



Paul H. Grau

September 24, 1936 - March 22, 2018

Wantage – Paul H. Grau, age 81, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at Newton Medical Center. Born at home in Sussex to the late Ralph H. and Edith (Johnson) Grau, Paul graduated from Sussex High School in 1952 and attended Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. He began his banking career with Farmers National Bank in Sussex where he went on to be branch manager and later Vice-President. Farmers National Bank merged with National Community Bank where Paul continued his employment in those positions at the Sussex Branch. When National Community Bank opened their branch in Wantage he transferred there and eventually returned back to the Sussex Branch, where he retired from the Bank of New York after 33 years in banking. Paul was also the Secretary for the Sussex – Wantage Board of Education for 26 years and retired in 1981 after the construction of the Clifton E. Lawrence School was completed.

Paul enjoyed a very active life in the Sussex-Wantage community and was elected to the Wantage Township Committee in 1996 where he served two terms. During his terms, he served as Township Mayor twice. A highlight of his time as Mayor was being able to officiate numerous marriage ceremonies. He continued his service to the Township by serving as a member of the Planning Board until his passing. Paul was a lifetime volunteer member of the Sussex Fire Department, serving as Fire Department Chief in 1986 & 1987. In his earlier years with the department, he was a member of the First Aid Squad.

He also enjoyed the positions of pitcher (nicknamed "Sunfish") for the fire department softball team and team captain for the fire department golf team. He was the treasurer for the Fireman's Relief Association, resigning in 2018 after completing 50 years in the position. Paul was an active and 50 year life member of the Sussex Kiwanis Club. He served as the club's president twice and also was the Master of Ceremonies for their annual Old Timer's Night. He was a 50 year member of the former Samaritan Masonic Lodge No.98 in Hardyston. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and belonged to the original Square 5 Gun Club, which became known as Virgin Acres Gun Club and was also a member of the Colesville Gun Club. He was very well known for his "gift of gab" and had numerous stories to tell. He was very knowledgeable about the history of Sussex Boro and Wantage Township. He enjoyed country music and after his retirement, spent much of his free time playing golf and taking trips to the "Mighty M." Paul had a great love for baseball and was a coach for the Wallkill Valley Little League in his younger days. His love for baseball continued throughout his life through his enthusiasm for his beloved NY Yankees. He was one of the team's biggest fans. Paul was also a huge supporter of the United States Military Service. He loved his family, community, fellow man and Country.

Besides his parents, Paul was predeceased by his brother, Donald Grau in 2013 and his grandson, Cole Murphy in 2006. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Mary Ellen (Tartar) Grau; his son, Paul H. Grau, Jr. and his wife Jennifer of Cabot, AR; his daughter, Cynthia Mills and her husband Kenneth of Spring Hill, Florida; Anne Klaus and her husband Stephen of Wantage; Karolee Murphy and her husband Patrick of Wantage; Kelly Cart and her husband Chuck of Hampton; twelve grandchildren and his beloved feline companion, Sassafras "Sassy." On his behalf, Paul's family would also extend their sincere gratitude to the Sussex Fire Department Family and Dr. P.C.

Patel, whom was not only his physician, but his very good friend.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23) Sussex. Funeral Services will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at the Sussex Fire Department, 25 Loomis Avenue in Sussex. Friends may also pay their respects to the family on Wednesday prior to the funeral service from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the firehouse. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Wantage.

In Lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations may be made to the Sussex Fire Department, 25 Loomis Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461 or to the Menkes Foundation, 23210 Daffodil Drive, California, MD 20619. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

Route 284
Wantage, NJ 07461

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

MAR 28. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Sussex Fire Department
25 Loomis Avenue
Sussex, NJ 07461

Service

MAR 28. 12:30 PM (ET)

Sussex Fire Department
25 Loomis Avenue
Sussex, NJ 07461

Tribute Wall

DC

“ As a child growing up in Sussex I remember going to the bank on Friday nights with my Dad Arthur DeVries and visiting with Mr. Grau. He was always pleasant and kind to me and my siblings. I also spent time at their home with my best friend Annie. I know it is hard to lose someone you love especially a parent . I know though he is in a better place and at peace with our Lord in Heaven! You all have our deepest sympathy. I also wish to extend condolences for Arthur and Helen DeVries my parents who have relocated to Vermont they both enjoyed Paul. Sincerely Donna & Gregory Clark-Kelsey, Hinesburg,VT

Donna Clark-Kelsey - March 28, 2018 at 12:52 PM

DC

“ Donna Clark-Kelsey lit a candle in memory of Paul H. Grau



Donna Clark-Kelsey - March 28, 2018 at 10:32 AM

WU

“ Paul and I were classmates at Sussex High. As a long time friend please accept my sincerest condolences. As a retired U.S. Naval Officer, Paul always showed me a lot of respect for my military service which was greatly appreciated. Paul always had a nice smile and a special personality that will be sorely missed.

