



Paul Murray

September 12, 1934 - August 12, 2024

Paul Matthew Murray, lifelong farmer, died Monday, August 12, 2024, at his home in Storm Lake with family by his side. He struggled with pancreatic cancer since December 2023.

Funeral Mass will take place Saturday, August 17, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery with Military Honors. Visitation will be held Friday, August 16, 2024 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. with Rosary at 6:40 p.m. and Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m., all at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Memorials can be directed to the "F.R.E.D. Legacy Fund" within the St. Mary's Foundation. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Paul was born September 12, 1934, to W. Clair Murray and Mary Othilda Kestel. He grew up on the family farm and attended St. Mary's School, graduating in 1953. Paul joined the U.S. Army and served in the Occupational Forces of Korea from January 1955 to December 1956.

He met Martha Ann Becker at The Cobblestone. They had their first date on New Year's Eve 1962. She was looking for a Catholic farmer and he fit the bill. A year later, on New Year's Eve 1963, they were married. They had five children, John, Kathy, Gary, Jan and Patricia.

Paul was a faithful Catholic, baptized, confirmed and married at St. Mary's.

Throughout his life, Paul enjoyed flying, golfing, fishing, playing pool and cards. In retirement, he and Martha wintered at Wagon City South in Mission, Texas, and in the spring, they returned to Iowa. He cultivated many different circles of friends.

Following the lead of brothers Joe, Bill, Fr. Gene and Fr. Ed, Paul earned his pilot's license in 1991. After his kids were grown, Martha conceded to Paul owning and flying a Cessna 172. He later restored a certified Piper Cub and built from scratch an experimental Piper Super Cub, both trademark yellow. Flying those planes, Paul enjoyed weekend fly-in breakfasts across Northwest Iowa.

Paul was a member of St. Mary's Parish, the Knights of Columbus, the Experimental Aircraft Association and the VFW of Alta, Iowa.

Paul is survived by his wife Martha, Storm Lake; children: John (Edean) Murray, Storm Lake; Kathy (Mike) Hoefing, Des Moines; Gary (Rachel) Murray, Grafton, MA; Jan (Tom) Acquaviva, Sudbury, MA; and Patricia Murray (Eric Kuo), Denver, CO; and thirteen grandchildren: Georgia Murray, Amelia Murray, Andrea (Joel) Smith, Cale Murray, Wyatt Murray, Alex Acquaviva, Simon Hoefing, Grace Murray, Isabelle Acquaviva, Aiden Kuo, Ronin Kuo, Avery Acquaviva and Emerson Acquaviva. Paul is also survived by his brother, Rev. Eugene Murray of Marcus and his sister-in-law, Jane Murray, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Paul is preceded in death by his parents, Clair and Mary Murray, and siblings, Mary (Edward) Motz, Joseph (Lila) Murray, Kathleen (B.D. "Cody") McKenna, William Murray, Raymond (Donna) Murray, Maurita (George) Leahy, and Rev. Edward Murray.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 16. 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Rosary

AUG 16. 6:45 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Prayer Service

AUG 16. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Funeral Mass

AUG 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul Murray*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 15, 2024 at 06:47 PM

JL

*I loved this video. My sympathies to all of you. Nice man, great family.
Jo Linnan*

Joan linnan - August 20, 2024 at 08:27 PM

JO

“ *Martha, my condolences to you and your family. Joann Oatman*

Joann Oatman - August 20, 2024 at 11:34 PM

SF

“ *Sheila Flanigan lit a candle in memory of Paul Murray*



Sheila Flanigan - August 19, 2024 at 04:15 PM

SF

“ I met Paul through John. I absolutely adored this man. He always had a smile for everyone. His devotion to his family & friends was astounding. He always said he would take me up in his plane & I'm so sorry I missed that opportunity. My prayers are with Martha, John and all his family. He will be missed by so many & I will cherish my memories of him always.

Sheila Flanigan - August 19, 2024 at 04:13 PM

PO

“ Rip Paul, You were a one of a kind fun loving guy, proud to have had the pleasure of working, talking, and drinking a few with you!!!!

Pat O'Leary - August 17, 2024 at 07:44 PM

“ I want to thank Martha for being responsible for my introduction to Paul and the entire Murray family. Martha was looking for a new Dr when I came to town 28 years ago. She found out that I was building an airplane. So, one Saturday I was at the airport and this gentleman came up and with out a word began inspecting my work on my fledgling creation. He paused and looked at me and said “ you know, I think you need to go flying. I didn’t know him from Adam, but who can turn that down! So off we went in his trusty 172 around the lake and did a few touch and goes on a farm strip northeast of Storm Lake. Then headed east to another farm strip where we landed and taxied up to a farm house. He said “ Lets see what Martha has in the kitchen”. What???!!! You live here???!! So out we go and Martha served us fresh Rhubarb custard pie and home made ice cream. It was a set up, I was hooked. A few weeks later he appeared at my hangar and presented me a pair of aircraft jacks he specially crafted in his shop. At that point I knew I had found a best friend. I actually used those same jacks 2 weeks ago on my plane.

