



Paul Zietlow

February 14, 1935 - May 22, 2015

Paul Nathan Zietlow died peacefully in his sleep in Bloomington on Friday, May 22nd at the age of 80. He was with Charlotte, his wife of 58 years, and family friends. Paul was born in Neenah, Wisconsin on February 14 1935, the second son to Ruth and Carl F. Zietlow.

He spent his formative years in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he graduated from University High School in 1952 after spending two years at the American Dependents' High School in Frankfurt, Germany. Paul then attended Yale University, where he was active in drama and intramural sports and was a member of Scroll & Key, graduating magna cum laude in 1956 with a B.A. in English. He earned a PhD from the University of Michigan, where, sadly, his attendance corresponded with the only period in Michigan's modern history in which they were terrible at football, a fact that pained him throughout his life. While at Michigan he won two Hopwood Awards for writing, one each for drama and short story. In 1957, he married his long-time sweetheart Charlotte Ernst Thiele, with whom he had attended U-High in the Twin Cities and remained friends throughout college.

After receiving his PhD from Michigan, Paul joined the English Department at Indiana University in 1964, where he remained throughout his 35-year career, teaching a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, focusing on Victorian poetry. Paul was a noted scholar, authoring *Moments of Vision: The Poetry of Thomas Hardy*, and numerous articles published in various academic journals. He was treasured as a teacher because he taught his students to love poetry and literature. Paul leaves a legacy of students who were inspired by him to teach literature to others. He earned the Brown Derby award in 1978, a campus-wide award for teaching and service to students which is given to only one professor each year.

Paul was valued as a colleague due to his sense of fairness and balance, and his incisive and unflinching approach to solving problems. Paul also was active in the Bloomington community, serving on the boards of the Bloomington Playwright's Project, the Lotus Festival, Planned Parenthood and many other organizations. He was a lover of opera, music, theater, all manner of sports, literature and politics. During his retirement, he stayed active, traveling extensively with Charlotte and their children's families. He was a loving, gentle and devoted father, husband, and grandfather. His children and grandchildren will cherish the memory of his singing, storytelling, joking, and unstinting devotion. Paul had a strong network of friends, who showed their mutual affection by visiting him regularly during his last few difficult months.

Paul is survived by his wife

Charlotte, their children Rebecca (of Toledo, Ohio) and Nathan (of St. Paul, MN); Rebecca's husband, David Koeninger, and their daughters, Alice and Zoe; Nathan's wife, Sarah Risser, and their children, Nina and Henry; and his sisters-in-law, Harriet Statz and Janie Zietlow, Harriet's husband Ray, and his dear nieces and nephews. In the words of Thomas Hardy, Paul was "a good man. He did good things."

A memorial service will be held at
4pm on Monday, June 8, 2015 at Deer Park Manor.

Tribute Wall

IR

“ Paul was one of the most "princely" guys. Humble, caring, and engaging. It is difficult to separate Paul from Charlotte as they, together, made to most welcoming and wonderful couple, while each having such a towering independent presence. I am sure the Lord is blessing dear Paul.

Ira

ira zinman - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

KA

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Paul's death while visiting with Mary and Bill Burgan this afternoon. I remember both of you so fondly from my graduate school days in the late 80s and early 90s, including how you both came to my wedding with Scott back in 1996. I was teaching a class on Romantic and Victorian literature this spring, and when we were reading Tennyson and Browning my notes from the seminar I took with Paul (fall '86? or '87?) formed the basis of my lesson plans. I told my students fondly of a little debate he and I had in the hallway after class one time, on which of the two poets was better. (His taste ran to Tennyson, mine to Browning.) I cannot tell you how sorry I am Paul is gone now, for the world is a poorer place without him, but his teaching at least lives on. I will be thinking of you.

Kara Keeling - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

BY

“ Dear Charlotte,

I'm out of town and unable to attend tomorrow's service, but will be thinking of you. May it be a time of affirmation and encouragement, with wonderful memories to cherish.

*Warmest regards, and peace,
Byron*

Byron Bangert - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

AL

“ Dearest Charlotte and family,

I am thinking and praying for you during this difficult time. I remember when you and Paul welcomed me into your household for the summer to live there while I was working on campaigns and I admire the two of you so much. Paul had such a kind heart, and that kind heart will continue where he is now. My heart aches for you.

*With love and peace,
Alexa*

Alexa Lopez - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

HA

“ Dear Charlotte and Family

Please accept my great sympathy for your loss of Paul. I can only imagine the sorrow and pain you must feel. But I know that you must have many, many wonderful memories of your life with Paul, and my wish for you is that these memories will help sustain you during this most difficult time. Sincerely,

Harriet Pfister

Harriet Pfister - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

SU

“ Dear Charlotte-

Please accept my deepest sympathy. I worked with you many years ago at the Monroe County Auditor's Office 1977-1981. I am sorry I didn't know your husband Paul, he sounded like a wonderful giving man. Only four months ago my husband passed away unexpectedly. I know what you are going through. Many people say if you need me call, and that is hard but trust me you will need folk and you should take advantage of the offer.

