



Paul W. Parrish

February 22, 1934 - June 23, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Paul W. Parrish

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – MURPHYSBORO

1421 Walnut Street, Murphysboro, Illinois

Paul W. Parrish, 91, of Largo, FL left this world for his heavenly home, peacefully on June 23, 2025. He was born on February 22, 1934, in Vergennes, IL, to the late Robert and Alice (Robinson) Parrish, and was one of 10 children.

Paul married his childhood sweetheart and the one and only love of his life, Viola Helen Hickman, on February 14, 1953. Their 72 years of marriage was a testament to his deep devotion and steadfast commitment. Together, they built a life full of love, family, faith, and many successful businesses. Paul began as a building contractor building homes and expanded into rental properties, hotels, recreation properties, and several other business ventures throughout Jackson County.

He was a man of generosity and warmth, deeply rooted in his faith. As the

spiritual leader of his home, Paul made sure his children grew up knowing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and all three were married in the family church he helped build. Church and family remained the center of his life.

Paul loved and had a true gift of woodworking and working with his hands. He also had a playful side. His good-natured humor, silly jokes, and light-hearted pranks brought smiles to many and made time with him memorable. Whether camping, picnicking, churning homemade ice cream, playing board games, raising horses, or road tripping to 48 states, Paul treasured time with his family. His legacy is one of love, hard work, faith, and laughter. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Paul is survived by his daughter, Leola Bonham (Christopher) of Indian Rocks Beach, FL; son, Curtis Parrish (Karen) of St. Charles, MO and Son-In-Law, Donald Wright of Normal, IL. Seven grandchildren, James Carey Bonham (Amy) of Largo, FL; Natasha Irvine (Jonathan) of Portland, OR; Karissa Waller (Mark) of Arnold, MO; Christopher Parrish (Jenna) of Wentzville, MO; Lauren Sugar (Michael) of Chicago, IL; Lane Aguilera (Eric) of Los Angeles, CA; Logan Martin (Zach) of Milwaukee, WI. Fifteen great-grandchildren, Sage, Selah, Caden and Ava Bonham; Anastasia, Sebastian, Vera and Juno Irvine; Corbin, Peyton, Barron, Kolten Waller; Tyler, Nolan and Wesley Parrish. Sibling, Sharon Maynor (Richard), and countless nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Paul was preceded in death by his daughter Lisa Carole Wright of Normal, IL; siblings, Thomas Parrish, Ira Parrish, Dorothy Davis, Irene Shewmaker, Mary Ferguson Parrish, Wiley Parrish, Sarah Doerr, and LulaBelle Boulden.

Family and friends are invited to attend a graveside service on Monday, July 7, 2025 at 10:45 a.m. at the Parrish Cemetery, Elkville Road, Vergennes, Illinois 62994. Visitation will be held at the cemetery beginning at 10:00 a.m.

until service time.

At 11:30 a.m., following the service, there will be a "Celebration of Life" at Vergennes Wesley United Methodist Church with lunch provided by Pat's BBQ.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made the Parrish Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund, 639 Weil Rd., Vergennes, IL 62994.

Crain Funeral Home in Murphysboro is handling arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM.

Parrish Cemetery
Vergennes, IL

Graveside Service

JUL 7. 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM (cst)

Parrish Cemetery
Vergennes, IL

Celebration of Life

JUL 7. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

Vergennes Wesley United Methodist Church
Vergennes, IL

Tribute Wall

RW

“ To Viola and the Parrish family - I was deeply saddened to hear of your loss. Paul was a remarkable man—his sharp wit, unwavering determination, and above all, his deep love for his family left a lasting impression on me. What a gift it was to know him. May the memories of his long, meaningful life bring you comfort and strength in the days ahead. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Robert Wright

Robert Wright - July 01, 2025 at 11:23 AM

RK

“ What a wonderful man with a wonderful legacy. He made us the most beautiful pegs and jokers set that we will always cherish . What an honor to be welcomed into the arms of Jesus and hear well done good and faithful servant ❤️ prayers for the family as they celebrate a life well lived
Steve and Robin Kluever

robin and steve kluever - June 29, 2025 at 08:27 AM

LB

“ I’m truly sorry about your dad. He was top shelf. There wasn’t a time growing up that it wasn’t an exciting time to be able to go to your house. Your mom and dad treated dad and I so well Dad and I would help cut and haul wood out of the woods when they lived behind midlands. Your dad would run the tractor and bucket and we would put wood in it or hold the blocks while he scooped them up. It was work but fun to spend time there. We took a break one day and your mom had sliced ham on flat bread and chips and pop. It was the best.

When they were getting ready for the auction to move it was so good to spend the day with your dad in preparation of that although them moving was sad. He tried to pay me for moving stuff. I can’t remember the other guys name that was there. But I wasn’t taking money from your dad. He kept insisting that it was such hard work. It was just so nice to be able to help him. Didn’t want any money from him. If my dad would have been alive still he would have been there as well

Your dad always made a person want to do better by just being around him.

He will certainly be missed by me. He was just a phone call away. The last time he was in Illinois he was at Carbondale hospital and I got to visit with him several times there

I miss the old days of hanging out with him and my dad. That was the best.

Loved your dad. Just wanted you to know how sorry I am. He was a super guy always.

Leola Bonham - June 28, 2025 at 09:56 PM

BK

“ *Curt, you have my sympathy, sorry to hear about your Dad. Bill Knowles*



BILL KNOWLES - June 28, 2025 at 04:04 PM