Walter Wesolowski
LCDR, USN (Ret)

Walter Wesolowski, LCDR, USN(Ret) - March 26, 2018 at 02:10 PM

FA

“ Fellowship Bible Church-Cabot, Arkansas purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Paul H. Grau.



Fellowship Bible Church-Cabot, Arkansas - March 26, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul H. Grau.



March 26, 2018 at 09:24 AM

BD

“ MaryEllen and family, So very sorry to learn of Paul's passing. Sending thoughts & prayers.

Betty Trudgen DeGroat - March 26, 2018 at 09:05 AM

LM

“ Linda Moyer lit a candle in memory of Paul H. Grau



linda moyer - March 25, 2018 at 03:42 PM

LM

“ I am so sorry Mary Ellen. Paul and I worked together in the bank the summers after I graduated from H.S.. he was such a NICE man.

linda moyer - March 25, 2018 at 03:41 PM

SM

I am a neighbor to Paul, Jr. and Jennifer and their children in Cabot, Ark. So sorry to hear of your loss of Paul, Sr. I know he was a great guy because Paul, Jr. and his wife and children are wonderful people. Prayers for all of the family.

Sandra Masterson - March 26, 2018 at 08:25 PM

JH

“ May God Bless you and keep you in his tender loving care as the light of Paul's kindness and dedication remains forevermore a treasure to all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



Janice Huff - March 25, 2018 at 01:33 PM

AF

“ Such a wonderful man. I gave me my first loan at 18 years old when banking was real banking and you knew each other and their families. Such a great man! RIP Paul!

Artie Fletcher - March 25, 2018 at 12:50 PM

PH

“ Condolences, Maryellen and family. Remembering the joys, laughter, smiles and love. May he rest in peace. Truly the Emblem of a faithful servant to God, country, family and his community. . May the loving arms of our Lord surround and hold you tightly in your time of need. God Bless you. . . Pat Henkel

Pat Henkel - March 25, 2018 at 12:14 PM

DM

“ Maryellen and family,our prayers and thoughts are with all of you. Maryellen we worked almost 17 years together at Dr Patel's office, always looked forward to Paul's office visits, he always had a story that left us laughing.
So greatful he married our son Timothy in 2000.

Dorothy & Bill Meyer - March 25, 2018 at 09:48 AM

CW

“ Sincere sympathy to Paul's entire family. Our thoughts are with you.
Chris and Dave Wetzel

Chris (Trudgen) Wetzel - March 25, 2018 at 09:23 AM

TP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family at this time. May all the love and memories fill you with joy. He was a wonderful person, we were lucky to know him.
God bless, Rich and Terri Peter

Terri Peter - March 24, 2018 at 09:27 PM

MH

“ Paul Grau was one of the nicest men i ever met.... he was always smiling and friendly. Whenever i saw him, no matter where, we always chatted for a bit....
my deepest sympathy to his whole family....
sincerely,
Minny (Holbert) Haas

Minny Haas - March 24, 2018 at 07:30 PM

HT

“ I have fond memories of Mr. Grau, because he was my little league baseball coach for many years. He, and Mr. Hough would always take us to DQ after a win, and we won quite often. Goes to show how good of a coach he was!

Harry Tackema

Harry Tackema - March 24, 2018 at 07:08 PM

NF

“ To little Paul, Annie and Cindy...my deepest condolences to all of you. May he Rest In Peace. He is with his mom and dad, his brother, all the aunts uncles and cousins that left before him. On behalf of my children, his brother Donald's Family ...our hearts are heavy for all of you. God bless, and may you all find comfort in Jesus in the days and weeks ahead.

Nancy

Nancy Farber - March 24, 2018 at 03:54 PM

NF

“ Nancy Farber lit a candle in memory of Paul H. Grau



Nancy Farber - March 24, 2018 at 03:44 PM