



Paul J. Burt

September 5, 1960 - July 7, 2020

Paul J. Burt, 59, of Lake Forest Illinois, lost his long battle with cancer on July 7, 2020. He died comfortably and peacefully, surrounded by his loving wife and four children.

If you asked one hundred people who Paul Burt was, they would all give you a different description. Paul was a poet and accomplished writer. Visionary. Auto enthusiast and guru. Faithful. Collector. Full of laughter. Potential politician. Survivor. Leader. Consummate entrepreneur. Philanthropist. Comedian. Charismatic. Talented photographer. Social media influencer. World War II fanatic. Fighter. Dreamer. Survivor of all odds. Paul was all of these things, but most importantly he was a beloved and admired father, a loving and doting husband, and newly appointed grandfather. His most proud accomplishment was the love and connection of his family, which will continue on for generations.

Paul was born on September 5, 1960 in Philadelphia, PA. In the 1980's, Paul worked in New York City to start his career in employee benefits, and also was a stand-up comic in NYC. He then moved to Chicago in 1991 where he developed many successful business ventures in employee benefits, technology, real estate, and automotive interests.

In addition, Paul was a very faithful man and a philanthropist: a proud member of the Lumen Foundation, a founding member of the Lake Forest Police Foundation, a pre-marriage advisor with wife Janet for the Catholic Church, and Honorary Chair of both the American Heart Association Chicago Heart Ball, and the Citadel Theatre Gala. His company has earned awards in the Chicago Entrepreneur Hall of Fame, and the "National Best and Brightest Companies to Work For". In addition, Paul had a following of over 30,000 automotive lovers on his Facebook page "The Burt Collection", had an employee benefits podcast called Benefits-U, and in August 2018 Paul participated in a podcast on Venture with Virtue with Jay Tremonte titled "Overcoming the Fear of Death", which can be heard at <https://www.owltail.com/podcast/f5nXc-Venture-with-Virtue/episodes>.

Paul is survived by his father Paul C. Burt of Savannah, GA, his mother Clarissa Guinan

of Cave Creek AZ, and his two sisters Clarissa Burt and Carol Berry, both of Cave Creek, AZ. In 1995, Paul married the love of his life, Janet Deptuch Burt and they were married for almost 25 years.

Paul's pride and joy were his four children. He is proudly survived by his daughter Erica Burt of Nashville, TN, who recently delivered Paul's first grandson, named Ford Paul, on March 8th. He is also survived by his son and daughter-in-law Brian Burt (Haley Kenefick Burt) of Austin TX, who are expecting Paul's second grandson in August. In addition Paul was survived by his daughter Sophia Burt and son Hudson Burt, who both attend Lake Forest High School. Paul was also survived by the countless extended Deptuch and Burt family members, and many friends who revered and loved him very much.

Due to restrictions of Covid-19, on July 25, 2020 there will be a private, invitation only mass at the Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest, Illinois, followed by a private family interment at the Memorial Gardens at Lake Forest Cemetery. As a celebration of Paul's life, please share again your favorite memories, thoughts, stories, tributes and photos with our family at <https://www.rtfunerals.com/obituaries/Paul-Burt-2/>.

The following link can be used to view the live stream of Paul's Funeral Mass. <https://asimplestreaming.godaddysites.com/burt>

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a memorial fund in Paul's name at this link: <http://gofundme.com/f/paul-j-burt-family-memorial-publishing-fund>

Cemetery

Lake Forest Cemetery

1525 Lake Road

Lake Forest, IL, 60045

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest - July 23, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Thanks Janet for letting me come to Paul's services. I am so sorry for your lost. Paul was my best friend and I enjoyed knowing him. I will keep a lifetime of memories of our friendship. God bless you and your family. Love you always. Carter Campbell

carter campbell - July 25, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ I met Paul, close to 30 years ago through him being a customer at my husband Steve’s store, CD City in downtown Highland Park. That was even pre-Janet days. Steve and I became close friends with Paul when he had yet to reach his heights of financial success. He was an exceptionally warm, friendly, funny, upbeat, regular guy who would do anything for a friend. Steve had our store for over 20 years, and Paul helped us move the store 2 times! (That is when you know who your true friends are.)

