



## Paul W. Stehr

March 30, 1936 - August 28, 2023

Paul William (Herk) Stehr peacefully passed away on Monday, August 28th at the age of 87.

Paul was born March 30, 1936 to Rudolph Stehr and Lillian Schwab and spent most of his life in his hometown of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Paul was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and proud United States Marine. He married the love of his life, Joan Porter, in 1958 and together they raised three daughters, Teri (Rick) Hinkebein, Staci (Greg) Johnson, and Cassi (Jorg) Weissflog.

Paul had a deep love for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and a passion for studying His word. His Saturday morning bible study was often the highlight of his week, and he developed many faithful friends through this study over the years.

Paul prided himself in being a hard worker, and most would say he was a high achiever. He began working at the young age of 8, carrying papers for the Southeast Missourian.

Paul attended Central High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, graduating with the class of 1954. While in high school, Paul earned the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. He participated in student council and served two years as Student Body President. He was also a member and President of the National Honor Society. Paul excelled in athletics while at Central, particularly basketball (guard) and baseball (short stop). He played shortstop on the Cape Girardeau American Legion Baseball team from 1950

to 1954 and won back-to-back state championships in 1951 and 1952. During his senior year, Central's basketball and baseball teams won the 1954 Missouri State Championships and Paul was named the basketball team's Most Valuable Player during the state championship. Paul remained close friends with his teammates (Don Koch, Dub Suedekum) throughout his life and they made many happy memories during their time together.

After high school, Paul attended the University of Missouri on a Marine Corp Scholarship and became an active member of the ROTC. He joined the Phi Delta Theta fraternity his freshman year and served as President his senior year. During his four years at Mizzou, Paul continued his athletic career as a member of the basketball and baseball teams. During the 1957 Baseball College World Series, he helped take his team to the championship game. Paul also held the record for the most stolen bases at the University of Missouri for many years.

It was during an away basketball game at the University of Kansas that Paul reconnected with his high school girlfriend and love of his life, Joan Porter. They married shortly after graduation and Paul began his career in the Marines, stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Clemente, California. During his time of service, he rose to the rank of Captain. His love of singing led him to become a member of the Marine Corp Choir and he fondly remembered singing with the choir on the Ed Sullivan show.

After his time in the Marines, Paul and Joan spent several years in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where Paul worked for Collins Radio. Longing to be closer to family, he and Joan moved back to Cape Girardeau and fulfilled Paul's dream of opening a clothing and athletic store, The University Shop, located across from Houck Stadium. While in Cape Girardeau they became faithful members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, where Paul sang in the choir and served as an elder. Paul spent the later years of his career in the insurance industry. Paul deeply loved his hometown of Cape Girardeau and proudly served on the city council and three years as Mayor. He and Joanie reluctantly moved to Charlotte, North Carolina in his later years to be closer to their daughters.

Despite his many accomplishments, Paul will mostly be remembered for his faithfulness, servant leadership, playful personality, and love of his family. Paul was a loyal friend, having lifelong relationships with many childhood friends. He was a devoted father, joyful grandfather, and playful great-grandfather who deeply loved his family and enjoyed being close to them in his later years. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Rudolph and Lillian Stehr, and his beloved brother Don Stehr.

Survivors include his loving wife, Joan, of Charlotte, North Carolina; his daughters, Teri Hinkebein (Rick) of Charlotte, North Carolina, Staci Johnson (Greg) of Lake Wylie, South Carolina, and Cassi Weissflog (Jorg) of Fayetteville, Georgia. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, Amanda Hinkebein Meyers (Jimmy), Chris Hinkebein (Jordan), Blake Johnson (Mary), Chad Johnson (Catherine), Alex Johnson (fiancé Claire), Isabella Weissflog, and Jacob Weissflog and three great-grandchildren, Ella and Lucy Meyers, and Collins Hinkebein, and many lifelong friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, September 3rd from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at Ford and Sons Funeral Home on Mount Auburn Road.

A memorial service will immediately follow at 2 p.m at the funeral home with the Rev. Debra Tracy officiating.

Burial will be at Cape Memorial Park with full military honors following the service.

Pallbearers include grandsons Chris Hinkebein, Blake Johnson, Chad Johnson, Alex Johnson, Jacob Weissflog, and Jimmy Meyers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Tunnel 2 Towers, T2T.org in memory of Paul W. Stehr.

