



Dennis J. DeMatte, Jr.
A Kind, Considerate, Dedicated Man
1965-2025

Dear Citizens,

I am sorry to have to share the passing of member Dennis DeMatte, Jr.

I was traveling when Dennis passed and wasn't aware of his death until after my return. But I admit to being remiss in not writing sooner.

Dennis was a part of CU for many years. He was working with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority when they offered grants to non-profits. Dennis shepherded a collaborative grant for the first Raptor Discovery Days in 2006, now known as Wild About Cumberland. He was really instrumental in launching that program.

Dennis would also call me a few times a year to tell me about some environmental concern. In spite of his mobility issues he attended CU meetings often, following our activities and undertakings.

In my personal life I knew Dennis as our daughters' swim coach. He had great passion for swimming and compassion for the swimmers. He built a pride of accomplishment in each child.

Dennis was a man of faith, and members Dave and Sue Fenili often took him with them to church.

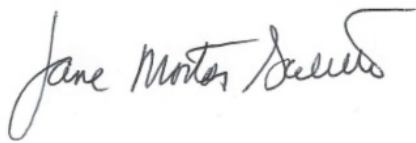
After being struck with brain cancer Dennis struggled for many years. He was courageous in the face of adversity. When I think of the unfairness of many of life's challenges I think of Dennis and his continued kindness toward others despite the burdens he carried. His zeal for life and the difficulties of his illness were apparent. But Dennis always strove onward.

He will always be a hero in my eyes. God's speed, Dennis.

Our condolences to Dennis's daughter Kelsey and to his family.

You can read more about Dennis in his obituary that appears below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Morton Galetto".

Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

Dennis J. DeMatte, Jr.

1965-2025

Dennis DeMatte Jr., 59, of Vineland, NJ, passed away on Friday afternoon, March 28, 2025, at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. A lifelong resident of Vineland, Dennis dedicated his life to serving his community and touched the hearts of many.

Born and raised in Vineland, Dennis was a proud graduate of Vineland High School, Class of 1983. He furthered his education at Western Maryland College, graduating in 1987 with a degree in Political Science. After graduation, he began his career working as a legislative aide to New Jersey Assemblyman Ed Salmon and Ray Batten. In 1991, he joined the Cumberland County Improvement Authority as the Recycling Coordinator, where he played a pivotal role in educating the community and initiating programs such as EcoFair, EnviroFair, and Household Hazardous Waste Day.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dennis made a lasting impact as a coach for the Vineland YMCA Swim Team for over 20 years. More than just a coach, he was a mentor and friend to many, using his coaching techniques to transform the lives of his team members. His devotion to the YMCA Seals shaped the program into what it is today.

His commitment to his community was evident through his active participation in various organizations, including the Vineland Little League, the Vineland Pigtail League, the Cumberland County ARC Sharks Swim Team, as well as his role as a board member for the Cumberland Area Transit System. In 2018, he was honored as a Hometown Hero of Vineland.

A dedicated Catholic and member of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish, he drew strength from his faith, which supported him in facing health challenges over the past 13 years without any complaints.

Above all, Dennis cherished his time spent with his daughter and family. He was a loving father, brother, uncle, and friend. He treasured family traditions such as Christmas Eve celebrations, camping adventures, pool days, time down the shore, and taking trips with his family. Dennis loved being outdoors, spending time in his yard, sailing, and finding the perfect place to go on an adventure. Family meant everything to him.

Dennis DeMatte Jr. will be remembered for his kindness, dedication, and the profound impact he made on the lives of those around him.

He is survived by his daughter Kelsey Rahl (Justin); his brother Jeff DeMatte (Lisa); his sister Paula Lamprecht (Bill); nephews Kyle (Casey) & Samuel DeMatte, and Jonathan & William Lamprecht, and Lori DeMatte. Dennis was predeceased by his parents, Dennis Sr. and Brenda DeMatte.

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