



Paul E. O'Hara

May 1, 1932 - February 22, 2021

UTICA – Paul E. O'Hara, 88, passed away at home, surrounded by his loving family, on Monday, February 22, 2021.

Paul was born on May 1, 1932, in Niagara Falls, NY, the son of James "Nick" A. and Pearl (Paltrowitch) O'Hara. He was a graduate of Bishop Duffy High School, Niagara Falls, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from NC State, where he also played football. On June 12, 1954, after graduating from college, Paul married Helen Richards, his high school sweetheart and the love of his life. They shared 66 loving years together. He was employed with Bendix for 34 years, prior to retiring in 1991. Paul had also taught Math at Notre Dame High School and worked in the resource room for 20 years.

Paul was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He absolutely loved coaching, having coached Minor League and Babe Ruth baseball, C.Y.O. basketball for both boys and girls, and Notre Dame football. Paul was an avid golfer, a voracious reader, die-hard Giants and Red Sox fan, and a proud member of the "Steps" program at Utica College. He was the life of every party and always the first person dancing at weddings and gatherings. Paul loved Beach Haven, NJ, where he had spent precious time with his family over the past 50 years.

Paul is survived by his beloved wife, Helen; children and their spouses, Susan O'Hara Sullivan, Pattie and Rich Preston, Kathie and Jim Hecox, Kellie and Tom Clark, and Dan and Meggan O'Hara; grandchildren, Claire and Laura Preston, Maureen and Austin Kiley, Bob, Mike and Bill Hecox, Olivia Clark, Emily, Sarah, Grace and Molly O'Hara. He also leaves over 50 wonderful nieces and nephews. Paul was predeceased by his parents, Nick and Pearl O'Hara; his in-laws, George and Elizabeth Richards, his son-in-law, Mark Sullivan; siblings and their spouses, Don and Helen O'Hara, Dorothy and Joe Downs, James O'Hara, Phil, Joan O'Hara, Roger and Kathy O'Hara and Jerry and Patty O'Hara.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call on Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors, 470 French Rd., Utica. Funeral services will

be on Friday at 12 p.m. at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. All COVID protocols will be followed. Those wishing to attend Mass virtually may do so using the following link - www.youtube.com/c/JoeSalernoOLOL. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Paul's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org, the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Fund or The Joseph Michael Chubbuck Foundation, Inc. at www.thejmcf.org, which provides financial assistance to cancer patients as well as advocates for those in need of information and guidance. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

The O'Hara family would like to thank Dr. Thomas John, Hematology & Oncology Associates of Syracuse and Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. for the care and compassion shown to Paul.

A proper Irish gathering will be held at a safer time.

Follow link to Paul's video tribute:<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/H8SFY5DTSY9SN2CZ>

Cemetery

Events

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street

Utica, NY, 13501

FEB **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:00PM

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McGrath, Myslinski, Karboski & Nunn Funeral Directors
470 French Road, Utica, NY, US, 13502

Comments



“ How does one say goodbye to one's dearest friend. From the time Paul volunteered to join the ND football coaching staff we became fast friends. Our wives joined us for after game dinners and carried on those dining out evenings when football had nothing to do with it. The four of us developed a very close friendship. Dinners together became the norm.

As time went on the friendship between Paul and I grew to something much stronger. When I retired he and Robin secretly signed me up for a membership at the Eagles Golf Club. After one year he conned me into joining the Tuesday Morning senior league. That was the summer of 2006 and we became mainstays in both the Tuesday and Thursday leagues. Partners until the end. I have not participated in either league since he officially quit. It just doesn't seem the same without my partner.

During our coaching time the ND football players started calling him grandpa. It just naturally followed for the coaches to call him dad. I never stopped and it became much more than a funny thing to me. It just felt natural. He had that kind of connection with me. The golfers actually believed he was my dad. I didn't have any difficulty letting those who just went right on thinking it after we explained it to just let them go on believing it. The majority of them just continued to call him dad and every once in a while someone would say something about "your son" and he would just look at me and chuckle. He didn't correct them either.

I will always remember him as most others do. All of the adjectives are appropriate. He was my dearest friend. Robin and I loved him and will think of him often and keep a special spot in our hearts for him.

Good bye, dear friend. Until.....

Terry Cleveland - February 26, 2021 at 03:46 PM



“ Helen and family,
We just finished viewing the live stream of Paul's funeral mass... beautiful and inspirational. Thank you for sharing.
God's blessings to you all.
Love, Joyce and Mike Duignan

Joyce Duignan - February 26, 2021 at 01:28 PM



“ Dear Helen and Family,

I worked with Paulat Bendix in the same department. This was my first job out of college. Paul and I worked on many projects together. He was so helpful in guiding me in my assignments and always provided suggestions to finish my tasks. After hearing from Paul how fun it was to play golf in Thursday night league, I also bought golfclubs and joined the league. It was also fun playing golf with both of you on weekends. Paul and you were so helpful when I returned to Utica with my wife Jaya for the first time. We were so fortunate to have known you. We were saddened when you called and informed us that Paul was in hospice care. Every Christmas for more than 50 years I looked forward to getting Christmas card from Paul. He always mentioned how he was looking forward to see all the family members at home in Utica. May his soul rest in peace. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.
Jaya and Nemjee Chheda

nemjee - February 26, 2021 at 11:50 AM



“ Helen and family:

Paul and you have touched our lives ever since I arrived in Utica, including the arrival of my wife. At work and outside of work, your family has assisted us when needed. Your Christmas card every year arrived early except this year.

