



William Paul Gates

February 21, 1926 - February 21, 2018

William Paul Gates Jr., age 92, passed away on February 21, 2018 at Franciscan Health Rensselaer. He was born in Rensselaer on February 21, 1926 to the late William Paul Gates, Sr. and Mabel Clara (Eldridge) Gates. On December 24, 1947, he married Helen Ruth Barker who preceded him in death in 1979.

Paul was a lifelong resident of Rensselaer, except for 7 years when he lived in Hessville, IN, and Cedar Lake, IN. He was a 1944 graduate of Rensselaer Central High School and a member of the Rensselaer Church of the Nazarene.

Paul served in the Army Air Corp from 1944-1946 as a B-24 Bomber Aerial Gunner.

Paul was a licensed Master Cosmetologist alongside his wife, Ruth. He owned and operated, Paul's Beauty Salon in Rensselaer, IN, from 1965 to the mid 1980's. Prior to that, he had a beauty salon in Hammond, IN and another in Cedar Lake, IN.

He enjoyed big band music and led a fifteen piece dance band for 17 years called The Paul Gates' Kings of Rhythm, where he played the trumpet and the trombone.

Paul was a life-long member of the V.F.W Post #1279 and served on the House Committee for several years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #29, Rensselaer Lion's Club, Steering Committee of the Weston Cemetery North, and the Alumni Achievement Awards Committee.

Paul worked with the Boy Scouts of America most of his life, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1939. He was able to witness his son, 5 grandchildren, and great-grandson also achieve this special honor. Paul volunteered as a Boy Scout Leader, District Camping and Activities Director, Troop Committee Man, an Institutional Representative for Troop 152, and part of the Board of Directors of Camp Kanne, Inc., serving a period as President.

Paul is survived by his children, Susan (Michael) Miller of Rensselaer, IN, Teresa (Dennis) Garriotte of Naples, FL, John (Nancy) Gates of Indianapolis, IN, and Larry (Lisa) Gates of Brownsburg, IN. In addition, he is survived by his twelve grandchildren, Debbie (Steve) Walker, Kelly (Joe) Longenecker, Troy (Amy) Miller, Jason Garriotte, Brian (Jill) Garriotte, Jeff Garriotte, Charles Gates, Lawrence Gates, James Gates, Richard Gates, Rachel Gates, and Ryan (Madison) Gates and eight great-grandchildren, Eric Walker, Avery Walker, Joel Walker, Garrett Longenecker, Paige Longenecker, Kathryn Garriotte, Elizabeth Miller and Rebecca Miller. Also surviving, Paul's special friend and companion, Miriam Steinkamp of Rensselaer, IN.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, wife, sister, Barbara Brown, granddaughter, Helen Miller, and friend Helen Urbanczyk.

Per Paul's wishes, there will be cremation with private graveside services at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Weston Cemetery

Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Tribute Wall

BE

“ Paul was great guy! Enjoyed his participation at the Men's prayer breakfast most every Saturday. He was great contributor to the community of Rensselaer. Bob Evans

Bob evans - February 28, 2018 at 06:47 PM

TG

“ This is Teresa (Gates) Garriotte. Thank you for all the well wishes and blessings for our dad and grandpa. I especially enjoy the stories, a couple I had not heard so it was fun to know them. He so enjoyed being a jokester and story teller. Thank you all for being such good sports when you were on the receiving end of some of his shenanigans.
He is at peace with Jesus, laughing and enjoying life now, so happy for that.
He wanted to be remembered with laughter. Making everyone around him laugh and to be laughing himself. So be it.
Blessings to all of you.

Teresa (Gates) Garriotte - February 26, 2018 at 03:59 AM

LP

“ What a good man Paul was who touched many lives.

Linda & Mike Pugh

Linda Pugh - February 24, 2018 at 10:05 PM

JS

“ R.I.P. Paul. I remember Paul from Troop 152 camping trips, projects and helping us earn merit badges. He was part of my own journey to earning Eagle Scout. He also taught me how to drive a "three on the tree" in his old van-truck.

Jim Steiner - February 24, 2018 at 02:28 PM

TS

“ So sorry for your loss. I remember him from both Cedar Lake and Rensselaer. He was always a nice man with a big smile.

