morris was how he cared about the boys as leaders and as good humans. Coach Morris was an excellent coach and role model. He never yelled at the refs, he taught an amazing passing game, and he had high standards for the boys which they rose to. I am so grateful that our lives crossed paths and will always remember him and his New England spirit fondly. All my best to his close friends and family - you are in my prayers.*

Linley Grandison Anderson

Linley Grandison - May 29 at 11:53 AM

GK

“ I met Jeff as the younger brother of my friend, Rick. For a time there, I was closer to Jeff than I was to his brother. We played a lot of basketball together and Jeff being Jeff was the player coach on our squads at the Y. He always had 100 things going on. Talking passionately and positively about each one. He had this special intensity combined with an infectious life outlook that attracted people. He saw so much of the world, met so many people and experienced numerous cultures, I can see why he was such a successful coach and positively influenced generations of younger people. He was also just a good guy!

Gone way too soon my friend. I'm sure heaven can use some of your pointers.

Love,

George and Tina

George Kupsky - May 28 at 11:07 PM

TC

“ *Hu shina et ha'olam*
(He changed the world)

You are a one-of-a-kind soul whose kindness, generosity, and unwavering spirit touched countless lives and made a difference in every community you touched. Thank you for the gift of your life and for the lasting imprint you leave on this world.

Losing you creates a void that never can be fulfilled and unending sadness.

Love,
Tammy Cohen
Your colleague and sincere friend

Tammy Cohen - May 28 at 09:38 PM

TC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Tammy Cohen - May 28 at 09:36 PM

BO

“ There are so many memories to share, I don't know where to start. Jeff was a good, decent and honorable man and a mentor to thousands of kids and young adults. He was the finest role model you could ever hope for. I will so miss his calls, our discussions and the council he provided. As we aged, we grew tighter and tighter. I miss him terribly and will always hold on to memories of Jeff. Play on brother!

Bobo Avalle



bobob - May 28 at 04:49 PM

CB

“ *"Play On, Coach Morris". You were an important soccer coach for both our boys (MLS and EA). They are better men for having known you. Thank you for fostering the love of soccer and what it means to be a good human being.*

Sincerely,

The Bernabei Family

Colleen, Jon, Nicholas, and Jackson

Colleen Bernabei - May 28 at 04:11 PM

RL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Rebecca Lieb - May 28 at 03:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jeff Morris.*



May 28 at 03:15 PM



“ *R.I.P. El Blanco 🏈 Dickie Fenimore*



Dickie Fenimore - May 28 at 01:52 PM



“ *I am so sad to hear that Jeff has left our earth but know that there are some big “goings on” in Heaven. Jeff and I formed a special friendship when he moved to Pittsfield. He was loved by all our classmates for his enthusiasm, humor and loyalty in all aspects of his life.*

The news of his illness seemed unbelievable for someone who lived so large and I admired the attitude he maintained through the worst of days. I will miss him always but am grateful to have had him as a life long friend. His celebration in October was the best of tributes and spoke of how special he was to so so many.

Hoping your family and Heidi and girls find comfort in good memories - there are many no doubt.

Laurie Kulpinski Noble

(Or “Pinner “-as Jeff called me:)

Laurie Kulpinski Noble - May 28 at 11:34 AM