



Paul Thomas Godfrey Jr.

October 19, 1947 - January 6, 2025

“You know the ancient Egyptians had a beautiful belief about death. When their souls got to the entrance to heaven, the guards asked two questions. Their answers determined whether they were able to enter or not. ‘Have you found joy in your life?’ ‘Has your life brought joy to others?’”

Morgan Freeman

The Bucket List

Paul Thomas Godfrey Jr, better known as “Tom,” nailed it on both questions. His life was filled with an abundance of joy and love, given and received.

Tom passed away on January 6, 2025, at the age of 77 in Powell, Ohio. He was born on October 19, 1947, in Louisville, KY, where his love began for Kentucky basketball, thoroughbred horses, and his wife Sue O’Neill. Tom and Sue began dating while in college at the University of Kentucky and married on March 28, 1969, in Louisville, KY. In the years that followed, he raised two children and shared his gift of gab, storytelling, and ability to tell a joke with many friends along the way. This is probably why he did so well in his career in medical sales.

Tom made the world a better place by being in it. He brought love, laughter and joy to family, friends, and anyone who crossed his path. He found joy in

life by being surrounded by his family. Some of his favorite times were spent with his family on the beach in Emerald Isle, playing in the waves, body surfing, dressing up as a pirate for a family treasure hunt, getting buried in the sand by his grandchildren and playing Marco Polo in the pool. Tom always loved a good time and enjoyed getting together with friends and neighbors. He loved his crossword puzzles and playing Rummikub. Those fortunate to have known Tom will remember the laughter, the fun, and the joy he brought into their lives.

Tom is survived by his wife Sue, his son Tom Godfrey (Joan Klein), daughter Gretchen Gies, sister Paula Knopf (Paul Knopf), and grandchildren Patrick, Sophie, Reiley and Kendall. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Norma Godfrey. The family will honor Tom in a private ceremony. They would like to thank all of the angels among us who took care of Tom. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compassus Living Foundation, 503 N. Euclid Avenue, Suite 9E, Bay City, MI 48706.
<https://compassuslivingfoundation.org/>

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Tom was my older cousin on my dad's side of the family. He took us to Mammoth Cave along with our parents. They didn't want to tour the cave so Tom took care of us. I remember at Dad's funeral Tom did a reading and Aunt Norma got confused because she thought Tom was Dad. Sue and family, I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I bet he was greeted at Heaven's gate by my Dad, sister and brother. My prayers are with you for comfort.

Martha Kalkhof Hartman

Martha Hartman - January 17, 2025 at 11:03 AM

PF

“ Tom was such a joy and blessing to anyone who knew him. Never a sad face or heart did he ever show. This is what made him shine above most people I knew. His love for his friends and family showed everyone that this is the journey in life one should take to be truly happy. Sue and Tom belonged to our group called Magical Mystery Tour that would meet once a month to do some different and fun activities. The pictures included here are just some of kookie things we did: a rodeo, a tour of Malabar Farms including its spooky graveyard story, to rides in an activity center among many others. Whatever we did Tom always had a wonderful smile on his face. His adventurous attitude always displayed the zest for life he had. He is truly an Emerald Isle gem that always shined. I am so very fortunate and blessed to have had him as a friend. Trishia Farrell



Particia A Farrell - January 15, 2025 at 01:40 PM

EH

“ Uncle Tom was always so much fun to be around I have so many fond memories of him interacting and being silly with Tommy , Gretchen , Kathleen and myself . One of the numerous memories of my many summers in Louisville was when Uncle Tom was also there and he helped the kids try to “ catch a bunny rabbit .” He had a shoe box supported on one end by a pencil with a string tied to it and a carrot under the box . Tommy , Gretchen , Kathleen and I waited for hours hoping a bunny would hop under the box to get the carrot and we could pull the string and catch the bunny (just for a peak , quick gaze of admiration , not to keep for a pet .) After hours of no success we all went to bed very disappointed. The next morning Uncle Tom woke us up with news that the box was down ! We must have a bunny ! We all ran out to the box and when we lifted it we found Gretchen’s stuffed animal bunny ! We all turned and looked at Uncle Tom knowing he must have been behind the prank . No one was upset or had hurt feelings we all just laughed along with Uncle Tom ! Such a small moment yet I have never forgotten it He was always up to something entertaining !!! I love you Uncle Tom .



Erin Helf - January 11, 2025 at 11:06 AM

RG

“ Pa is the greatest grandpa to ever be. His presence was a great gift, and if you know him, you love him. He is so strong, and really taught me resilience. No matter what life threw at Pa, he always had a huge smile on his face. I am soooo lucky to have grown up with so much love from Mimi and pa. They are truly my biggest cheerleaders, and the best support system. Pa is so loved and cherished, he truly made such a huge impact on my life, and many others. He is also such an amazing father, him and Mimi raised the most amazing kids.

I am so grateful to have so many amazing memories with Pa, ones I will cherish for the rest of my life. I'm going to miss him so so much, but I am lucky for the time we had together.

As Mimi always says, get your hugs and kisses when you can. Spread love and let everyone know you love them.

Pa, I can't wait to see you again, I will hold you close to my heart. I love you ❤️

reiley gies - January 10, 2025 at 08:00 PM

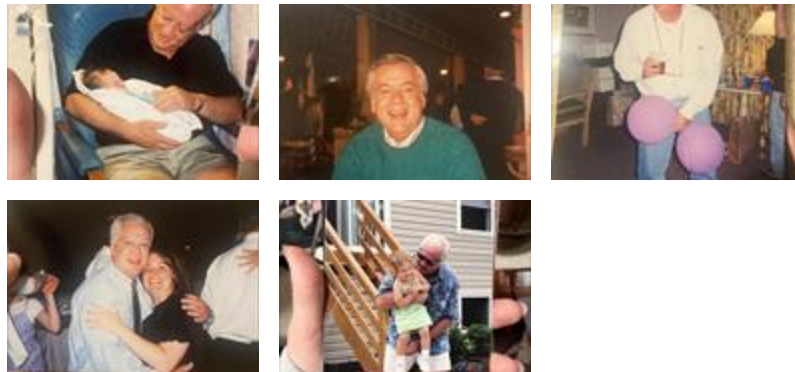


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reiley gies - January 10, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul Thomas Godfrey Jr..



January 10, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Thomas Godfrey Jr..

January 10, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Paul Thomas Godfrey Jr., give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.
My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Veteran, Paul Thomas Godfrey Jr., is “A True American Hero”
God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - January 08, 2025 at 11:32 AM