



Paul Krivak

December 9, 1931 - December 29, 2023

Paul Krivak, master storyteller, beloved patriarch, and “leader” of Upper Arlington’s Senior Center

Carving Group, died peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Friday, December 29, 2023.

Paul grew up the middle child of six in Hazelton, Pennsylvania primarily raised by his coal-miner

first-generation Slovak-immigrant father. Sadly, his mother died due to a heart condition when he

was just seven years old. He was described as a reserved, quiet fellow in his high school yearbook; a

description sure to elicit a chuckle from those who knew him in later years.

After graduating from high school, Paul, set out on an epic journey by ship and train to the village of

Bystre, now located in eastern Slovakia in August 1949. He was curious to see for himself if news

reports of communist Czechoslovakia were true. He quickly improved his Slovak and settled into

rural life with his uncle, a Lutheran minister, and family. He had planned to spend two years

studying in Czechoslovakia.

The tightening of control by the communist government and a warning from the U.S. Embassy hastened his return to the states and he set out to return in April 1950. He remarked in his travel journal seeing the still badly damaged city of Hamburg from WWII air raids as he made his way back to the United States. Despite the distance and years between visits to Slovakia, the relationship with his cousins and to his cultural heritage, forged during this time, remained strong and an enriching presence throughout his life.

Once he settled back in the Pennsylvania, he enrolled at Pennsylvania State University and graduated in June 1954 with a Bachelor of Arts in Arts and Letters with a major in Political Science. Shortly after graduation, he entered military service first in July 1954 and then in December 1955 as a commissioned officer, 2nd Lieutenant in intelligence. He was reassigned to a position driving a truck and narrowly missed a flight that killed all his fellow airmen. His service included time above the north pole in Greenland January 1956 becoming part of the "Order of Midnight Wanders". He honorably served during the end of Korean War and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. He left the active service in July 1956, but remained standby for a decade after. He was heavily recruited by the CIA for his language skills, but he chose a different path.

He settled into insurance after a short stint teaching and in law school. His insurance career would lead him to accept a transfer promotion from Pennsylvania to Ohio as an Insurance Claims Supervisor in the fall of 1972 for State Auto Mutual. State Auto forbade its employees to date, however he met and began dating Donna surreptitiously in the spring of 1973. Their first date, "down to the woods" to the Hocking Hills would lead to wedding bells January 18, 1974. Their love would nurture, DJ, and welcome Sarah and John into the world.

Paul retired from State Auto Companies in January of 1994, but he did not stay retired long. A year later he returned to fill in for vacationers and work part-time until he fully retired twelve years later. He would also moonlight as one-fourth of a paper delivery family empire delivering newspapers nearly ten year beginning in winter 1993.

In later years, Paul became an avid and talented wood carver starting first with duck decoys and graduating to all manner of figurines. He also enjoyed the daily comics and could usually be found completing even the most difficult crossword puzzles and cryptograms. He believed profoundly in the power of education and an honest day's work. He loved his ever expanding family and never met a stranger he failed to entertain with a story. Always the critical thinker and with deep-knowledge of

the Bible, he relished causing controversy during Bible study and Sunday School at Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church where he regularly attended for many decades.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents Andrew and Elizabeth Krivak; sister, Elizabeth; brothers Andrew and John.

Paul is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Donna "Dene" Krivak; son, David "D.J." (Karen); daughter, Sarah Marie Krivak Noppen (Michael); son, John (Bethany Reiner); grandchildren, Jeff (Christina), Logan Curtis (Melissa), Britni Brown (TJ), Mareah, Jeremiah, Kamantha Munro (James), Nathaniel, Michael, Logan Hoss, Savannah, Elijah, Bentley and Hank; great-grandchildren, Derex, Aria, Elliott, Oliver Brown, Quinn Brown, Colton Hill, Bellamy Munro and Georgia Munro; sister, Margaret; and sister, Ludmila Hale.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church at 3660 Kenny Road in Columbus, Ohio on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00pm.