Back in the early 90’s, I started a not for profit organization called “Artin’ Around”. It was a way of uniting people through creative expression; making art by one person adding on to what others had created in paintings and drawings. I was young and inexperienced, and the organization was short-lived, but Paul generously volunteered his time to be on the board of directors and help me get started.

My husband Steve stood up at Paul and Janet’s wedding. I can remember when Paul and Janet were first starting out in their first apartment together. They had us over for a lovely dinner, and Paul and Janet wondered why I wasn’t drinking the wine. Steve and I looked at each other and could not hide it. I had just found out that day that I was pregnant with my first child. Paul and Janet were the first ones to know about our news! Paul was also there with us the night that I discovered that the diamond was missing from my wedding ring as we waited in line together at Dairy Queen.

Over the years, we moved in different circles, as Paul built a life of astounding accomplishments. Steve and I did not keep in close contact with Paul and Janet, but they always remembered us by sending us their beautiful family holiday cards and invitations to their amazing holiday parties. I am sad to say that I did not even realize that Paul was as sick as he was, and find it hard to wrap my head around the fact that he is gone. His passing has prompted me to reach out to many friends of ours that I we have lost touch with. None of us really know when our last day may be, and should never take our lives or friends for granted. Paul will be greatly missed by all who loved him. My heart goes out to Janet, Brian, Erica, Sophia and Hudson for your loss.

Jami Kessler

Jami Kessler - July 26, 2020 at 01:03 AM



“ When Paul Burt was in the room, his presence was felt by all. I will never forget the weekend we first met Janet and Paul at a neighborhood progressive dinner party. Paul was holding court and telling jokes while Janet was laughing and watching her husband with great pride and admiration. I knew from that moment we would be lifelong friends. I will forever cherish the times we spent together as young couples, friends and neighbors. So many conversations filled with support and advice while raising our children (and many dogs!) I can still hear his guttural laugh and feel his giant bear hugs. He has left a wonderful legacy behind in his four children, Brian, Erika, Sophia and Hudson.
God Bless you Janet. Love and miss you Paul, rest in peace.
All my love, Laura Fellows

"I am the wind in the trees
and the song of a bird.
I am moonbeams in a midnight sky
and a glorious rainbow after the storm.
I am the morning dew
and freshly-fallen snow.
I am a butterfly flying overhead
and a puppy happily at play.
I am a gentle touch
A warm embrace.
Open your heart to know...I am not gone.
Reach deep into your soul...You will find me
I am here."

Laura Fellows - July 19, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ All of the posts and shared memories make very clear that Paul was the same caring, genuine person to all of us. One of my favorite memories is when he had a Ferrari dropped off in my driveway for my birthday with the message, go have fun. Shortly there after, one of my family members backed into it and smacked it up pretty good. Mortified, I called Paul, who immediately said, "don't worry about it, go crack it up some more". Paul was generous to all he cared about, and he knew what was important in life. He will be missed. Mickey Foreman

Mickey Foreman - July 19, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ A soul that left us way to soon.

I met Paul through a business endeavor and we quickly became friends. We always knew that friendship was more important than business and we never let any differences of business opinion get in the way of that. We shared advice on our kids, families, cars... most specifically our Porsche's and jeeps. Paul brought me to the Ferrari dealer in Lake forest, introduced me to the police captain, invited me to his home to eat with his friends and family. My favorite was his speeches; no fear, heartfelt, and always comedic. We could talk about anything and he would never beat around the bush. He always brightened up my day and I know I did his. We were just chatting a few months ago about getting our families together again for the next citadel, dinner, laughs, etc., and obviously it wasn't soon enough. God bless him and his family. Make every minute count.

