



## Atabek J. Ciechanowski

August 27, 1970 - July 12, 2023

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With the heaviest of hearts, we grieve the loss of Ata, a dear son, father, nephew, cousin, friend, partner.

Ata was a natural born traveler from the day he came into this world on August 27th, 1970. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, the son of Jan Ciechanowski and Feeroza Lallmahomed Ciechanowski. Still a baby, his family returned to his mother's native island nation, Mauritius, where he spent his childhood years in Quatre Bornes, enjoying pick-up games of football (soccer), barefooted and on the beach with his buddies.

Graduating from Lycee Labourdonnais in 1987, he furthered his studies by moving to France and attending the Université Angers, graduating in 1991. Ata then took some time to explore the world further, this time to Burundi, Africa, where his father had accepted employment. When it was time to continue with his education, he resumed his world tour, moving to the United States and attending the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Chemical Engineering in 1996 and declared and certified a member of the Tau Beta Pi Association, the oldest engineering honor society and the second oldest collegiate honor society in the United States.

Through life experiences to follow, Ata found himself in Michigan and in 1998, he began a what proved to be a lifetime career with NSF International, loyal

and committed, recently celebrating 25 years of dedicated service. In the first years of his employment with NSF, he earned his Masters of Engineering from the University of Michigan and in 2002, became a U.S. Citizen. Through the years, he was recognized by NSF and other organizations for many distinguished awards, but most undoubtedly the greatest achievement of his career came in 2022, when he was presented with ASTM International's highest annual award – the Award of Merit, for his contributions to ASTM's plastic piping systems committee. In addition, Ata was active in several other organizations related to pipes, such as the American Water Works Association, American Gas Association, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Travelling the world wasn't for education alone, one of Ata's passions was experiencing the culture and cuisine of every corner of the globe. He became an accomplished chef, creating dishes with the flavors he experienced during his travels in his own kitchen for the ones he loved. He was an avid reader and found particular interest in historical fiction from all cultures of the world. He was also an accomplished runner, completing 6 marathons, countless half-marathons and enough other races to fill a bucket with his medals.

Of course, it goes without saying that Ata's greatest achievement and passion were his kids, son Caleb and daughter Juliette. Whether it was attending their soccer games or many other sporting events, family trips to Florida or simply enjoying a Sunday Mauritian meal together, he was a very proud father and loved them, beyond all else.

Ata is preceded in death by his father Jan. He is survived by his mother Feeroza, two children Caleb and Juliette, girlfriend Denice, ex-spouse Anna, aunts, uncles, cousins, and the many, many dear friends that became Ata's second family over his lifetime. He was a truly gifted and unique person and left his family and friends with a lasting portrait of strength and courage, driving forward into the unknown, in search of a life goal.

Friends may join the family for a time of visitation on Friday, July 28th, from 2:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the Robison-BahnMiller Funeral Home in Saline. A

Celebration of Life Service will be take place at 2:30 P.M. Visitation will continue following the service until 5:00 P.M. While flowers are always appreciated, memorial contributions in Ata's name may be made to the John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health. To leave a memory you have of Ata, to sign his guestbook or for directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 28. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Celebration of Life Service

JUL 28. 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Visitation

JUL 28. 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Atabek J. Ciechanowski*

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October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM

EM

“ It was with great sadness that I read the news of Atabek's death. It is always a dramatic experience for the family. For me, this is extremely sad for a special reason. Atabek's father, Jan, as well as his mother, Feroza, were my friends during the years of our studies at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW). After they left Poland, at some point we lost contact. A few weeks ago, I decided to search for their traces on the Internet and found what seemed like no accidental coincidence: Atabek J. Ciechanowski. I planned to call him to see if he was the same Atabek I knew from Warsaw. I'm sorry - I didn't make it.

And now two memories related to Atabek.

Right after graduation, I worked at a college farm near Warsaw. Jan, his father, visited me one day carrying Atabek (at that time a few months old baby) in what I called a "baby bag". We left Atabek sound asleep in the director's office (but under the care of the women working in the next room) and went for a "farm walk". When we returned an hour later, we heard Atabek crying from a distance ... accompanied by the director, who in the meantime returned to the office with his guest. At the end there was a lot of laughter and kind words - Atabek was so nice baby.

About eight or ten years later, Feroza and Atabek flew to Poland for a few days. We went together to Zakopane, the capital of Polish Tatra mountains. We took the cable car to Kasprowy Wierch. Even though it was in the middle of summer, but at an altitude of about 2000 meters we found some snow leftovers. It was great fun - Atabek saw snow for the first time in his life.

Unfortunately, I can't talk to him anymore, there won't be another adventure.

Feroza, Juliette, Caleb - please accept my deepest condolences. If you happen to visit Poland, you can always count on a warm welcome at my home.