An online guest book and obituary is available at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 3. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

SEP 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *TErri, could you forward this to your ok. Thanks so much!*

*Dear Joan, Charlotte Edwards gave me the news of Paul's entry into heaven, his graduation. I wonder if Bill was there to greet him. He thought so much of Paul. I loved his times of conversation together in his office. I have been in prayer and will continue to be and I know my children will be praying for you also. A hard place to face and please know that I am holding you in deep prayer. I am forever grateful that we got to connect over here in North Carolina. Hav hug yourself for me and know that I wish with everything I could be there, but he was a fine fellow, and I always enjoyed being in his company.*

*May you sense the loving grip of God's love - He loves and understands your tears.*

*Much love, Maggi McCutchen.*

---

**Maggi McCutchen** - September 02, 2023 at 08:42 PM

HH

*Dear Joan,  
Somehow I missed the news of Paul's death and the memorial service here in Cape. How high wish I had been there to personally convey to you and your daughters my sorrow and condolences. I respected and admired Paul very much. My prayers are with you. And I will always appreciate your arranging a shower for our daughter Laura . Bless you all.*

*Harvey Hecht*

---

**Harvey Hecht** - September 08, 2023 at 04:13 PM

NC

“ Dear Joan and Family: So sorry I could not be at visitation but please know you are in my heart. Wonderful family and blessed memories!

Nona Nan Chapman - September 01, 2023 at 01:32 PM

LW

Paul was one of the finest person I ever knew I feel honored to work with him 20 plus years. May Paul Rest In Peace. May God Bless The Family. Loy Welker

Loy Welker - September 02, 2023 at 11:00 AM

A'

“ In coelo quies est.

Al Saibini, Nevada Alpha '76 - September 01, 2023 at 08:43 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul W. Stehr.



August 31, 2023 at 12:01 PM



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

August 31, 2023 at 12:01 PM

J-

“ Paul was a wonderful man. Always a smile and kindness on his face . Enjoyed him and Joan. She was the best PT at Southeast . They were always fun folks . I so hope to be back in town to see her . May the family feel Gods loving arms 🙏❤️☐

Jackie Clark -Otto - August 31, 2023 at 10:32 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Paul W. Stehr.



August 31, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul W. Stehr.



August 30, 2023 at 10:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul W. Stehr.



August 30, 2023 at 09:44 PM

RB

“ Tracy and I were so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. He was a sweet, sweet man and we will always remember him so fondly from the old neighborhood growing up. I can only imagine how much he will be missed.

Robin Burke - August 30, 2023 at 10:30 AM

BP

“ Dear Joanie and family, I am sorry to hear of your loss. May you find peace in our risen Savior.

Barbara Rauh Powell - August 30, 2023 at 10:23 AM

DG

“ Paul was a wonderful wonderful man, we here at Capital Insurance, loved him dearly... He will be missed by all. Condolences to his wonderful family, Chris & Debbie Gross

Deborah Gross - August 30, 2023 at 07:53 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul W. Stehr.



August 30, 2023 at 07:32 AM

KH

“ Paul was a great teacher and mentor to me when I started working at the insurance agency with him. He was always so kind and helpful to everyone. He will be missed.

Karen Hann - August 29, 2023 at 09:26 PM

MH

“ Paul was my first rat year Little League coach. I was scared to death of this new league and he quickly calmed my fears and taught me many of the basic fundamentals that I never forgot. I enjoyed seeing him from time to time and we always relived those good old Little League days. A great coach and a much greater person. My sympathy to his loved ones. He will truly be missed

-----  
**mike holland** - August 29, 2023 at 08:41 PM

JJ

“ Tonight, my heart skipped a beat when I read Paul W. Stehr's obituary. He was a part of my youth. Our friendship began when we were freshman in high school. Joanie Porter Stehr and I were close friends, and she and Paul always included me at our high school reunions by letting me sit with them. Our earliest times together were on double dates, and we spent most of our time laughing. Paul and Joan were meant to be together forever from an early age. Paul was special, and I treasure our early friendship. I miss him already. His life history shows his many talents. He was the kind of a guy who never let on that he had accomplished so much in his life.

-----  
**Judith Bader Jones** - August 29, 2023 at 08:10 PM

TF

“ The Don Stehr Family purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Paul W. Stehr.



-----  
**The Don Stehr Family** - August 29, 2023 at 05:26 PM