



## Paul A. Harre

February 25, 1944 - November 18, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

Paul A. Harre

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Paul A. Harre, born February 25, 1944, peacefully transitioned from this life to the next November 18, 2024 with his family by his side.

Paul grew up in Nashville, Illinois spent with his parents and three siblings. He had a mischievous spirit, a twinkle in his eye, and loved to run wild and play pranks on his sisters.

His lifelong love of singing with diction, preferably in four-part harmony, was fostered by his high school music teacher and continued throughout his life.

Following high school, Paul enlisted in the Air Force, serving as a Missile Technician with the 306th Airborne Missile Maintenance Squadron. He was named Outstanding Airman of The Year at McCoy Air Force Base, Florida, a

recognition he was especially proud of, as his parents and sister were able to attend the awards ceremony.

Paul later attended Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale where he would complete his Associate's Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and a Doctorate in Education. He spent his entire career at SIU within the College of Technical Careers, and the university always held a special place in his heart. Most days, he could be found wearing an SIU pin on his lapel or something in the shade of Saluki Maroon.

While his official roles were in teaching and administration, Paul's true passion was mentoring students. He found fulfillment in helping them navigate the challenges of schoolwork, career decisions, and the newness of being on their own.

Paul was exceptionally proud of the international work he did in collaboration with universities in Korea, Russia, and the West Bank. Delegations from each of the countries were always welcomed in the Harre home with food, love, learning, and laughter.

Paul married fellow Nashville High School graduate Catherine (née Ellerbusch) on December 28, 1968. They took their vows seriously and were married nearly 56 years, living in Carbondale, Illinois for most of that time. Together, they raised two beautiful daughters, Michele and Erin.

They lived on a peaceful piece of land on the outskirts of Carbondale with their horses, trees, and the quiet of nature.

A girl dad before "girl dad" was a thing, Paul found joy working on horsemanship with Michele, coaching many successful girls' softball teams with Carbondale Junior Sports, helping with high school homecoming float

building, and taking Erin to many softball and basketball games.

Paul and Cathy were founding members of The Lutheran Church of All Saints in Carbondale, IL, later known as Epiphany Lutheran Church. Paul helped build the original sanctuary, and the wristwatch that he lost in the process is most likely still embedded in a wall there somewhere. He later contributed many wood working projects that remain in the church, a lasting testament to his craftsmanship and memory. The community, love, acceptance, and support at All Saints/Epiphany became and remains a grounding and supportive presence for the Harre Family.

Later in his life, Paul was happiest when he could mentor, brag about his kids and grandkids, tinker in his wood shop, fish, and watch Saluki Softball games.

His skill at learning where any person was from within the first 2 minutes of meeting them and finding a shared connection to that place or person will remain unmatched. Also unmatched is the size and scope what his family labeled "Harre's Useless Knowledge"- a vast repertoire of random facts that could be recalled at a moment's notice, though he could never remember where he left something just five minutes prior.

Both Paul and Cathy have had an unparalleled gift of creating a space that allowed those around them to love and care for them as if they were their own. The Harre family thanks the caregiving teams at The Landings in Carbondale, Cedarhurst of Highland, Illinois, and Bond County Home Health and Hospice for their love and care towards the end of Paul's life.

Paul is survived by his wife, Catherine Harre; daughters, Michele (Scott) Heinz and Erin (Ryan) Arnold; grandchildren, Emerson Arnold and William Heinz; sisters, Marlene (Douglas) Groll and Grace (Jack) Fincham, and many

nieces and nephews. Given the opportunity, he would also include his “adopted” family- his daughters’ friends, his students, team members, mentees, the staff at facilities where they lived, and the many friends he cherished along the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents Adolph “Mike” Harre and Hilda (Vogt) Harre and brother, Alan (Diane) Harre.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2024 from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home in Murphysboro, Illinois and on Monday, November 25 from 9:00 AM until the time of service at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, November 25, 2024 at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 10:00 AM with Pastor Brian Coffey officiating. Entombment to follow at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum. A luncheon will follow at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial donations be made to Epiphany Lutheran Church and/or Bond County Hospice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **24**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13  
31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966  
(618) 687-2500  
crain@crainsonline.com

## Visitation

NOV **25**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (cst)

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
1501 W. Chautauqua  
Carbondale, IL

## Funeral Service

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
1501 W. Chautauqua  
Carbondale, IL

## Entombment

NOV **25**. 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM (cst)

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park Mausoleum

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ I know that it is a great loss for us. Paul's passing away who was always giving and never asked anything in return🌷As a matter of fact, Paul really has not left us🌷 When I need him I look deep into my heart and find him with his smiling face❤️🌈🙏

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**Madhav Sharma** - November 26, 2024 at 03:10 PM

DM

“ Cathy condolences on the loss of Paul. He was a great guy in my NCHS class of 1962. It was special to visit with him at our 80th Classmate's birthday party in September. May he rest in peace.  
Dottie Niedbalski Niedbalski

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**Dorothy Louise Melching** - November 25, 2024 at 08:45 PM

TF

“ Paul was a good friend. We shared carpentry and woodworking love, and after I took out the stained glass pieces from the old sanctuary, he came up with the idea and did the framing of all 16 of them, and hung them in the windows today. He also did all the woodwork around the organ, and the pull out shelf. Beautiful workmanship with it all. He was deeply loved and respected by students, colleagues and the members of Epiphany. He will be deeply missed.

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**Tim Fink** - November 24, 2024 at 07:49 PM

MN

“ I have such fond memories of Paul- what a great man- a life well lived. Please accept our sincere condolences! Marcia and Jerry Nelms

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**Marcia Nelms** - November 24, 2024 at 05:26 PM

JG

“ *Jon, Mary, Noah, Benjamin, & Caleb Groll purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Paul A. Harre.*



**Jon, Mary, Noah, Benjamin, & Caleb Groll** - November 23, 2024 at 06:00 PM

TF

“ *The Waldman Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Paul A. Harre.*



**The Waldman Family** - November 23, 2024 at 09:41 AM

JK

“ *Jeff, Nikki, Ellie & Katie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Paul A. Harre.*



**Jeff, Nikki, Ellie & Katie** - November 22, 2024 at 06:31 PM

YF

“ *Your Cedarhurst Family. purchased the Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet for the family of Paul A. Harre.*



**Your Cedarhurst Family.** - November 22, 2024 at 12:38 PM

RB

“ Class of 1962 has lost another beautiful soul...I am glad as a class we sang together with Paul leading our endeavor...it was so heart warming to be able to remembering our high school days and laugh together ...heaven gained a beautiful soul...sending sincere sympathy to Cathy and his beautiful family



Ruth Barczewski - November 22, 2024 at 08:41 AM

RL

“ I had Mr. Harre as an instructor @ SIU in electronics. Really liked him. Great instructor He bought one of my Dad's pickup trucks while I was there.

rl - November 21, 2024 at 09:24 PM

DS

“ Paul was one of a kind & will always hold a special place in my heart. I have some of his woodworking items he made for our WELCA holiday bazaars, and will continue to treasure them. Cathy, Michele & Erin, much love & hugs to you 🥰.

Deb Sarvela - November 20, 2024 at 04:32 PM

AH

“ Cathy and all the family. I'm so sorry to hear the news that Paul passed. As I read the obituary and saw "twinkle in his eye", I said Oh Yes, He certainly did. I always enjoyed talking with Paul, sharing a story or two, and sharing many laughs. He will be missed. Prayers for warm memories to fill your hearts. Anita Hutton

Anita Hutton - November 20, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Paul A. Harre.* ”



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November 20, 2024 at 12:48 PM