



Paul D. Gerlach

November 16, 1930 - July 11, 2023

Paul Donald Gerlach, 92, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at Lutheran Home.

Paul was the son of Paul Samuel Gottlieb and Hattie Ida Maevers Gerlach and was born at home near Hobbs Chapel looking over the Mississippi River.

He was the loving husband of Mary J. Engram Gerlach. They met in high school and were married for 72 years.

Paul served in the United States Air Force for four years and loved his country. He was also a member of the American Legion in Cape Girardeau.

Paul was a graduate of Trinity Lutheran, College High and University of Missouri Rolla with an electrical engineering degree. He spent his career mostly with Emerson Electric in military avionics on the B52-H Bomber Tail Defense and F-5E fighter aircraft as an Engineer and Program Manager. His first assignment was the B-58 bomber Tail Defense System. During this time, he and the family lived in Saint Louis, Fort Worth, Wichita, Munich, Germany and California, with Paul also traveling to Egypt. He also served as Program Manager on the T-37 Program for Sabreliner and traveled to Pakistan and Thailand.

Paul was a private pilot and loved flying and fishing. Paul loved his family and family activities. Reading was on his high list of pleasures, as were the three card club groups he and Mary belonged to.

Everywhere they lived they were active in the Lutheran Church in the area and after moving back to Cape Girardeau in 1987, Paul held various offices in all the churches he attended and he was also a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He also volunteered at Southeast Health for many years.

Paul and Mary had three children, Sid (Pam) Gerlach , David (Lisa) Gerlach both of Cape Girardeau and a daughter, Julie (Mark) Martin of Fenton, Missouri. Paul is also survived by eight grandchildren, Seth , Emily, Merritt, Erin, Sam Gerlach and Shane, Jessie and Mike Martin; and nine great-grandchildren, Lucy, Palmer and Mary Caroline Holzum, Stella Proffer, Reid, Vida and Miller Keys, Gus Gerlach and Rose Jercinovic.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Bobby Gene of Jackson, Missouri and Harold Lee of Cape Girardeau..

Visitation will be 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Friday, July 14, 2023 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will follow at 12:00 pm Friday at the funeral home with the Revs. Paul Short and Douglas Breite officiating.

Entombment will be at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to Saxony Lutheran High School, 2004 Saxony Drive, Jackson, MO 63755 or Trinity Lutheran Church, 100 N. Frederick, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum

2315 Highway 61 N
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

JUL 14. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

SB

“ I always enjoyed seeing the Gerlachs as a little girl at Immanuel Chapel in St Louis, my Dad's church in Hathaway Manor, where we all grew up. Mr and Mrs Gerlach were a beautiful couple who always carried themselves with grace. I'm glad our lives crossed paths as I was impacted by their family and have wonderful memories of all of them.

Stephanie Daniel Bunton

Stephanie Daniel Bunton - July 16, 2023 at 12:25 PM

BD

“ Mr. Gerlach, (and Mrs. Gerlach) were always so friendly and classy when we visited their home during Dave's high school years. The example set was a lasting positive influence on me.

Brian Fassel DO - July 13, 2023 at 08:22 PM

JS

“ Mary and family - so sorry for your loss. I may not be able to come; but know you are in my prayers for God's comfort. I feel for you. Jimmy will be working. Jeannette and Jimmy Stone

Jeannette Stone - July 13, 2023 at 07:42 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.



July 13, 2023 at 05:42 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.*



July 13, 2023 at 02:49 PM



“ *I wish I could be there for the family and you, Aunt Mary! All my sympathies and prayers. Love, Lorie Bollinger Alaimo & Michael Alaimo*

Lorie Bollinger Alaimo - July 13, 2023 at 01:22 PM



“ *Lorie A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul D. Gerlach.*

Lorie A. - July 13, 2023 at 01:18 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.*



July 13, 2023 at 12:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.*



July 13, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul D. Gerlach.

July 13, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.*



July 12, 2023 at 07:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul D. Gerlach.

July 12, 2023 at 07:54 PM

JC

“ Mary, I am so sorry to know that your soul mate has gone on before you and I know how you grow together as one so the loss is hard, but only for a short time. Paul was a shining example to all who knew him and what a heritage he leaves for his family!
We are in Branson for our yearly family vacation and so sorry we can't be at the visitation. Our prayers and love , Jane & Bob

Jane Clark - July 12, 2023 at 12:33 PM

CM

“ With deepest sympathy for your loss

Carolyn McCalister - July 12, 2023 at 10:52 AM

DO

“ Dave Oetermichel lit a candle in memory of
Paul D. Gerlach



Dave Oetermichel - July 12, 2023 at 12:55 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of
Paul D. Gerlach.



July 11, 2023 at 09:19 PM

SF

“ Sharon, Sara's family, & Steve's family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.



Sharon, Sara's family, & Steve's family - July 11, 2023 at 09:15 PM

SF

“ Sharon, Sara's family, & Steve's family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul D. Gerlach.

Sharon, Sara's family, & Steve's family - July 11, 2023 at 09:15 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul D. Gerlach.



July 11, 2023 at 07:20 PM