Edward Majewski, Warsaw, Poland

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Edward Majewski - August 05, 2023 at 03:38 AM

NK

“ *Nathan Koths purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*



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**Nathan Koths** - July 28, 2023 at 08:35 AM



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

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July 28, 2023 at 08:24 AM

MM

“ *Ata was one of the first people I met when I started at NSF nineteen years ago, and he left quite the impression. He was someone that I always admired, and I learned a great deal from him over the years. I appreciated his direct communication style and his no-nonsense approach to work. At the office, he was a force to be reckoned with, but outside of work he was one of the most kind and fun-loving people to be around. Like myself, he was a Foodie, and I will always remember the culinary adventures we shared on our work trips, and his eagerness to provide me with restaurant recommendations in the many cities that he visited. You will be greatly missed, Ata. Rest in peace, my friend.*

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**Mark Mapili** - July 27, 2023 at 08:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*



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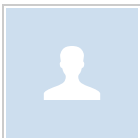
July 27, 2023 at 05:58 PM



“ *There were few people more respected and like at ASTM than Ata. International standards activities can be very confrontational and political due to the economic implications to the individuals and companies impacted by their requirements. Ata's professionalism and honest fair evaluation of all positions earned him the admiration and friendship of everyone he dealt with. His smile was contagious and diffused even the most contentious discussions. ASTM has over 30,000 members and very few earn their highest award, the Award of Merit, as Ata did. One can say that it was more rewarding to ASTM for Ata to be part of the Society than what little the Society could do to recognize him. He will be missed by everyone at ASTM and each of us is now a little less with his passing. I will personally miss his friendship and comradery.*

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**John M. Kurdziel** - July 27, 2023 at 01:45 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*



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July 27, 2023 at 12:05 PM



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

July 26, 2023 at 07:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



July 26, 2023 at 07:58 PM



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

July 26, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



July 26, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.

July 26, 2023 at 10:29 AM

TF

“ The Sheik Bajeeet family purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



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The Sheik Bajeeet family - July 26, 2023 at 09:03 AM

TF

“ The Sheik Bajeeet family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.

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The Sheik Bajeeet family - July 26, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



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July 26, 2023 at 06:33 AM



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

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July 26, 2023 at 06:33 AM



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

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July 25, 2023 at 02:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*



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July 25, 2023 at 02:47 PM



“ *Ata was part of the fabric of NSF and was always spoken of in a positive light and with a smile. It was obvious he was well respected for his extensive knowledge and positive energy! I didn't know him well personally, but I know he always had a smile when you passed him in the halls. Rest easy you will be missed by many.*

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**Sarah B.** - July 25, 2023 at 02:14 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*

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July 25, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*



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July 25, 2023 at 08:19 AM



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

July 24, 2023 at 04:00 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



July 24, 2023 at 04:00 PM



“ Ata, was an industry-wide recognized, respected technical leader. He was also a cherished leader, friend, and member of our engineering team. His 25 years with the company are a testament to his dedication and expertise, and his presence will be sorely missed by all. May his legacy continue to inspire us as we remember a remarkable colleague and friend. Our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family.

**Bosco Ramirez** - July 24, 2023 at 01:13 PM



“ NSF International Colleagues and Friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.

**NSF International Colleagues and Friends** - July 24, 2023 at 12:50 PM

NF

“ NSF International Colleagues and Friends purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



NSF International Colleagues and Friends - July 24, 2023 at 12:50 PM

MZ

“ Mark and Amanda Zeoli purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



Mark and Amanda Zeoli - July 24, 2023 at 12:32 PM



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

July 22, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.



July 22, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Atabek J. Ciechanowski.*



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July 19, 2023 at 09:53 AM



“ *When I first started NSF, I was in the labs and would always chat with Ata while we waited to microwave our lunches. After a while, I joined his unofficial running club and he pushed me to reach greater distances. I still remember my first 7-miler with him from the damn at Gallup Park through the Arb and back. I almost made without walking it but my breakfast did not... He was a trooper to run and get water for me! Now when I run hills I hear him say to dial it back and not try to sprint up them (great advice for when I ran those same hills years later in the Ann Arbor marathon). I will always remember bar nights from back then and, now that we've grown up a bit, running into him on the soccer fields watching our kids play. I still expected to see Ata yesterday when I walked up the steps in NSF's parking lot. He will be missed.*

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**Christie Shields** - July 19, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ *Ata was well respected in standards world. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues. He was a warm and loving person. Rest in peace.*

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**Amit Lathia** - July 17, 2023 at 05:38 PM

SA

“ A great loss at a young age, devoted to his family and his NSF adopted family. His life experiences made him put on a bravado front, while deep inside Ata was a kind and nurturing person. So sorry for your loss may he rest in peace.

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**Sal Aridi** - July 16, 2023 at 03:39 PM