Threasa Felder Santell - February 24, 2018 at 12:27 PM

JW

“ JIM WALTER lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates



JIM WALTER - February 23, 2018 at 08:41 PM

JW

Rensselaer has lost a great man.I have so many good memories with the family he would spend a lot of time teaching me to fish and hunt He was great a both, sitting for hours ice fishing He also built a huge hockey rick on the side of his house for us kids to play on Thanks for all the fun times tell Ruth I am still sorry about the pheasant That's a story for another day farewell my friend

JIM WALTER - February 23, 2018 at 09:06 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates*



Judy Burvan - February 23, 2018 at 08:26 PM

SU

“ *A great man. Our prayers are with you.*

Steve Urbanczyk - February 23, 2018 at 03:49 PM

CO

“ *Wishing you loving memories of Paul to hold forever in your heart. When my cousin and I were 5 years old he gave us our first salon haircuts. He sat us on a board on his chair, cut our hair in a pixie style, sprayed on some hair spray followed by a sprinkle of "magic glitter" on our bangs. We left the salon feeling like a couple of princesses. His "magic glitter" will be forever missed.*

Cindy Overmyer - February 23, 2018 at 03:20 PM



“ *PAUL WAS A REGULAR AT OUR MENS CHRISTIAN BREAKFAT EVERY MONTH . HE HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR AND WORE THOSE FLASHY SHIRTS , BUT MOST OF ALL A SUPER GREAT GUY - WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT WAS TO CALL HIM A FRIEND.. RON ROBINSON*

Ron Vicki Robinson - February 23, 2018 at 02:25 PM

MB

“ *Myles Beeching lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates*



Myles Beeching - February 23, 2018 at 08:55 AM

TB

“ *Such a sweet, sweet guy...I'm truly sorry to hear of his passing. Deepest condolences to the Gates family. Heaven is one smile brighter now 🕊️*

Tammy Hesson Bottoms - February 23, 2018 at 05:19 AM

ED

“ *I'm really sorry to hear this. Paul was a great guy and I'm sure will be missed by many. He made me laugh many times, and was an enjoyable person to be around. My condolences to the Gates family.*

Ed Davisson - February 23, 2018 at 01:02 AM

PE

“ *Paul was the greatest jokester I ever met and once you got past all of that bluster, he was a super nice guy and a friend you could count on. Everyone who knew Paul is going to miss him.*

Phill Everd - February 22, 2018 at 11:31 PM



“ *Marilyn Lowry lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates*



Marilyn Lowry - February 22, 2018 at 11:07 PM



“ *Paul was loved by so many at JCCS Rensselaer Senior Center. We loved having him join us for exercise, lunch, and special events. His "singing" Hokey Pokey, great sense of humor and smile will be missed. He brought joy to us all.*



Amy Sipkema - February 22, 2018 at 10:56 PM



“ *There will never be another Paul Gates. His sense of humor and laugh made the day for everyone he met. My prayers go out to the family and my friend Miriam. Love too all.*

Judy Mitchell - February 22, 2018 at 10:22 PM



“ I met Paul for the first time when my dad and I were on my dad's daily walk about 7 years ago. It was cold out and I took my hat off when we stopped to visit Paul. He was very talkative, but had a twinkle in his eye. When it was time to go I could not find my hat anywhere. How he did it I don't know, but Paul had hidden my hat and watched while I looked everywhere for it. I could tell he brought a lot of joy to my dad.

Hopefully they are both having a laugh together now.

Dave Chesak - February 22, 2018 at 10:08 PM

LR

“ What a great guy 🤪 Thank you for always making me laugh ❤️

lori templeton rose - February 22, 2018 at 09:24 PM

DW

“ Dave And Becky (Ulm) Walter lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates



Dave and Becky (Ulm) Walter - February 22, 2018 at 08:45 PM



“ Rebecca Chastain lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates



Rebecca Chastain - February 22, 2018 at 08:13 PM

DL

“ *Deb (Yeoman) Lane lit a candle in memory of William Paul Gates*



Deb (Yeoman) Lane - February 22, 2018 at 07:39 PM

DL

“ *I remember Paul and Ruth from the days when they had the hair salon. Such great people. Will always remember Paul's quick witted sense of humor. Condolences to all of his family.*

Deb (Yeoman) Lane - February 22, 2018 at 07:39 PM

TK

“ *EVERY SUNDAY AT CHURCH HE WOULD ASK ME, 'WHERE'S THE BOSS?' [HIS FUN REFERENCE TO MY HUSBAND]..AND I WOULD REPLY, 'IM RIGHT HERE', AS I WOULD SNAP MY FINGERS...HE WOULD LAUGH RIGHT A LONG SIDE ME...GONNA MISS THAT LIL GIGGLE WE SHARED...HE LIKE TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH.*

TONYA R. KNOUFF - February 22, 2018 at 07:04 PM

GK

“ *So sad , my husband Gale who drives a bus for the community center said how much he enjoyed Paul's humor and they always teased each other everyday . I know my parent Ralph and Letty DeMoss enjoyed playing cards with Paul and his beautiful wife in their younge days . We're both so sorry to hear this . Thoughts and Prayers to you all .*



Gale and Noreen Kerns - February 22, 2018 at 06:49 PM

LD

“ *This breaks my heart! He was a wonderful friend to my motger-in-laws, Letty DeMoss.....RIP Paul!*

Linda DeMoss - February 22, 2018 at 06:17 PM