



## Mr. John "Jeff" Doscher

May 31, 1947 - March 25, 2025

John J. Doscher, known to all as Jeff, 77, of Lenox, passed away on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Born in Jersey City, NJ on May 31, 1947, son of the late John "Jack" and Elizabeth (Makely) Doscher, he grew up in River Plaza, NJ near the ocean with his younger brother Kevin and a close-knit group of relatives and friends. Both Jeff and Kevin were introduced to sports by their parents who were avid swimmers, and as such Jeff enjoyed competitive swimming, loved playing high school sports, and had an incredible affinity for the ocean and surfing.

After losing his father at a young age to cancer, Jeff drew on the remarkable strength of his mother Elizabeth. He graduated from Middletown Township High School in 1965. Growing up a surfer, he knew the call to the ocean was too strong for him to focus on his studies along the coast, so he chose to attend John F. Kennedy College; a 125 student school in Wahoo, Nebraska in its inaugural year. After a period of searching for direction, he found that one professor who became a mentor and lit a spark that led Jeff toward his life's work. In 1969 he graduated with a B.S. in Psychology. He went on to earn his Master's Degree in Counseling and Student Personnel Administration at Springfield College and later his Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Community College Administration and Counseling from UMass Amherst.

Following graduation from Springfield College, in 1970 Jeff began his

professional career as a counselor at Greenfield Community College. This marked the beginning of more than 40 years dedicated to higher education and serving students.

In 1975, Jeff joined Berkshire Community College as the Director of Counseling, fulfilling his deep passion of working with students and striving to make higher education accessible to everyone. During his tenure at BCC, Jeff was extremely proud to hold many titles that allowed him to serve both students and administration. As the Dean of Students, he was a strong student advocate and cared deeply about making the community college experience positive and empowering. He helped create internship opportunities and presented leadership workshops on effective communication, group dynamics, and assertiveness, and even ran ski trips both near and far for students and the community. Above all, he deeply honored “the opportunity to help students find their way and perhaps fulfill their dreams for a better life.”

Jeff then served as the Dean of Institutional Advancement and Executive director of the BCC foundation, as well as the Vice President of Development and Advancement for the last 7 years of his career. He took great pride in leading the college’s fundraising efforts, creating scholarship programs, building community relationships, and singing the praises of BCC to the community. He often said he “simply loved going to work every day” and cherished collaborating with his great friends and colleagues at BCC. His commitment to the college never superseded his desire to support his children; showing up for every game, match, race, meet, award, and graduation. Jeff retired from BCC after a beautiful career in 2014, though he maintained a keen interest in the college’s success and continued fundraising for students and facilities.

Jeff was also passionate about his kids and grandchildren. Family videos

always found him behind the camera, narrating and encouraging in the way only a loving father could. He often said his greatest joy was watching his kids and grandkids grow, and his greatest accomplishment was their success. Beyond family, he enjoyed skiing, golfing and running. He was a 20-year volunteer member of the Ski Patrol alongside his brother Kevin, and he taught all of his children to ski at an early age. He was an avid follower of New England sports teams, and passionate super fan of his kids' and grandkids' games and events.

Jeff is survived by his brother Kevin and wife Susan; his former wife Donna; his three Children: Chris and his wife Grace, Lauren and her husband Luke, and Shaun; and four beloved grandchildren: Harper, Lincoln, Jackson and Ellie. He was predeceased by his parents and his first wife, Nancy.

We would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to Jeff's doctors, nurses, wonderful family and friends, his former wife Donna, and his community for supporting him through a challenging and complex battle with his health.

#### FUNERAL NOTICE:

A celebration of Jeff's life will be held at Berkshire Community College on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Doscher Family Scholarship at BCC, online: [www.berkshirecc.edu/give](http://www.berkshirecc.edu/give) or by mail to: The BCC Foundation, 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Berkshire Community College  
1350 West Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Tribute Wall

MG

“ To my dear friends, Susan and Kevin: While I didn't know Jeff well, I was always struck by his wry smile and wit. His obituary not only tells of his many professional accomplishments, but of his central love - his family. I hope you, Donna, and all of Jeff's family are sustained by joyful memories of time spent with him.