We were sorry to find out that he was seriously ill. We will miss him.
He is resting in peace now.
We wish your family peace and strength.

Raghu and Subha

Raghu Iyer - February 26, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ Dear Susan,

I am deeply sorry for your loss and my heart goes out to you and your mom and family. I feel very fortunate to have met your dad, even if it was for a moment. I know he was an extraordinary and wonderful man, not only upon meeting him but he raised a wonderful daughter. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Please let me know if you need anything-anytime.

Love,
Shane Santini



Shane Santini - February 26, 2021 at 09:23 AM



“ Coach O'hara will be missed. Memory Eternal Coach. Always a great supporter and mentor. My prayer's go to Helen and your family. Memory Eternal.
-Michael Plonisch (Class of '98 ND)

MICHAEL J PLONISCH - February 26, 2021 at 09:02 AM



“ Dear Susan and Paul,
I will miss you so much! I remember when Susan says about Paul, she is so proud of him. When I met Paul at Clemson SON, I remember he is very bright and nice person. I will pray for Paul's peach and God's love for him. Thank you. I will miss you Susan and your family.
Best, Josephine Hyewon Shin

Josephine Hyewon - February 26, 2021 at 01:45 AM



“ Dear Helen and family,
Paul was one of the dearest men we've ever known. He was the consummate gentleman. We so enjoyed playing golf with him at the Eagle's Club. He always had a warm hello and a wonderful smile. He loved to share stories about his wonderful family, and truly loved his vacations at the shore. We will truly miss him. He made everyone feel special. They just don't make them like Paul anymore. He will surely be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to the family. Hoping he's sharing his smile and beautiful personality with others. Until we meet again. Gail and Rick Lewis

Gail and Rick Lewis - February 25, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ Dan,

I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. What an outstanding person and someone I'll never forget.

When I first moved to Utica in the early '90's, you and your family were so kind to me. The O'Hara's welcomed me and really provided a young guy right out of school with the peace and calm that comes with having a "family" to turn to. Your mother made a lot of PB&J's, and I still vividly remember watching the AFC and NFC championship games at your house....and it made me feel great.

Paul was a terrific guy. Down to earth and a straight shooter. I'm far better off for having known him. My thoughts are with you and the whole family.

Rob Fowler

Rob Fowler - February 24, 2021 at 08:12 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 24, 2021 at 07:52 PM



“ I worked with Paul at Bendix and will always remember his signature bright smile. He was one of the good ones - always upbeat and cheery, willing to lend support, be a part of the solution, a pleasure to work with. Surely his students at Notre Dame will reflect on him as a mentor. Rest in peace Paul and blessings to your wife Helen and your family.

Dyann Scharf - February 24, 2021 at 07:21 PM



“ So many memories...from asking me to "help feed Lucky," by sitting in his bowl, to trying to get around the "no calling during homework" time by driving over, to surprising you & Danny at Camden Yards, and "Butterfly Kisses" at Kellie & Tom's wedding...so many more. Thank you Mr O'Hara, for always being a gentleman and setting the bar high for how to be an example for our families. Miss you already Love and prayers to Mrs O, Kellie, Tom, Livvy and the whole family.

Tina McKillop - February 24, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ Dearest Susan,
You are a very special person, an innovator, a woman of excellence. Your father had much of which he could be proud! My condolences on the loss of your father.

Sincerest regards,

Lucia

Lucia Gonzales PhD, Associate Director of Research, Clemson University School of Nursing

lucia gonzales - February 24, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 24, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ Dear Susan,
I send my condolences to you and your family on the loss of your precious father.
In sympathy,
Sara Sarasua

Sara Sarasua - February 24, 2021 at 12:44 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 24, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ Eamon, Margy and Ryan Massett purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



Eamon, Margy and Ryan Massett - February 24, 2021 at 09:41 AM



“ Frank and Julie Ehrensbeck purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



Frank and Julie Ehrensbeck - February 24, 2021 at 09:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 24, 2021 at 07:43 AM



“ Paul O'Hara was a sweet and kind neighbor! Would always wave in his blue SUV when he drove around the island. Rest In Peace to such a nice man..

Gennaro Durso - February 23, 2021 at 08:54 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 23, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 23, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Paul E. O'Hara.



February 23, 2021 at 04:10 PM



“ Paul was a great colleague and friend at Notre Dame. He was always ready to lend a hand and share a gentle and caring smile. Our prayers go out to Helen and his entire family. God be with you all. - Joyce and Michael Duignan

Joyce Duignan - February 23, 2021 at 03:49 PM