



Paul D. Butler

August 21, 1921 - June 30, 2007

OBITUARY

PAUL DELBERT BUTLER

Paul Delbert Butler, age 85 of Bolivar, passed away at 6:50 AM Saturday, June 30, 2007 in the Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar.

He was born on August 10, 1921 in Dunnegan, Polk County, Missouri the son of Harry Delbert Butler and Tommie Blanch Baker Butler.

He and his brother Bob grew up in Dunnegan, MO where Paul attended grade school. His father & mother owned and operated a general merchandise store until a fire destroyed the business in 1933. The family then moved to Bolivar, where Paul attended and graduated from Bolivar High School in 1940. One of his first jobs at the age of 15, was with Walter S. White and Willard B. Buck Erwin, who owned the White-Erwin Funeral Home in Bolivar. He continued working at the funeral home after high school. In the early 40s he drove a gas truck for the Al Taylor Phillips 66 Oil Distributorship. At the time he was dating Mary Lou Trogdon, whos father, R. Lail Trogdon owned the Standard Oil Distributorship. World War II began, and in in 1942, Paul was drafted in to the United States Army serving with the 3042 Quarter Master Graves Registration

Co. While in Europe he served In Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes in the Central Europe Campaigns. He was awarded 5 Bronze Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal, In addition he was awarded the European-African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon, with two overseas bars. Just before he was discharged he was selected to serve as part of the honor guard at the funeral of General George S. Patton. During a leave from duty, he came back to Bolivar and on April 1, 1943, Paul and Mary Lou were united in marriage. To this union two children, were born, Robert Stephen and Marsha Lou. After the war, Paul came back to Bolivar and worked for Buck Erwin at the funeral home, then enrolled in the The College of Mortuary Science, St. Louis, MO, graduating in 1946. Paul, always had an interest in automobiles and while in St. Louis, he would buy cars for Bill Roberts Chevrolet and drive them back to Bolivar. Upon his return to Bolivar, Paul & Mary Lou established their home. Paul worked for Mr. Erwin at the funeral home and then began selling cars at Bill Roberts Chevrolet in 1947 until 1958. He was one of the Top 10 Salesman in the U. S. in 1955 in the Chevrolet Motor Division. After the death of Mr. Erwin, Paul and Mary Lou purchased the Willard B. Erwin Funeral Home from Mrs. Elsie Erwin on August 16, 1958.

Paul was involved in the Bolivar Community for many years, serving as the President of the Chamber Of Commerce, President of the Bolivar Kiwanis Club and was Polk County Coroner for many years. He is also a member of the First Christian Church of Bolivar. He was a life member and the oldest living member of the Howard S. Keeling American Legion Post #138 in Bolivar, also a life member of the Veterans Of Foreign Wars. He was recognized as a 60 year member of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and the National Funeral Directors Association. Also a member of the Missouri Cattlemans Association and the Polk County Cattlemans Association.

Paul loved to fish on Lake Pomme de Terre and Stockton Lake and was an

avid quail and pheasant hunter, making many trips with his local buddies to Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Paul also had a memorable fishing and hunting trip to Canada with his friend Joe Rayl, which he loved to talk about. He also had a cow-calf farming operation for many years. Since Paul had the love for automobiles, he was always trying to find a car for people to buy and later became a dealer, establishing Paul Butler Motors, until his health began to fail and he gave up his dealers license at the end of 2006.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert Daniel Butler and Sarah Jane (Wollard) Butler; Charley Baker and Daisy Grace (Paul) Baker; his father-in-law and mother-in-law R. Lail Trogdon and Mary Elizabeth (Bowers) Trogdon, his parents, Harry D. Butler and Tommie Blanch (Baker) Butler; his brother, Charley Bob Butler and his wife Mary Lou (Trogdon) Butler.