Jon Romano - July 19, 2020 at 07:29 AM



“ Paul’s illness prevented him from being active in our Lake Michigan Region in recent years; however, he and Janet generously made many significant contributions to the life of the club over the years.

On three occasions they entertained around 60 or so of us in our very memorable North Shore Mansion Progressive Dinner events and more recently they opened their current home to yet another group of 60 or so of us as part of our North Shore Mansion tour. This visit turned out to be the high point of the tour and perhaps even our whole year’s activities as their place is the David Adler designed 1931 Lester Armour Home, one of the famous architect’s finest efforts. It is featured in all the architecture books, but we got to enjoy it first hand thanks to Paul and Janet. Paul also got out some of his collector cars for us to admire and being the gracious hosts that they are they even served us snacks as well. So what we expected to be a “20 min. be careful don’t touch anything tour,” ended up a very lovely afternoon of socializing on the lawn, enjoying the view of the lake, and hearing the tales of how the Burts had restored their lovely and historic home for posterity.....and in the process we got to enjoy a little glimpse of what life was like for Lester and Leola Armour in 1931.

On several occasions we were also able to visit Paul’s collection of 40 or so cars in a garage he had in Waukegan, and then for a while Paul combined his regular business interests with his hobby by devoting a large part of his corporate headquarters to a collector car showroom and restoration facility. This was a wonderful stop for us Car Guys and since it was more of a hobby for him than an actual business so we could chat with the craftsmen and look over a lot of very desirable cars in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Members of the Lake Michigan Region of the RROC
and David Taylor

David W, Taylor for the RROC - July 18, 2020 at 10:25 PM



“ Paul was charismatic guy always with big ideas and enthusiasm. I wish his family the best. John T Shave

John T Shave - July 18, 2020 at 06:02 PM



“ I first met Paul several years ago when I was working part time for the Highwood PD. He had a true respect and admiration for law enforcement. When I told him I had a almost 30 year career with the Chicago Police Dept, Paul was extremely complimentary and was without a doubt a huge supporter of law enforcement. I'd run into all the time in Highwood and was lucky enough to get to know him. Unfortunately I haven't talked to him for years and lost track of him. God bless Paul and his family. An old Irish saying. May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rain fall softly upon your fields. And until we meet again, May you keep safe and may God hold you in the palm of his hands...

Michael Byrne

Michael Byrne - July 17, 2020 at 02:11 AM



“ I met Paul about 8 years ago when we moved to Lake Forest. I was beginning to grow my business and Paul provided so much great insight to business and life. He was such a positive, uplifting person. I will always remember a few summer nights hanging out with him on the lake talking about business ideas and the 'keys to life'. I know his spirit is shining down on all of us.

Greg May - July 16, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your great loss. With deepest Sympathy.
David Gore

David Gore - July 16, 2020 at 11:48 AM



“ I met Paul through one of his businesses and had the great pleasure of meeting his family as well. Strongly civic-minded and with an excellent sense of humor, Paul always had a quick quip and a generous heart. To his family, thank you for sharing this chance to celebrate a life well lived. He will be greatly missed!

michelle moreno - July 15, 2020 at 02:02 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 14, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ I met Paul Burt back in 1989 when Paul first arrived in Chicago from New York. We were both new AE hires at a small HMO located in Chicago. We immediately liked each other and teamed up in our sales efforts to help grow membership for the organization.

Shortly after, Paul had an idea. To start our own employee benefits group for small and medium sized business in the Chicagoland area.

Since I lived in Westchester and Paul was living in Lake Bluff, I suggested calling our new company Westlake Financial Group. Paul loved the idea.

With a dream of success and hardly any money to our name, we set off to take the brokerage community by storm. Our motto at the time was “fake it ‘till you make it.”

