



## Detlev H Nitsche

March 20, 1943 - November 26, 2020

Detlev H. Nitsche, 77 of Greenville, South Carolina passed away with his family by his side on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020.

He was born in Vienna, Austria in 1943 during World War II. His family settled in Stuttgart, Germany where he was raised and learned to love the game of tennis. Detlev became an accomplished player having competed in world class events including the French Open, U.S. Open and Wimbledon. He came to America to play collegiate tennis as the #1 ranked junior player in Germany, then becoming a National Champion and earning All-America honors. While in college in South Texas, he met the love of his life, Maria. After earning his undergraduate degree from Pan American and his MBA from Texas A&M University, he and Maria were married in 1969. Detlev accepted a position with IBM and they moved to Stuttgart to start their family. After several years in Germany, they decided to move back to the Lone Star State of Texas to raise their family. Always up for an adventure, he was cast in a Hollywood movie "She Came to The Valley", before beginning his lengthy and distinguished Telecommunications career in San Antonio, Texas. It was in San Antonio where he embraced his Catholic faith. A new career opportunity moved Detlev and his family to Greenville, South Carolina where he lived for more than 30 years. While living in South Carolina he also became a U.S. Citizen, reigniting his passion for tennis, and won many State and Southern Championship titles having become the #1 ranked player in multiple age divisions. Extremely important to him was his role as father, brother, uncle,

“Opa”, teacher and coach to so many. He especially loved spending time attending sporting events and cheering on his grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Maria, three children; daughter Tanya Nitsche MacDonald (Chris) of Myrtle Beach, SC; son Kai (Jeana) of Greenville, SC; and son Patrick (Sarah) of Fort Mill, SC; and seven grandchildren: Brandon, Christian and Mary Claire MacDonald; Mia and Ava Nitsche; and Kyle and Anna Nitsche.

He is predeceased by his parents, Dr. Herbert and Margarete Nitsche of Stuttgart, Germany, his brother, Bodo Nitsche of Stuttgart and his sister Jutta Mlejnek, of Leonberg, Germany.

A private family Funeral Mass is planned for 10 AM Saturday, December 5th at St. Michael Catholic Church in Garden City, SC where he will also be laid to rest. The Mass will also be available live-stream on the St. Michael home page [www.saintmichaelsc.net](http://www.saintmichaelsc.net) for those who would like to attend virtually.

Detlev valued his faith, family and friendships, having touched the lives of anyone he encountered. Those who wish to remember him in a special way may make memorial donations to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, 311 Gower Street, Greenville, SC 29611 (864) 271-0167 or The Salvation Army Kroc Center Tennis Outreach Program, 205 Gibbs Street, Greenville, SC 29601 (864) 241-2116.

An online guestbook is available at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

DEC 5. 10:00 AM.

St. Michael Catholic Church

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ Dear Maria,  
I just received a Christmas card from Don and Pat and they told me about Detlev's death.  
I am so so sorry. How much I loved him, his humor, that smile, his spirituality.  
What blessing it was to know him and you.  
You were a very great example of Christ's love.  
I proudly show off my beautiful Our Lady of Guadeloupe picture you sewed for me.  
Thank you so much.

Recently I have started a ministry to people whose loved one has died.  
I make polymer clay single decade rosaries and incorporate a flower from the funeral or some other treasure.  
If this is something you would find value in, give me a call.  
503-887-8860 and we can talk about the details.

I love you, Maria, and treasure the memories of our our time together.

Sister Marilyn

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**Sister Marilyn** - December 23, 2020 at 10:41 PM

QG

“ Keeping your family in our prayers today as you lay Opa to rest. We love you all!

Wes & Quaker Grubbs

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**Quaker Grubbs** - December 05, 2020 at 10:59 AM

AB

“ We will miss Uncle Detlev. He was always so warm and welcoming at family gatherings. Will miss his funny and interesting stories. It was always clear that he was proud of his family and happy to be part of the Yzaguirre clan.

*Our love to the Nitsche Family and hope to see you all again soon.*

*Andrew Bolin*

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**Andrew Bolin** - December 05, 2020 at 10:50 AM

Jl

“ Detlev and I first met as opponents in a tennis tournament, and I immediately recognized that he was a great player and a congenial person. Years later, after playing each other in tournaments a number of times, it was my good fortune to play tennis with Detlev once a week for a few years. The time we spent on court and in conversation will always be treasured. It was during that time that I realized Detlev was a greater man than he was a tennis player.

