



Paul Joseph Schnoes

APR 21, 1934 - APR 13, 2022



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Paul Joseph Schnoes

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Paul J. Schnoes of Ft. Myers, Florida, peacefully passed into the outstretched hands of God on April 13, 2022, at the age of 87. Paul was born in 1934 in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania to the late Sebastian and Henrietta (Shertler) Schnoes. A graduate of the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan with an Industrial Engineering Degree, Paul married Barbara Hesch in Sacred Heart Church in Mount Pleasant, Michigan on November 24, 1956. Paul and “Babs” celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this past November. Paul is survived by his loving wife Babs, his sons Paul (Mindy) Schnoes of Hillsborough, NC, Jim Schnoes of Little Rock, AR, Mark (Kim) Schnoes of Peachtree City, GA, and daughter Diane (Jeff) Hobbs of Liberty Lake, WA, and five grandchildren. Paul is pre-deceased by his daughter Karen (Mark) Kranz, his brother Robert Schnoes and his sister, Sister Mary Karen Schnoes (Sisters of Saint Francis of the Providence of God).

Paul was the Plant Manager of the Corvette Plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky when he retired from General Motors in 1993, after completing 41 years of service. He spent his entire career with the various vehicle assembly divisions of General Motors, and served in manufacturing and quality control assignments in ten different manufacturing plant locations across the United States. Paul was the Plant Manager of the Corvette Plant for eight and one half years prior to retiring.

Remaining in Bowling Green for the next 14 years, Paul continued to be active in the local community by serving in the Bowling Green Rotary Club, serving as President of the Depot Development Authority to restore the L&N train depot, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Bowling Green/Warren County Airport Board, and was instrumental in the development, and served as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Corvette Museum.



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In recognition of his outstanding service to the community, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky officially commissioned Paul the title of “Kentucky Colonel,” the highest of all state titles of honor.

In 2007, Paul and Babs moved to Shell Point, Ft. Myers, Florida to enjoy their golden years. Always the HO scale model railroad enthusiast, Paul was active in the Shell Point Gulf Coast Railroad Club. Paul also enjoyed golfing, sailing model sail boats and working in the wood shop creating several pieces of fine furniture.

A funeral mass with interment of ashes will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 22 at St. Columbkille Catholic Church, 12171 Iona Rd, Ft. Myers, Florida. A reception will immediately follow. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to share your memories and stories of Paul in the guestbook located at www.fortmyersmemorial.com/obituaries/paul-schnoes/



Tribute Wall

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Larry Herrin posted:

I was a personal friend of Paul and even traveled with him on many business trips. We both started at the Corvette plant the same year. Of course Paul was my top boss as well. In writing my book, "Building the Dream: History of the Bowling Green Corvette Plant," many pages were devoted to him. It was an honor that he invited me to his home in Fort Meyers which I had to decline for personal reasons. It was my loss. Many memories remain of his achievements here in Bowling Green. Indeed he was one of my "unique" and genuine people of whom I wrote. Tell Jack hello for me up there, Paul (Jack Gerbic). See you soon!

September 15 at 5:27 PM



Sara Sterling posted:

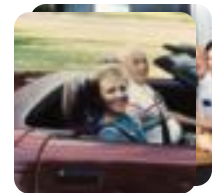
We will so dearly miss Mr. Schnoes here at the Arbor. I enjoyed quick chats with him, he was always so kind and very much the kind of person who was a keen observer which I always enjoyed especially when he had comments and ideas for me. Watching him and Babs together was a delight, a beautiful love that will always be remembered. It was an honor to have him here, he was a blessing to all. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Babs, we are all here for you.

April 26 at 8:27 AM



Judy Thompson shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Missing my favorite "Uncle Paul!" 1995...a great family visit with Aunt Babs, Uncle Paul and Mark! Our kids thought it pretty cool that their Uncle Paul and "Pop Pop" looked and sounded so much alike! Of course Uncle Paul was quick to point out he was much better looking than his brother Bob! Love that Great humor! And of course no visit was complete without a ride in his cool convertible Corvette!



April 21 at 11:43 AM



Diane Schnoes Hobbs shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dad took his final ride today!! Thank you Al Green for sharing this special moment and reminiscing about my dad. You helped make this day, what would have been his 88th, bday bearable and special.



April 21 at 11:08 AM

JT Judy Thompson April 21 at 11:44 AM
Awesome!



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DD

Don & Judy Dobernic posted:

Paul was a good friend and a great leader of people. He had a heart of gold and treated everyone with respect.

