



Clarence Edward "Chick" Goetz

February 4, 1932 - December 23, 2025

Clarence Edward "Chick" Goetz, 93, retired Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge and former Assistant U.S. Attorney, passed away on December 23, 2025. He held the distinction of being the longest-serving U.S. Magistrate Judge in the nation, serving from 1970 to 1997.

Born in Baltimore on February 4, 1932, he was the son of Helen Murphy Goetz, a homemaker, and Frank E. Goetz, a Plant Manager for the former Meadowgold Dairy. He lost his first wife of 38 years, Nancy Aut Goetz, to breast cancer in 1994 and later married Katherine Golden Rich in 1996.

Chick is survived by his sons, F. Edward Goetz II (Virginia) and Paul A. Goetz (Stuart); devoted stepdaughters Kerry Rich Prior and Sally Rich Furlong (Paul); and loving grandchildren F. Edward Goetz III, Christoph E. Goetz, Erich J. Goetz (Jasmine), Colin Prior, and Addison Furlong. He also leaves his dear sister, Margaret Goetz Ziemski, and brother-in-law, Norman.

A 1950 graduate of Loyola Blakefield, Chick attended Johns Hopkins University on an engineering scholarship. Motivated by a sense of duty during the Korean War, he left Hopkins after his first semester to enlist in the U.S. Air Force. After training, he was stationed in Okinawa as an Air Traffic Controller, directing B-29 bomber landings at the young age of 19.

Following his military service, he worked as a lineman for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. Observing older men enduring the harsh Baltimore winters, Chick decided he wanted a different path and returned to school. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of

Baltimore in 1961 and continued at the University of Baltimore School of Law, receiving his J.D. and admission to the Maryland Bar in 1964. He practiced privately from 1964 to 1966 before serving as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland from 1966 to 1970.

In 1970, he joined the United States District Court for the District of Maryland as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, becoming Chief Magistrate Judge in 1987 and serving until his retirement on February 4, 1997. During retirement, he frequently acted as a mediator and, after a conversation with Maryland Attorney General Joseph Curran, returned to public service as an Assistant Attorney General, prosecuting gun cases statewide until retiring at age 79. Chick's commitment to service extended beyond the courtroom. He volunteered for the Civil Air Patrol, organizing search and rescue missions, and served as an assistant professor at the University of Baltimore (1975) and Towson State College (1976). He was an active member of the Hopkins Club and L'Hirondelle Club.

An avid pilot, Chick earned both Private and Commercial Pilot licenses and spent decades enjoying the skies. He often flew with his wife, Katie, on trips to Cape May, New Jersey, relishing time together and the joy of flight. Summer vacations at Cape May, reading and watching the ocean from their porch, and winters in Vero Beach, Florida, overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, were among his cherished moments.

Above all, Chick valued his family, friends, and time with Katie. Known for his excellent sense of humor and his gift of exuding calm in any situation, he was deeply loved and admired by all who knew him.

A Memorial Mass will be held on May 29 at 11 a.m. at The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Lady Chapel, 5200 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAY **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cathedral Mary Our Queen
5200 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

Tribute Wall

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“ My father is the only person I know who had three names. His family called him by his given name, Clarence. Most if not all of his friends called him Chick. And my mother and her family called him Fleck. Dad's nickname Chick was given to him by a priest at Loyola High School who was his teacher and did not like the name Clarence. My mother and her family called my father Fleck because that was the nickname he was known by when he served in the Air Force in Okinawa.

When I was about 10 years old my father passed down the nicknaming to me by giving me a nickname that only he called me by.

When I was much younger I remember he was not home much because he worked full time for the telephone company climbing telephone poles and went to law school at night eventually graduating fourth in his class.

My mother and father both enjoyed the beach and once he was settled into his legal career, our family enjoyed two week vacations in Ocean City and time at my mother's aunt's shore house on the Back River close to the Chesapeake Bay. My mother and father also both enjoyed attending the judicial conferences often at the Greenbriar Resort in West Virginia where they would socialize with other judges and their spouses including the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

My father's hard work in the service of others, humor and charm served as a stellar example of how one should travel along the path of life and the world is now a poorer place without him.

Paul Goetz - May 22 at 04:20 PM

PR

“ I have just recently learned about Chick's exceptional life from my friend, his wife, Katie .I learned how deeply he was loved by her and how greatly he is missed . I learned that he was a kind and exceptional man who loved life and lived a meaningful life . Along the way, he achieved many accolades but none more meaningful to him than being known as a wonderful , loving and kind husband , father and grandfather . I only wish I had known him in life but I truly feel as though I knew him through Katie's wordsmay he rest in peace. Pam Rich

Pamela B Rich - May 16 at 11:59 PM