He taught me many things in our time together and we slowly started building our new business. We worked hard, we laughed hard, we played hard and during the start of Westlake, we were inseparable.

Paul gave 100% in everything he did. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of insurance, cars, & poetry. He had a razor-sharp sense of humor, a kind heart and a warm spirit.

We eventually parted ways, but Paul was and will always be in my thoughts. He was very special.

My deepest condolences to Janet and all who loved him.

Goodbye old friend, I'll see you when I get there.

-Bobby

Robert Oddo - July 14, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ I met Paul in 1986, He was 26 and I was just 17. I eventually came to look up to him like the big brother I never had. He was larger than life to me back then, his passion for anything on four wheels, amazingly quick wit and perfect comedic timing was damned near legendary. In 1990 I lost touch with Paul when he moved to the Chicago area. I searched for him from time to time throughout the mid '90s and 2000s to no avail. I happened upon the Burt Collection one day and sent him a message. He responded and we started chatting like we never lost touch. I had a chance to meet Paul for lunch one day while out in Chicago on business in 2014. He was just as funny as ever. We talked for an hour or two about old times before I had to catch a flight and we said we would get together again some day soon. That day unfortunately never came. The world seems a little darker without Paul in it, I regret not making time or at least making a greater effort to stay in touch with him. Some of the best memories I have included Paul. Fireworks over NYC from the Continental Life Insurance building. Meeting LT. One of his first stand-up routines. Trips to Classic Coach and hell rides in various 944s, 928s, 911s, GTIs, 240Zs and several unsuspecting Jags and Ferraris. Paul was just the best. My deepest and most sincere condolences to the Burt family, he was taken home far too soon. God bless you all.

Michael Brennan - July 13, 2020 at 11:20 PM



“ Remembering Paul's smile and wonderful sense of humor while sailing on Lake Michigan together with George and Peggy Anton. His memory will be eternal. Eric and Marcia Moore

marcia - July 13, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 13, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ Yvonne Steinwold lit a candle in memory of Paul J. Burt



Yvonne Steinwold - July 13, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ I remember when Paul and Janet began dating. Such a beautiful couple. As their relationship grew I could see the love for each other growing. Paul and Janet were so in love. Janet always had a sparkle in her eyes for Paul. Paul was a kind and gentle person. May the Lord bless the Burt Family

Patricia Gollehon - July 13, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 13, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ One of our favorite songs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_lrrq_opng

Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 02:18 PM



“ Our hearts are full of love and sympathy for Janet and their beautiful children. Paul was one-of-a-kind in the most brilliant ways! He will be missed and memorialized by all who came in contact with him, whether recently or in the past. Paul was heaven sent and has been called home by God; an Angel continuing to steer and direct his family, friends and business associates.
With love, prayers and condolences,
The Mullarkey Family
Michael, Maureen, Alexander, Ashley, Audrey, Michael Aidan and Maxwell

Maureen Mullarkey - July 12, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ The Mullarkey Family lit a candle in memory of Paul J. Burt



The Mullarkey Family - July 12, 2020 at 11:11 AM



“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 09:34 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ We have such fond memories of our evening with your family during your LFCDS days. The consummate host, an elegant evening with great conversation. Paul has always been a welcoming and a friendly face. We will miss him.

Lisa Barnes - July 12, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 01:06 AM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 12:50 AM



“ 25 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 12, 2020 at 12:30 AM



“ I remember a few conversations we had while waiting to pick up Hudson and Shane after school at Deerpath or at the house when I was dropping Hudson off. Paul was so easy to talk, so sincere and kind. In our chats, I could feel how much he adored being a father because he just lit up when he talked about all of his children. What a beautiful heart. What a kind, loving man. Sophia and Hudson are the sweetest, most polite, bright and funny children and Janet has been a rock for me for so many years, always willing to listen and lend support. Sending you all love and support during this very difficult time.

