



David J. Zelesnick Sr.

December 16, 1943 - September 13, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of David J. Zelesnick Sr., 81, on Saturday, September 13, 2025, peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Somerville, NJ, David was the son of the late Edward and Mary Zelesnick. He grew up in Manville, NJ, before settling in Hillsborough in 1972, where he and his wife, Julia (Judy), built a legacy of love and family. David married his beloved wife, Judy, after they met at her cousin's wedding. They were parishioners of Mary Mother of God Catholic Church in Hillsborough, and were married for 55 cherished years.

David was predeceased by his beloved wife, Julia Zelesnick (2023); his brother, Edward Zelesnick Jr. (2009); his sister, Mary Zelesnick (2001); and his cherished son-in-law, Thomas S. Onderko (2025). He leaves behind a legacy of love and strength in his children: Christine Onderko, Hillsborough, N.J.; David Zelesnick Jr. (Jennifer), Montgomery, NJ; Lynn Messner (Eric), Manville, NJ. He was also a proud grandfather to six adored grandchildren: Michael and Natalie Onderko, Ella and Blake Zelesnick, and Tyler and Chloe Messner.

After earning a B.S. degree from Rider University, David pursued a wide range of entrepreneurial and professional endeavors. He first owned a pool hall in Manville, then became one of the early business owners to bring amusements and vending to the Seaside Heights boardwalk. Later, after leaving his role as a senior underwriter and division manager at Allstate, David and Judy founded

their family vending business. Through vision and dedication, they grew L.A. Services into a successful food services and vending company. David served as President and Chief Operating Officer until the business merged with a national company, where he continued working until his retirement in 2010. His professionalism and leadership left a lasting impact on his community and industry for over 40 years.

Growing up, he spent summers at his parents' shore house in Forked River, where he loved to go boating, crabbing, and fishing. Before selling his first home and purchasing another in 1998, in Hillsborough, he loved hosting pool parties and games of horseshoes. Over the years, he played in racquetball leagues, frequented annual ski trips in Vermont, and rarely missed his weekly golf outings, even up until his passing. He especially treasured his time in Sanibel, Florida, and created countless memories with family and friends in Cape May.

The Zelesnick home was known for always being open for drop-ins, where no matter the season, everyone would enter to see David grilling outside on the porch. His family was his greatest pride; he never missed a chance to see his grandchildren perform in recitals, concerts, or sporting events. His young, adventurous spirit, friendly nature, and warmth touched the lives of all who knew him.

To know David was to be blessed by his generosity, his laughter, and his unwavering devotion. His absence leaves an ache beyond words, but his love will live on forever in the hearts of those who had the privilege to be known and loved by him. May he rest in eternal peace, knowing he was deeply cherished and will never be forgotten.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial visitation at Ketusky Funeral Home, 1310 Brooks Blvd, Manville, NJ, 08835, on Sunday, September 21, 2025, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Funeral will be on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. from the Ketusky Funeral Home, followed by a 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (Christ the Redeemer Parish), 98 S 2nd Ave., Manville, NJ 08835. Burial will follow at

Sacred Heart Cemetery in Hillsborough, NJ.

Cemetery Details

Sacred Heart Cemetery

1096 Millstone River Road
Hillsborough, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **21**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ketusky Funeral Home
1310 Brooks Blvd - PO Box 747
Manville, NJ 08835
(908) 575-8512
info@ketusky.com
<https://www.ketusky.com>

Mass

SEP **22**. 9:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church
98 South Second Ave.
Manville, NJ 08835

Tribute Wall

AF

“ *and Families purchased the Simply Elegant Spat
hiphyllum for the family of David J. Zelesnick Sr..*



and Families - September 20, 2025 at 10:59 AM



“ A [Memorial
Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David J. Zelesnick Sr..

September 20, 2025 at 09:44 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of David J. Zelesnick Sr..*



September 20, 2025 at 09:44 AM

GU

“ *Gretchen & Brian Underwood purchased the Bea
autiful in Blue for the family of David J. Zelesnick
Sr..*



Gretchen & Brian Underwood - September 19, 2025 at 06:52
PM

GU

“ Gretchen & Brian Underwood planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David J. Zelesnick Sr..

Gretchen & Brian Underwood - September 19, 2025 at 06:52 PM

TF

“ The Bilskey, Parker and Ward Families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David J. Zelesnick Sr..



The Bilskey, Parker and Ward Families - September 17, 2025 at 06:21 PM

TP

“ I am so saddened to hear of Dave’s passing. He was a good man (and landlord) . I will miss seeing him around. May he rest in peace. Sending prayers of comfort and strength to the family .



teri palmisano - September 16, 2025 at 04:07 PM

FT

I was very sad to see that David had passed. Early on in our lives we worked together at Allstate and we became pretty good work buddies. I remember one picnic we went on with our young families into some wooded park and yes Dave was grilling burgers for all of us. We didn’t see each other very much once he left Allstate but I always remember him as one of the “Good Guys”. It’s a little harder I think when you lose a contemporary of yours. Rest in peace old friend. Frank Thewes

Frank T - September 29, 2025 at 07:34 PM