



Paul Lawrence Bryan

August 20, 1957 - December 25, 2020

Fare you well, fare you well

I love you more than words can tell

Listen to the river sing sweet songs

To rock my soul - Brokedown Palace, Grateful Dead

Paul Lawrence Bryan, 63, Bloomington, Indiana, began his life on August 20, 1957. He left this world too soon on December 25, 2020.

Paul spent his early years in Munster, Indiana, graduating from Munster High School in 1975. He went on to study Biology, Environmental Studies, and Speech Communication at Indiana University and IUPUI, graduating with a Bachelor of Science.

A man of many experiences and talents, Paul held a range of jobs and occupations throughout his life, starting as a newspaper boy and concluding as executive director of People and Animal Learning Services (PALS) in Bloomington, Indiana. In between he labored in the steel mills, served in the Air Force, worked on a shrimp boat, developed life-long cooking skills in the kitchen of a German restaurant, and found his passion as an environmental activist.

He was an avid outdoorsman and was happiest when hiking in the woods, canoeing, or sailing on Lake Michigan and Lake Monroe. He will be remembered for his devotion to preserving wild areas and helping others experience their beauty, a commitment he inherited from his father, who worked with Save the Dunes to preserve the Indiana Dunes for generations to come.

Paul's environmental and preservation efforts included being an integral part of establishing the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area, lobbying for the Sierra Club, Izaak Walton League, and Citizens Action Coalition, with a focus on hazardous waste issues, at the Indiana Statehouse. In addition, he represented the Indiana Department of Environmental Management under Governor Evan Bayh and served as development

director and lobbyist for the Indiana Forest Alliance.

Above all, Paul deeply loved his children, Anna and Samuel. He is survived by his daughter, Anna Bryan; son, Samuel Bryan; former wife and friend Sally Morris; father, Paul Bryan; sisters, Jeanine (Dennis Briefel), Roseann (Robert Erikson), Maureen (Mike Foos), Joan (Ken Vatz), and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Rosemary (Shields) Bryan, and brother-in-law, Dennis Briefel.

When the world is safe again, Paul's family plans to have a celebration of life gathering. Anna and Sam encourage those who knew and loved Paul to reflect on good memories while taking a walk in the woods, floating down a river, catching the wind on a sailboat, or listening to the music of Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, who brought him joy and spoke to his soul.

Should you wish, donations may be made in his memory to People and Animal Learning Services (PALS) to be used towards the creation of a new sensory experience trail that will be created later this spring through a partnership Paul helped to establish with the Monro County Autism Foundation. Donations may be made online at <https://palstherapy.org/donate/> by selecting the memorial fund option or mailed to P.O. Box 1033, Bloomington, IN 47402.

If you prefer, donations may also be made in his memory to the Lake Monroe Sailing Association, to be used toward Paul's passionate vision to establish a program for disadvantaged youth to experience the joy of sailing. Donations may be sent to Lake Monroe Sailing Association, P.O. Box 5966, Bloomington, IN 47407.

His family and friends would enjoy any condolences, photos or memories you wish to share at <http://www.allencares.com>

Comments



“ It's been way too easy to lose touch with people you care about during the pandemic. I only today discovered that Paul died - we last talked in mid-November. I was thinking of him as the weather has been getting nicer; I figured he would be looking forward to getting back on the water. Anyway, I just wanted to express my deepest condolences to his family. Paul was one of the most unique people I've ever met - a gifted storyteller who lived a life full of adventure and curiosity. He had a great sense of humor. Loved his kids and was so proud of them. Was kind and caring, and a pioneering environmentalist who did so much to protect and preserve the forests of Indiana. I will miss going sailing with him, having funny text exchanges or phone calls, and meeting up with him for lunch on occasion. This world was very blessed to have him.

Amanda Kingsbury - March 19 at 10:25 AM



“ Thank you Amanda. I know he valued your friendship. - Sally

Sally Morris - March 30 at 12:36 PM



“ Paul and I worked together at IDEM. He was a wonderful man with great passion, humor and intelligence combined to protect Indiana's environment. Many years later, Paul and I were friends on Facebook, usually commiserating about politics, another of our common interests. I so enjoyed his photos of his new kitty and his sailing adventures. He seemed a man at great Peace. May God protect and continue to use his beautiful soul.

My sincerest condolences to his loving family.

Kathy Prosser Bovard

Kathy Bovard - January 29 at 10:19 AM



“ I had the great privilege of meeting Paul on several occasions in 2019, as he was exploring his career options. Paul was a man of remarkable talents and impressive professional accomplishments. He was passionate about the causes for which he labored, undaunted by long odds, and willing to do work hard in order to achieve the desired outcome. He set the bar high for all us who advocate for non-profit agencies. My hat is off to Paul and I extend my sympathies to his family, friends and other professional colleagues who will miss him.

Jim Olsen

Jim Olsen - January 13 at 04:01 PM



“ We remember Paul so fondly; Tim especially remembers playing with trains as youngsters, and an awesome fossil hunting trip with Uncle Paul and Paul. We both had such a great time chatting and catching up with Paul at our Bryan family reunion at Roseann's house a couple of summer's ago. Paul was a very special person and we won't forget him, ever. We wish you peace during this time of sorrow and hope the wonderful memories of Paul are a comfort to you; Much love - Tim and Patty Bryan

Tim and Patty Bryan - January 06 at 09:04 PM



“ In our junior year at MHS I remember eating at McDonalds with a friend. Paul walked by and stole one of my cheeseburgers right off the table and ran out the door. What I remember most about Paul is that nearly 25 years later he apologized in-person for the cheeseburger. Then we had a really good laugh about it!

That's the mark of a good man!

Smooth journey home.

Doug M

Doug M - January 03 at 10:12 AM



“ Dear Anna, Sally and Sam,

I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. Uncle Paul was one of the kindest, switched on, compassionate people I've known in my life. His love and dedication to his family was truly admirable, and I consider myself lucky to have had his aura of passion, humor and commitment in my life. I'm so sorry for your loss and your pain.

Thank you for the beautiful obituary and for always being such a source of pride and love for Paul.

With gratitude and wishes of strength and perseverance,
Sabrina Briefel



Sabrina Briefel - January 01 at 09:23 PM