*My thoughts and prayers will be with you.
Compassionately Susan Provenzale-Todd*

Susan Provenzale-Todd - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

ST

“ Charlotte -You, and your family, are in our thoughts and prayers. We will miss Paul. He was, indeed, a good man who did good things with his life. I relish the times we spent at Rotary and the wonderful discussions we had that would last long past the meeting times which showed the quality of his mind and the kindness of his being.

Steve and Gretchen

Steve Martin - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

SB

“ Dear Charlotte and Family,

Our sincere sympathy on the death of your loving husband, father and grandfather. We remember all the wonderful contributions you and your husband gave to wonderful life in Bloomington. Remember the happy times and keep your memories alive by sharing them.

Sue and Larry Berg - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

DE

“ My love and sympathy go out to you, Charlotte, and to your children and family. I know Paul was a wonderful husband and father. Fred and I treasured him as a friend and as your solid and engaging partner.

I still remember and treasure the good times we shared--dinner and lively conversation, the pontoon boat on Lake Monroe, and many informal interactions. I admired Paul's professional knowledge and appreciated his political opinions. I valued the way he and you worked so well together as parents and as a couple.

I am glad you had so many wonderful years together, but know how much you will miss Paul. I hope that your memories and your friends will bring comfort to you. I send you much caring and a loving hug. I wish you comfort and peace.

*Love,
Debbie*

Debbie Horning - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

KA

“ Dear Charlotte,
May his memory be for a blessing.
Hugs.

Karen Franks - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

JJ

“ Dear Charlotte,

Please accept our condolences on the passing of Paul. He was a good man and will be missed.

Jeff and Joan

Jeffrey and Joan Hart - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

HA

“ Charlotte, all our thoughts are with you. Hang in there.

Hanna Landgrebe - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

LI

“ Charlotte - I never knew Paul, but wanted to send you and your family my best wishes and sympathy during this sad time. Will be thinking of you.

Libby Gwynn - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

MZ

“ Charlotte,

Paul was an extraordinary man. I was fortunate to have had several conversations with him over the years and found him to be not only intelligent, but gentle, humble and wise.

I hope that in time, your tears are replaced with smiles as you recall the wonderful times the two of you shared. Very few high school sweethearts go on to have such a long and fruitful life together.

Please know that you are in my thoughts at this difficult time.

--Margaret

Margaret Joseph Zimmerman - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

VM

“ Dear Charlotte, we were so sorry to hear of Paul's death. When we talked to you at Bloomingfoods I didn't begin to understand how seriously his health had been compromised by the infection in Germany and the long trip home. I think the last time we saw Paul was at your house for the MCHA dinner we bid on at the annual auction. How many years ago was that? You have our deepest sympathies. We will be thinking of you.
Sincerely, Virginia and Michael

Virginia and Michael Metzger - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

MK

“ To Charlotte and family,
I was saddened by Paul's long illness and death. I knew him first in the 60's when I was an English major and later, when I began work in the department no one could have been more welcoming. He stopped by to say welcome and frequently asked how things were going for me. I think he was one of the kindest men I've ever known.
Wishing you comfort and peace, Mary Kay

Mary Kay Rothert - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

WA

“ Dear Charlotte,

My thoughts are with you during these times of trouble.

Love,

Wain

Wain Martin - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

LI

“ *What a wonderful blessing to have for life and then to lose. Charlotte, my kind thoughts are with you and your family.*

Linda Sievers - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

JA

“ *Jack and I are thinking of you and wishing you the comfort of family, friends, and loving memories. Jan*

Jan Bulla-Baker - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

SU

“ *Dear Charlotte and Family,*

My heartfelt sympathy in commemorating the life and legacy of this wonderful man--not only among family and friends, but also in the University and Bloomington communities. While I did not have the opportunity to study with Paul while at IU, I was still struck by his warmth, good humor, thoughtful scholarship, and unwavering support of his students. His door was always open, and his smile was always welcoming. May you find comfort in memories shared by those of us whose lives he touched so gently and generously. Love and prayers, Suzanne

Suzanne Goldsmith - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM

EV

“ Charlotte, Rebecca and Nathan...

I am so grateful I got to know Paul over the years. A sweet, sweet man! I enjoyed our all of our talks and, especially in the last few months, I was tickled to watch Wisconsin defeat Michigan State for the Big 10 Title in Basketball with both Paul and Charlotte. As they say, "You can take the Badger out of Wisconsin, but, you can't take Wisconsin out of the Badger," or, something like that.

Rest in peace, dear man. And Charlotte, you caught yourself a good one there, as if you didn't already know that!

*Much Love and With Sympathy,
Your Friend,
Evelyn Powers*

Evelyn Powers - October 26, 2015 at 03:59 PM