*He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.*

*Sincere sympathy to Detlev's family.*

*John Varner*

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**John Varner iii** - December 04, 2020 at 05:46 PM

KB

“ *Karen C Bryant lit a candle in memory of Detlev H Nitsche*



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**karen c bryant** - December 04, 2020 at 12:54 PM

KB

*Detlev was loved by everyone he met because he loved them first. He was an inspiration and a Blessing to us all. My love and prayers to all who loved him, especially his dear family. ❤️🙏*

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**karen c bryant** - December 04, 2020 at 01:08 PM

RH

“ *My sincerest of condolences to all in the Detlev Nitsche family.*

*Through tennis and the friendships that are formed while playing that sport, I was extraordinarily fortunate to know Detlev as both a player - - and more importantly as a dear friend. Detlev possessed incomparable integrity both on and off the court.*

*I will miss Detlev greatly; the world is a far better place because of the many positive attributes of Mr. Detlev Nitsche.*

*Richard Hardaway  
Greenville, SC*

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**Richard Hardaway** - December 03, 2020 at 05:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.*



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December 02, 2020 at 04:50 PM



“ *Detlev and I were in the same poker-playing group for a number of years. He was a wicked-good card player, was always trying to teach the rest of us a new game he had learned, and a joy to be around. My sympathies to his family: your husband, father, and grandfather was a fine man and will be missed.*

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**Paul Grier** - December 02, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ *Your friends @ Srixon/Cleveland Golf/XXIO & Dunlop purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.*



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**Your friends @ Srixon/Cleveland Golf/XXIO & Dunlop** -  
December 01, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ *JACOB DRIGGERS purchased the Heavenly and Harmony for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.*



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**JACOB DRIGGERS** - December 01, 2020 at 05:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.



December 01, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ Mr. Nitsche always welcomed our family with open arms as if we were his own. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time. He will be greatly missed and always cherished.  
Andy, Ann, William, Emma, and Samuel Linn

Ann and Andy Linn - November 30, 2020 at 09:24 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to you, Maria, and entire family. We knew Detlev from Prince of Peace Church. He was a true servant of our Lord as he shared his faith thru the RCIA program. As I read his obituary, I recalled his tennis ‘career’. Detlev led many people to Jesus thru his walk. I can visualize Jesus saying to him, ‘Welcome home, my true and faithful servant’. Our deepest sympathy and we will be praying that your many memories will eventually fill the void in your hearts. Sharing His Love, Jean and Jim Bergenthal

Jeqn bergenthal - November 30, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.



November 30, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ Our daughters, Tanya and Christi, were best friends In San Antonio in the 1980s. Detlev and Maria were great friends. We hope you are doing well under the circumstances. Lots of prayers coming your way. Jim and Maggie

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**Jim O'Farrell** - November 30, 2020 at 07:16 PM

MA

“ Detlev touched so many lives in his 77 years on this earth. For us, he was a treasured friend, Dan's favorite tennis partner ever, and for our kids a favorite friends father. We smiled as we remembered watching Detlev's movie with y'all along with our many gatherings as families. Memories that we treasure. We are so thankful that the Nitsche family moved to Greenville and that we had the opportunity to spend time with you. As we have shared in your joys, we share in your grief. Our prayers continue for you all as you begin your grief journey.

*With Love & Sincere Sympathy,  
Marty & Dan Arnett*

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**Marty Arnett** - November 30, 2020 at 06:46 PM

CS

“ We are deeply saddened by the loss of Uncle Detlev and that we are unable to be with y'all at this time. We are having a mass said for Uncle Detlev here in Brisbane, and will continue to keep him and all of you close to our hearts and in our prayers. May God grant you peace in the coming days and weeks. We love you.

*Ceci and Nick*

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**Cecilia Shaw** - November 30, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.



November 30, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Detlev H Nitsche.



November 30, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ *He was such a loving grandfather, and we will always love Opa forever* ❤️



**Anna Nitsche** - November 30, 2020 at 05:13 PM