

A former Mt. Holly, resident, Michael G. Nast, 37, died last week in an underwater diving accident near Cancun, Mexico. Nast was born in Mt. Holly on June 6, 1967.

Nast's family members are life-long residents of Mt. Holly and surrounding communities. Nast attended Mt. Holly schools until his family moved to Moorestown where he attended Moorestown Friends School and then Moorestown Middle School. In 1980, the family relocated to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where he was living at the time of his death.

Nast is survived by his wife, Julie R. Brahmer, M.D., a thoracic oncologist at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, to whom he was married on Long Beach Island in June 2004.

Nast was the son of Dianne M. Nast and Joseph F. Roda, of Lancaster, and Michael E. Gallucci, of Philadelphia. He had three brothers, Daniel N., husband of Kimberly, Joseph, and Joshua and one sister, Anastasia, all of Lancaster.

After the family moved to Lancaster, Nast graduated from Hempfield High School in 1985, where he was a member of the cross country and track teams, and co-captain of the latter in his senior year.

After graduating from Hempfield, Nast enrolled at Haverford College, where he spent his freshman year. He then transferred to Cornell University, from which he graduated in 1989, Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude, with a degree in history.

Nast then enrolled at Cornell Law School, from which he graduated with honors in 1992. After his graduation from Cornell, Nast spent a year as a law clerk to the Honorable D. Richard Eckman, President Judge of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas.

After his clerkship, Nast went to work as an Assistant District Attorney in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania where he tried more than 60 cases. Nast was then hired as an Assistant District Attorney in Lancaster County. After working at the Lancaster County District Attorney's office, he worked for the Attorney General of Pennsylvania.

Nast then went into private practice with the firm of RodaNast, P.C., where he concentrated his practice on class actions and complex litigation.

Nast was also very proud of his pro-bono work. He did extensive pro-bono work and the local bar association posthumously renamed the pro-bono lawyer award after him.

In 2003, Nast was recognized by the Philadelphia Legal Intelligencer as one of the top lawyers in Pennsylvania under the age of 40. Nast was a prolific writer and many of his articles were published in local and national legal publications.

Nast was active in the American Bar Association Section of Litigation, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and the Lancaster Bar Association; he was an editor of its publication, and was the vice president of the Lancaster Bar Association. He was also active in

Lancaster politics, and in 2003, was elected a Republican committeeman in East Hempfield Township.

In addition to diving, Nast enjoyed fishing, hunting, competitive cycling and long distance running. He successfully completed four marathons during his lifetime. He also participated in many races on Long Beach Island including the 18 Mile Run.

He was a member of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in Lancaster.