In the skies, he found a second home. As a pilot, Paul embodied the adventurous spirit and served as an inspiration to me. The aircrafts he built and rehabbed were not just machines but embodiment's of his passion and pursuit of excellence. (Unfortunately, that also meant Cub Yellow garage floor to Martha's dismay).

As a farmer he epitomized resilience and dedication, as he worked the fields with dedication and perseverance. The harvest he reaped extended beyond the crops; it encompassed the relationships and lessons of hard work that he imparted to everyone. His nurturing spirit and dedication to growth with his acquaintances and family resonated in the lives he has touched. The relationships he developed with his children and grandchildren were true and golden, you could see it in their eyes.

Paul was raised in a deeply Catholic family. He lived his faith with out being obtrusive. He had unwavering devotion to his church, his wife and family. Those values were highlighted by his compassion for others as well as forgiveness and generosity.

And then there is golf, a passion that lead him from the farm to St

Andrews drive at Lake Creek. There, for over two decades I witnessed his incredibly long drives with a smooth draw to the chagrin of the people we competed against in league play. Often, afterwards we would enjoy a we bit of Scotch, the simple pleasures of camaraderie of friends and joy of being in the moment. I had the great privilege of sitting in the golf cart by his side for over 20 years and I can say without hesitation that those moments were some of the most cherished of my life. The last time we golfed together last year in Marcus he could still hit the ball 185 yards with that smooth draw. We rode together there and it is symbolic to me the enduring nature of our friendship and timeless memories we created. I personally take comfort in knowing that Paul's legacy lives on through the fields he worked, the skies he soared, the fairways he tread, the lives he touched, the warmth and generosity he bestowed on everyone.

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth.
And danced the skies on laughter-silver wings.
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth.
Of sun split clouds and done a hundred things.
You have not dreamed of
wheeled and soared and swung.
High in the sunlit silence, hov'rin there.
I've chased the shouting winds
along and flung.
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious blue.
I've topped the wind swept heights with easy grace
Where never a lark, nor ever eagle flew.
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod.
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.
-John Gillespie Magee*

Here's to the memories. Thank you Paul

Paul Barber, MD - August 15, 2024 at 11:43 PM



This is so beautiful and really special to read. Thanks for sharing. Sending lots of love ❤️ Will we see you tonight or tomorrow ?

Amelia Murray - August 16, 2024 at 01:27 PM

HM

“ *Holy Name Parish, Marcus purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Paul Murray.*



Holy Name Parish, Marcus - August 15, 2024 at 10:33 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 15, 2024 at 05:41 PM

MA

“ *Maureen N. and Pat Acquaviva purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Paul Murray.*



Maureen N. and Pat Acquaviva - August 15, 2024 at 05:12 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jensen Funeral Homes - August 15, 2024 at 02:53 PM



“ 93 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 15, 2024 at 02:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Murray.



August 15, 2024 at 11:23 AM

WF

“ With lots of love The Veitch Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Murray.

With lots of love The Veitch Family - August 15, 2024 at 11:23 AM

NM

“ Sending sympathy, love & hugs to the whole Murray family. I have lots of fun memories of slumber parties at the Murray farm. All members of the family join in for games & fun. Great memories. So sorry for your loss.



Nancy (Neuroth) Miller - August 15, 2024 at 01:30 AM

BR

“ Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Paul Murray



Bev Reis - August 14, 2024 at 07:41 PM

TP

“ martha sorry for the loss our prays are for you and paul good k of c tom prchal

tom prchal - August 14, 2024 at 07:34 PM

JW

“ *Joan Whitney lit a candle in memory of Paul Murray*



Joan Whitney - August 14, 2024 at 05:57 PM

DJ

“ *Deb & Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Paul Murray*



Deb & Kevin Jesse - August 14, 2024 at 01:27 PM

GB

“ *Deepest Sympathy
St. Mary's Choir*



Geneva Brungardt - August 14, 2024 at 11:30 AM

GG

“ *Irene and I were on a vacation trip from Savannah to Vancouver when I got ill and we were unable to continue. Just by coincidence It was Paul's 80th birthday. We were invited to the celebration, and Paul and his family are just wonderful. Paul had a very easy smile, keen mind, and loving hospitality in the first rate, and second to none. It is our privilege to know you.*

George j Gratton - August 14, 2024 at 08:09 AM

JC

“ *Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Paul Murray*



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - August 14, 2024 at 12:50 AM

KM

“ *Martha & family, My sympathy to you all. I have such great memories growing up with the Murray's! Love & hugs, kay*



Kay Marvin - August 13, 2024 at 10:13 PM