Surviving is his son, R. Stephen Butler and his wife Jarolyn of Bolivar; his daughter Marsha Lou Butler and grandson Justin Michael Butler of Springfield, MO; his sister-in-law Alice Butler of Bolivar, his nephew Brent Butler of Bolivar and his niece, Jana Veith and husband John of Springfield, MO; Also his aunt, Flossie Grace Smith of Bolivar. Several cousins and a host of many friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, July 5, 2007 at the Butler Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend Harold Hendrickson and the Reverend Doctor Ron McIntire officiating. Eulogy and Obituary reading will be by Kenneth R. Howe, and Charles W. Vaughn. Music selections will be How Great Thou Art Amazing Grace (Going Home) performed by Ronan Tynan, "I Can Only Imagine" by MercyMe. and "Go Rest High On That Mountain" by Vince Gill. Also a patriotic salute to all veterans.

Casketbearers will be Ralph Butler, Joe Rayl, Charles W. Vaughn, Darrol

Cribbs, Justin Butler, Kenneth R. Howe. Honorary Casketbearers will be:
Phillip L. Smith, Charles J. Martin, Robert W. Watkins, Lowell Inman.

Burial will be in the Greenwood Cemetery under the direction of the Butler
Funeral Home of Bolivar.

Military honors will be conducted by the AMVETS Post 114 of Flemington,
MO.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Christian Church of Bolivar
or the American Heart Association.

Friends may sign the guest book or send private condolences at www.butlerfuneralhome.com

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul D. Butler*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Paul D. Butler*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Well, I knew and worked with Paul and at times he was a very difficult man to work for not with. He loved his children and his job. I wish him well and now he is at peace.*

henry - February 16, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I met Mr. Butler at the drivers license bureau when my oldest daughter was getting her license (he did ask if we were looking for a car!). He introduced himself to me and was very friendly and nice to chat with.*

I just wanted to let you know that today I was at Greenwood Cemetery with the Cub Scouts and the boys honored him for his service and placed a flag on his grave for Veterans Day.

Kathy Stepp - November 09, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *We send our condolences to all of you, at Butler fh. from all of us at the Crafton-Cantrell funeral home.*

Crafton-Cantrell funeral home - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Steve--Pat and I are both very saddened by the loss of your father. He was a very special man. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Tom and Pat Maxwell - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Dear Butler Family,

I will always have fond memories of Paul Butler and how he was truly an enthusiastic and courteous servant to the Bolivar community. His friendship and service to our families will forever be appreciated. Although I cannot be there today, I will be there in spirit to pay tribute to Paul and pray that the Butler family will know the peace that only God can bring.

Bill Gravely - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Steve, Jarolyn, Marsha and family,

I am so sorry to hear of your father's passing. He was always so friendly and open to everyone. I was always so impressed at how he just seemed to know everyone and always had time to speak in a very personal way. It was an honor and pleasure to know him.

All of you are in my thoughts and prayers as you deal with the passing of your father. Thank you for sharing your memories with us.

Dennis Cooper - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Paul was a wonderful friend to my family. He would tell about pulling me in a little red wagon at my house when I was about 1 year old. I always tried to see him when I returned to Bolivar. We would talk about how he helped my Dad (Oscar Waggoner) when Dad ran the bakery way back in the 40's. Long gone are the people from way back then, but never forgotten. Paul made everyone feel welcome where ever he was at.
Paul will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Patricia (Waggoner) McGhee - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Paul D. Butler

Lyle, Florence, Kirk & Toni Clinkingbeard - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Dear Butler Family, I want to extend my condolences in the loss of Paul. He was a wonderful man. I am Ruby Dean Fidler's youngest daughter, and had an opportunity when I lived in Springfield several years ago to get to know Paul and Marsha and Justin. He was always so kind to me and to my mother, who saw him frequently. I relocated to Tennessee two years ago, and was unable to return for the funeral. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. I know that Paul is smiling down on all of us. God Bless You.
Trish Fidler Turley

Patricia (Trish) Fidler Turley - July 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Steve and family,
So sorry to hear about the death of your dad. You are in our
thoughts and prayers. -

Dean & Mary Adams and all of us in Ozark & Nixa

Dean & Mary Adams - July 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Steve, Jarolyn, Marsha Lou and Justin--There are absolutely NO
WORDS to express how sad I feel. We all feel like your family is a
part of our family and I could go on and on about how much Paul
helped Mom after Daddy died but you don't have room or time and
I'm sure I couldn't remember everthing anyway.
You all have my love and prayers.