A small graveside prayer service will be held at Greenlawn Cemetery in Chillicothe, Ohio on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 2:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in honor of Paul can be made to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, American Cancer Society, or OhioHealth Hospice.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 11. 6:00 PM (ET)

Advent Lutheran Church
3660 Kenny Rd
Upper Arlington, OH 43220

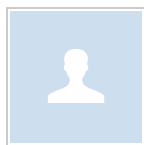
Tribute Wall



“ I send prayers and hugs of comfort to your family.



Jennifer Hilton Montero - January 11, 2024 at 06:39 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Krivak.

January 11, 2024 at 04:13 PM

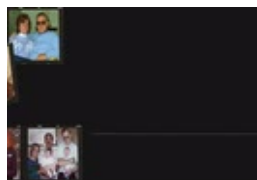


“ Uncle Paul, you will forever in our hearts and memories, rest in peace 🕊️🙏

Alexandra Pacutova - January 11, 2024 at 04:18 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



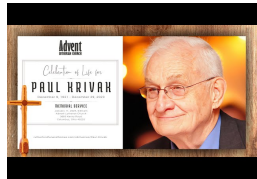
Sarah Noppen - January 10, 2024 at 11:35 PM



Alexandra Pacutova - January 11, 2024 at 04:13 AM

SN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sarah Noppen - January 10, 2024 at 11:29 PM

SN

Paul's Memorial Service will be lived streamed on YouTube. Please join us virtually if you cannot attend in person.

Sarah Noppen - January 10, 2024 at 11:32 PM

&V

Dear Palko, we have beautiful memories of you that cannot be forgotten, you will remain in our hearts forever Cousin Milka and family

Ľubica Višňovcová - January 11, 2024 at 09:09 AM



I am so sorry I missed his Memorial. I had my dates mixed up love and prayers.

Chris Perdue - January 15, 2024 at 09:59 PM

GE

“ *“Uncle Paul”, as I called him, was a gentleman and scholar. He mentored a fresh out of college trainee back in 77 and kept me grounded, eager to learn and ready to pursue a career at SA. He succeeded and after 32 years at SA and 10 more at another insurer I want say thank you “Uncle Paul” rest well. Bless you Donna and family.*

Gary Evans - January 10, 2024 at 06:11 PM

DB

“ Dear Donna, I have such fond memories of Paul at State Auto, he was such a kind and caring man. May your precious memories of Paul and the loving arms of Christ hold you and your family close and provide encouragement forever.

Dave Boling - January 09, 2024 at 04:13 PM

NE

“ My favorite story about Paul: Paul retired while I was CRO branch manager in the 90's. He lived just 3 blocks from my house and I would see Paul regularly as he and his son delivered the neighborhood newspaper. He always made a lot of conversation about SA and claims in particular. I could tell he was bored. I asked him if he'd like to come back to work part-time and he JUMPED at the chance and our branch office was stronger for his help! Much affection for Paul, Donna, and his family. - Nancy Edwards

nancy edwards - January 06, 2024 at 11:02 AM

JB

“ The Bunger family are deeply sorry for your loss. Prayers out to your family.

John Bunger - January 05, 2024 at 11:47 AM

JA

“ Prayers for family and friends. John & Teresa Angus

john angus - January 04, 2024 at 08:56 PM

CM

“ 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 Krivak, 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 Krivak, 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 J Skinner Tri-State Military Muse - January 04, 2024 at 03:38 PM

FF

“ From Slovakia - Sasha Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Krivak.

From Slovakia - Sasha Family - January 04, 2024 at 02:22 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Paul Krivak.



January 04, 2024 at 02:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul Krivak.



January 04, 2024 at 09:51 AM



“ Dwayne, Wendy, and kids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Krivak.

Dwayne, Wendy, and kids - January 04, 2024 at 09:51 AM



“ It is with a heavy heart that I extend my deepest condolences to you and your family on the passing of Paul, who led the woodcarvers group at the Upper Arlington Senior Center with unwavering dedication and a perpetual smile. Paul brought creativity and a sense of camaraderie to the woodcarvers group, leaving an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to be a part of it. May his memory continue to live on in the masterpieces created by the woodcarvers group and in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing them. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

-Shannon Guy & UA Senior Center Staff



Shannon Guy - January 04, 2024 at 09:47 AM