April 20 at 6:16 AM

FR

Fr. Jerry Riney posted:

When I was transferred to Bowling Green in 1997 to shepherd Holy Spirit Church, Paul and Babs welcomed me with genuine hospitality. They were active members of this wonderful faith community and could always be counted on to assist wherever needed. Paul was a man of faith, not just in word but action. As pastor I was sad when the Schnoes' decided to retire to Florida. My sincere sympathy to Babs and all of Paul's family and friends. May he rest in peace eternally.
Father Jerry Riney

April 19 at 8:47 PM

JR

John Cafaro Gm Retired posted:

For a time I only new Paul as a man with a very important job at General Motors. But it was no ordinary job, but one of huge responsibility, building Corvettes. I learned a lot from Paul Schnoes, knowledge and wisdom, that would help me in my career. He was always respectful, honest, a true role model. That was Paul, the executive. Sitting down with Paul and Babs at various Corvette events in Bowling Green Beth and I got to know Paul outside of GM. And Babs, always at his side. A beautiful couple. At those moments we learned that Paul and I shared a passion for Model Railroading. He and Babs invited us to their beautiful home where Paul had built a magnificent layout. I was blown away! Fast forward a few years, My wife and I were dining at the Lighthouse, and there was Paul and Babs, who we hadn't seen since Bowling Green Day's. They were so happy, and tanned, having retired to Shell Point. Paul Schnoes made an impact in his community. I was not surprised to see how he gave back to friends and family. I visited the Model Railroad club at Shell Point. It was clear after talking to the members, their affection for Paul. As in his career at GM, and his life in the community, Paul made a difference in all our lives.

April 19 at 5:15 AM



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Jeff Hickman shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Uncle Paul was a founding member of the Outlaws. The day you married a Hesch, you were invited into the club. It was a right of passage when you were added to the picture he would organize at family events. If you know, you know. And he has some of the absolute best corvette stories. I could listen to him all day.



April 18 at 2:06 PM

DH **Diane 'Schnoes' Hobbs** April 20 at 4:28 AM

He had a special smile in those 'Outlaw' pictures. He truly loved the family and welcomed all the additions that married in with enthusiasm and love as well as the honorary title :-)



John And Lyn Knepler posted:

Paul and Babs were among the first, and most gracious, people to make us feel welcome at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green. We discovered early on, that we had much in common - our faith, our love of traveling, model railroad collections, appreciation of fine woodworking, and at-home entertaining. Some of our best memories of our early days in Bowling Green include the wonderful Christmas parties at the Schnoes home, with such an elaborate miniature railroad layout under the Christmas tree! We visited them a couple of times in Florida, and enjoyed seeing them both so happy in their "Golden Years." Our condolences to all of the family, and especially to Babs. Love, John and Lyn Knepler

April 18 at 1:30 PM



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DP

David Pournaras posted:

My wife and I knew Paul from his time as a member of the Southwest Florida Corvette Club. Very interesting and compassionate man. David (and Linda) Pournaras

April 18 at 7:58 AM

TY

Tami Yager April 23 at 9:25 AM

What a great smile! Doug and I always looked forward to when Diane's parents scheduled their annual trek to Liberty Lake. We were lucky enough to reminisce with Paul (and Babs) in our back yard or Diane and Jeff's on several occasions. The trips to Embers were a must! The corvette stories were icing on the cake. We look forward to catching up again beyond the pearly gates. We are praying for Babs, Diane and family during this challenging time. Doug and Tami Yager

DH

Del & Ellen Hayden April 20 at 5:41 PM

Ellen and I knew Paul as fellow parishioners at Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green. Paul had the mind of an engineer and the temperament of a leader. He led a balanced life, with many varied interests and hobbies. He was competent in many fields - a true modern Renaissance man. I was impressed with his humor, spiritual depth and obvious caring for Babs and family. He and Babs mixed comfortably with all social groups and were highly respected, individually and as a couple. They were a great model for all of us. We wish Babs and family comfort and peace. The next wonderful life phase has now begun for Paul. "Life is changed, not taken away..." Del & Ellen Hayden

DM

Don & Barb Meyer April 19 at 5:02 AM

Don and I are so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. We have so many fond memories of Paul, Babs & his family when we all lived in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He was a man who loved his wife, Babs, his children and his God. We will never forget the train party that he & Babs hosted every year at Christmas. Their house was full of beautiful trees all decorated with different themes and the one we loved so much was Babs' crystal tree. All their children & grandchildren were there along with their many, many friends to celebrate Christmas. It was truly a feast for the eyes. Their house was full of love & laughter. What a gift they were to Bowling Green. God bless Paul & may perpetual light shine up on him.

BS

Bernie & Lois Schwitzgebel April 18 at 4:26 PM

Bernie & Lois fondly remember many celebrations together in Bowling Green, KY. Paul was a take charge guy, loved his dear Babs and family, and loved his trains too. May Paul Rest In Peace, job on earth well done buddy. ❤️ Schwitzgebels



Media

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Paul by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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