Jennifer Patt - July 11, 2020 at 10:48 PM



“ 17 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 11, 2020 at 10:36 PM



“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Burt - July 11, 2020 at 10:27 PM



“ I don't even know where to start. Paul was the most intelligent, interesting, dynamic and energetic man I had the pleasure to know and call a friend. From his multiple enterprises to the cars we shared and the dinners we spent together with the wives. Paul loved people and invested in people. His greatest gift was his overwhelming generosity and philanthropy. He fought hard for his family and for strangers. He's been taken much too soon but is now with Jesus. Paul I'm going to miss our friendship. I'm honored to have known you, Janet and your family for these past 20 years. God speed my friend, I truly will miss you.

Jeffrey Parnell - July 11, 2020 at 09:05 PM



“ I remember how gracious Paul always was and how much he loved Janet and his family.

karen zoller - July 11, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ Paul was a marvelous man: funny, smart, faith-filled. Just a luminous personality. I sympathize with your loss. God rest him.

Bishop Robert Barron

Bishop Robert Barron - July 11, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ When I would come over, Paul was always so sweet and kind to me and welcomed me over. He has one of the kindest souls

marissa greenwell - July 11, 2020 at 04:06 PM



“ I will always remember our late nite drives around town when I first got to know Paul. He would have me in stitches laughing at his stand up routines. It was a joy to meet Janet at this same time and be a small part of their journey together...
Paul you will be missed- John H.

John Hogan - July 11, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ Paul was an amazing man with such a spirit for life. My husband and I will never forget the first time we meet him. I'm sure anyone who knew Paul could never forget him. He also was a mentor to me and incredible one! In business he promoted a sense of calmness, yet truly could handle many different tasks all at once. All who worked for Paul looked up to him.

For his entire family, including his dear wife Janet our sincere sympathies and continued prayers.

May God Be with you all during the weeks, months and years ahead. Look over and guide you all!

May memories be cherished and the love continue forth in the days to come.

Michael & Barbae Rita - July 11, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ I remember how he picked me up all the way from Zion because it was a bad night in the house. He helped me get out of a rough time.

Haley Hook - July 11, 2020 at 12:23 AM



“ I first met Paul when I first arrived in Chicago when I signed with the Bears. I had just moved into the neighborhood and had my cars and motorcycle out and that was when the friendship was born. He stopped to introduce himself and the rest is history. He loved cars, he was not interested in football. That's what made the relationship so great! Paul loved cars and I loved cars. I thought I had a lot but Paul had a warehouse full. Just a very genuine brilliant person. A true friend all the way through. Rest in piece, my friend.

Thomas Smith - July 10, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



mart coonley - July 10, 2020 at 11:02 PM



“ My favorite memory with my Uncle Paul was when he took myself, my brother, and Sophia and Hudson for a ride in the car to the store. Low Rider came on the radio and we all were singing and laughing at the funky tune. The funniest part was when the deep voice in the song went “LOW RI-DER” and Sophia would sing it and we would all laugh so hard! Uncle Paul is such a light to anyone who he met and would always leave you with a smile. His humor, his love, his memory will remain with everyone grateful enough to have known him.

Allie Coonley - July 10, 2020 at 10:51 PM



“ He was a walking encyclopedia about cars. His collection was awe-inspiring and he was so generous in sharing it with others. I visited the Burt Collection several times and Paul always was walking around, explaining all the details of every car. He was so proud of the yellow Hudson, which he told me he named his son after. He's gone too soon. Very sad.

Anthony Roby - July 10, 2020 at 10:28 PM



“ My favorite memory of uncle Paul when when I came over to do aunt Janets hair and stayed for dinner. We were just talking and laughing, telling jokes and relaxing. It was one of the few times I got to hang out with him and the Burts outside of Christmas Eve. I often think back on that memory and smile and Laugh at the jokes made. A true genuine soul that will be greatly missed and forever loved.

Kacee J - July 10, 2020 at 10:20 PM