Marion Grant - April 30, 2025 at 11:54 AM

DO

“ Rest in well-deserved peace. Sincere condolences to family and friends on your loss. 1977 Berkshire Community College Alumnus



Debra Orlando - April 26, 2025 at 11:45 PM

CL

“ Candace von Ohlen Lopez lit a candle in memory of John Doscher



Candace von Ohlen Lopez - April 13, 2025 at 03:06 PM

HS

“ I went to college with Jeff in Wahoo and have remained friends ever since. We had plans to meet up this summer. I will miss my friend. My sincere condolences to family and friends.

Harry Sargent - April 10, 2025 at 03:16 PM

BF

“ Barbara & The Uncle "Bob" Makely family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. John "Jeff" Doscher.



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Barbara & The Uncle "Bob" Makely family - April 08, 2025 at 12:04 PM

BF

“ Barbara & The Uncle "Bob" Makely family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. John "Jeff" Doscher.

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Barbara & The Uncle "Bob" Makely family - April 08, 2025 at 12:04 PM

JP

“ My sweet cousin Jeff, oh how all of us younger cousins looked up to you. Living two doors down I was lucky to watch you grow up. My brother Jack was named in memory of your dad. Every time I hear a Beach Boy's song I have always thought of you and Kevin, and I always will. Rest in love. ❤️

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jill pelland - April 07, 2025 at 10:31 AM

BB

“ My tall, handsome, kind, funny and sweet older cousin Jeff. I was always proud to call you my cousin! What a good fellow you were and that is how I will always remember you! May you rest ever so gently in peace... With love from your cousin Barbara Mary Makely Buli

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Barbara Buli - March 31, 2025 at 09:20 PM

MS

“ Condolences to Jeff’s family and friends. I worked with Jeff for 5 years at BCC and went on several ski trips that he hosted. He was kind, a gentleman and it was always fun to spend time with Jeff. I know how much he will be missed.

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**Mary Schimley** - March 31, 2025 at 06:12 PM

RH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked for Jeff at BCC. He was a pleasure to work with. He was a good man and truly cared about people.  
*Richard Hoebel*

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**Richard Hoebel** - March 31, 2025 at 10:42 AM

BB

“ *Barbara Makely Buli lit a candle in memory of John Doscher*



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**Barbara Makely Buli** - March 29, 2025 at 06:24 PM

MM

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts on the loss of your father, brother and friend. I was a condo neighbor of Jeff’s for several years, sharing recipies, photos and accomplishments of our children and grandchildren. We spoke several weeks ago to catch up on life in general. Rest in peace my friend, the battle is over.  
*Maureen Maxon*

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**maureen a maxon** - March 29, 2025 at 11:26 AM

JD

“ Shaun and family, we are so sorry for the loss of your father, you are in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time . Always cherish the memories of him, in time the tears will become a smile when you think of him . In our thoughts Joy and Serge Dias

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**joy dias** - March 29, 2025 at 10:25 AM

LY

“ Mary Ann and I are sad to hear of Jeff's passing , our hope is that his memories will be a blessing to his family and all that loves him  
Louis and Mary Ann Yarmosky

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**Louis Yarmosky** - March 29, 2025 at 09:02 AM

RB

*Flew with Jeff and others on our 1st day to JFK. Oh that 'skateboard'. which he road in the hallway of our dorm--South Hall. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.*

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**RIC BROOKS** - April 10, 2025 at 06:29 PM

HN

*I went to both high school and college with Jeff. Back in high school he was known as "Moon" the surfer, and always remember him always being at the old Monmouth Beach Surf Shop. Also a good Javelin thrower on the track team. Very sorry to hear this news. Harold Nolan, Navesink, NJ,*

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**harold nolan** - May 02, 2025 at 12:27 PM