



## Jeffrey Stanton Katz

September 26, 1956 - June 21, 2025

Jeffrey Stanton (Jeff) Katz, 68, passed away on Saturday June 21, 2025, after an eleven year battle with Thyroid cancer. He is survived by his loving wife of forty-four years Sheila and two sons, Matt (Jackie) and Sam (Dorota). He also leaves behind his faithful canine companion Talulah Barkhead, and many dear family members and good friends.

Jeff received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Illinois. He taught undergraduate math courses at the University while attending law school. More importantly though he met Sheila on campus while playing with tinker toys (true story), and the two quickly became inseparable, getting married the following year.

Despite being a licensed attorney, numbers were always Jeff's overarching interest and he enjoyed a long career in the insurance industry swiftly passing the exams necessary to achieve the highest designation, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. He worked for many years for CNA in the big red building in the Chicago skyline. His career would also take him to other parts of the country: Atlanta where he worked for Munich Reinsurance, and Armonk, New York, where he worked for Swiss Re, from which he retired as a Senior Vice-President. Through his career Jeff travelled the world, garnered the respect of his peers and proved a valuable asset to each company for which he worked.

An avid tournament contract bridge player since high school, Jeff and his then playing partner won the North American Pairs Rookie championship in 1988. He would continue to enjoy the game for the rest of his life with Sheila as his most frequent partner. Jeff also enjoyed playing tennis and golf, particularly during his retirement. At Pelican Landing he also was known as a fierce trivia competitor. He had an impeccable memory but was unfailingly a team player.

He also had a much-appreciated offbeat sense of humor, enjoyed reading a good mystery novel, and was very well mannered, at all times, a shining example of civility, except for the occasional cursing brought on only by the inexplicably foolish actions of his fellow drivers. A Celebration of Life will be held in Chicago in July.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. He will be missed.  
*Al Peruzzo*

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**Al Peruzzo** - July 08, 2025 at 07:42 PM

MM

“ Jeff became my boss over 35 yrs ago and was only my boss for a few yrs as CNA was mouth balling their life reinsurance unit leading to my departure. However, he had a lasting impact on me and my career. An incredible individual and mentor. RIP

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**Mark McVey** - July 08, 2025 at 05:25 PM

SC

“ Jeff was my first real boss. I thought he was one of the smartest people I ever met and was very impressed by how quickly he passed the Actuarial exams. I agree that he was also one of the most well-mannered people I have ever met. I enjoyed hearing about his sons when they were toddlers. And he did have a quirky sense of humor. He told us that your couple book was *The Princess Bride*, and you really did not care for the movie. I am very sorry for your loss so early. I'm sure you and your sons will miss him so much.

*Suzanne Conforti*

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**Suzanne Conforti** - July 07, 2025 at 09:49 AM

DK

“ Our deepest condolences. *Charlotte and David Kempner*

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**David Kempner** - July 02, 2025 at 02:16 PM

KG

“ Jeff was such a great friend and travel companion! We have so many special memories of our travels to Europe, Ireland, Peru, Egypt, Glacier and Yellowstone. We will miss him immensely! Condolences to Sheila and all his family members.-Kathy and Howie



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**Katherine Grossman** - July 02, 2025 at 01:48 PM

MV

“ I was lucky enough to have met Jeff about 4 years ago when he joined Pelican's Nest golf club. I had the opportunity to play golf with him several times, which was so enjoyable. I loved the conversations we had, sports, politics, current events and occasionally we'd gripe about our golf games. It was such a pleasure to talk with such a well educated and congenial guy like Jeff who never complained about anything. Not surprisingly, I don't think any of us knew about his battle with cancer. He never gave a clue about it.  
I will surely miss him. My sincere condolences to all his other friends and his family for the loss of a truly wonderful man. R.I.P. Jeff 💜

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**Michael Vance** - July 01, 2025 at 11:18 AM