Shirley Gorden - July 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Steve and Family,

*Our deepest sympathy at this very difficult time. Your father was
very well known in the Bolivar area and within the Missouri Funeral
Directors Association. Our prayers go out to you and your family.*

*Shawn and Loree Parcels
Staff of Parcels Family Funeral Service Group.*

Shawn and Loree Parcels - July 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ May love and comfort surround the Butler family.

Meara Mitchell - July 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Dear family and friends I was saddened to hear the news of the death of Paul. He will be missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers go out to loved ones at this difficult time of loss. Remember that "Those who live in the hearts of others never die."

Louis F Smith Jr - July 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear of your losing your father.. I had appreciated your kindness and getting to know your family during my loss. The Bible gives a wonderful hope of the resurrection John 5:28. It is comforting to know that he is sleeping and restful.

Sheila Brandt - July 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ We are saddened at the loss of Paul - a friend and someone we admired and respected. He and Mary Lou made such a positive impact upon us as young people, and throughout the years as a model of friendship, professionalism and a life well-lived. His influence will leave a lasting mark in the community for many years, and his legacy is one that cannot be replicated.

Our love and sympathy to Stephen, Marsha Lou and families.

Love and Prayers,

Larry and Kay Davis

Larry and Kay Davis - July 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ Paul was my mentor in funeral service, he was like a second father. I always respected Paul and learned many things that have carrier on to this day at my funeral. I find myself saying quite often, " is this they Paul would have done it", Paul was a perfectionist in every endeavor. While I'm sad that he's gone, in a sense, he will never leave since he is in the hearts of many "kids" that went into our profession because of Paul. We wanted to be "just like Paul Butler, Love, Chuck and Linda.

chuck and linda vaughn - July 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Stephen and Marsha Lou - I just saw your father's obituary via the online edition of the Herald-Free Press. On behalf of my brother, Mark, please accept my deepest sympathies.

Your Dad was a great friend to my father, Fred. In fact, all of you went out of your way to help Dad on countless occasions, invite him to holiday dinners, visit him in the hospital, and just "be there." It was a comfort to my Mom and I (living in Chicago) that Dad had such good friends in Bolivar. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Please accept our sympathies on the passing of a very colorful and nice guy, Paul Butler.

Chris Mahaffey

Chris Mahaffey - July 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ may god be with you at this time of sorrow.

debbie and kenny jackson - July 02, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I have known Paul for many years and he was always such a sweet and funny man. It saddens me to hear of his passing but I am thankful that I at least had the chance to have known him. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time, and I pray that there will be peace within each of them knowing that Paul has went home to be with the Lord.

Cissy (Reed) Jones - July 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Words can never express my sincere condolences for Paul's family. My heart is so saddened of the lose of Paul. I have so many fond memories of Paul and Mary Lou. They both were two of the finest people I have ever known. I will always cherish the pearl bracket that they gave to me at the time of my high school graduation. I wear it still to this day with honor because it was given to me by both of them. Paul was a very giving person. He helped so many people within the Bolivar community during his life. There was many times in my early adult life that he helped me out when I needed it. Also, the Butler family was so good to my "Aunt Henry". Thank you Paul D. bulter for being such a giving person! I will cherish the last time I saw Paul. He gave me a big hug and kiss on the cheek. He will always be remembered! My prayers are with you all.

Sincerely,
Libby Friend Farrell

Libby Friend Farrell - July 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Please accept our Christian sympathy, in this hour of grief. You have been there so many times, through the years as a family for our family.

We are praying for you, that each of you will be aware of the presence of God, as He comforts you.

Love

The Stewart's

Barbara and Pastor Gary
(grandson of Okley & Ruth (Gent) Hopkins.

Barbara and Pastor Gary Stewart - July 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Marsha Lou and Stephen:

Paul was a real good friend and we will miss him very much. There are so many good memories of the many good time we all shared with both Paul and Mary Lou.

You both should be very proud of your father he was a one of a kind as I am sure you both know very well. I know both of you will miss him not being with you but you will always have the memories for ever.

We are so sorry we can not attend the funeral but Paul will be in our thought,

Love

John & Darlene

JOHN & DARLENE HEETER - July 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We always appreciated Paul's kindness whenever we saw him and we know he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.*

Betty Gamble - July 01, 2007 at 12:00 AM