



Paul Northuis

January 14, 1937 - September 26, 2019

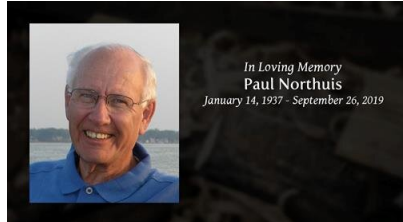
Paul Edwin Northuis, age 82, loving and devoted husband of the late Marsha Borr Northuis, passed away after a courageous four-year battle with renal cancer. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Bessie (DeFouw) Northuis and brothers Kenn, Rodger, and Donald. Paul was born in Holland, Michigan. He graduated from Holland High School in 1955, Hope College in 1959, and received his Master's in Education from MSU. In 1958 he married Marsha Borr, his high school sweetheart, and they eventually moved to Wyoming, Michigan. Paul was a lifelong educator. He spent his entire career serving the students of Forest Hills Public Schools. Over the years he worked as a middle school teacher, football and basketball coach, assistant principal, principal of Forest Hills Northern High School, and Director of Operations. After retirement, he worked as a consultant and moved back to Holland. In his Grand Rapids church, he served as a choir director, choir member, elder, deacon, adult education teacher, and building committee chairperson. He enjoyed camping and sailing with his wife and daughters. The family towed a small camper through 44 of the 50 states and 5 of the 10 Canadian provinces. Every trip was well documented. Following each trip, Paul created entertaining narrated slideshows set to music to be shown at family gatherings. Paul developed and shared his various gifts as a woodworker, builder, photographer, handyman, and musician; but he especially excelled in his role as a much-loved father, grandfather, and uncle, not only within his own family but within his community. Paul is survived by

daughters Shawn (Brian) Hall, Michelle (William) Bryson, and Heather (Scott) Wolterink; grandchildren Paul, Grace (Noah), Benjamin, Joel, Anna, Ethan, Matthew, Jane, and Katelyn; one great-grandson, loving in-laws, nieces, and nephews. A celebration of his life is scheduled for 10:30 AM on Friday, October 11, 2019, at First Reformed Church, 630 South State Street, Holland, MI 49423. Visitation with the family will be held on Thursday, October 10th from 5-8 PM at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th Street, Holland, MI. Memorial contributions may be given in Paul's honor to Camp Geneva Scholarship Fund.

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul Northuis*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - September 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Paul Northuis*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Paul was the very `Best` Friend I could ever have asked for , so kind, considerate, understanding, and everything anyone could wish for. I will always feel very blessed to have spent his last few years with him! So many wonderful times we spent together, traveling a bit, games of all kind, great times with Family and Friends! I miss him more everyday and especially at this time as we remember and celebrate his meeting the Lord and Savior of his life! And I will always Love him for his gentleness in everything He did! Love you - Paul (mfbfatLoml)"*

Vonnie Elhart - September 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

VE

“Paul - A day never goes by that I don't think of you! I miss you so much, I miss your Thoughtfulness, your kindness, I miss the fun we had together, traveling a bit, going to as many games as possible! Whether it was one of the Grandkids, or Hope College! I miss the the plays, and concerts we enjoyed!! All the special times with Families, Christmas's weddings, Births, So many Happy Occasion's! I miss the sailboat races at the Beach on Wednesday evening, I even miss our daily Happy Hours!, and Especially all our late night talks!! All in All - I miss you Paul more than I can say - and still Love you even more. Vonnie"

Vonnie elhart - September 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

“Reflections of my Uncle Nort: Man of Integrity, father, husband, uncle and friend to all he met! I remember my mom and dad going to Dallas Texas and my Uncle Nort and my aunt Marsha took care of me as a young child. I formed a bond with him that continued through my life. Uncle Nort was instrumental in my life before and after the death of my dad. I remember when his new school, Forest Hills Central was being built, he used to take us there to play basketball in their gym I remember going to the gym and playing basketball with my brother Randy, my dad, and Uncle Nort. Uncle Nort and I are always on the same team. We do our best. He taught me the give and go, the pick and roll, and how to screen out for a rebound. Keep in mind I was probably between 10 years old and 12 years old, my brother was two years older than me so I was the worst player, my dad is probably the second worst player, Uncle Nort and Randy may have been equals but age differences made a difference. My Uncle Nort always encouraged me and believed in me! He gave me lots of confidence and positives in my life that are important in the values that I have today. Uncle Nort used to take me on the trampolines I remember in Wyoming. I remember camping with Uncle Nort and looking at the stars and pointing out the star constellations, The large and small dippers. I remember seeing the northern lights with him as a child and watching the satellites that were so new to the sky floating through the skies. I remember discussions about how the Russians had satellites in the sky were far ahead of us and we were looking to see the USA satellite being pointed out in the sky during the 60s. I have so many memories of all the good things that we as a family did together. I remember going to Hamlin Lake on several occasions renting cabins and participating in competitive sports, fishing, volleyball, baseball and theatrical presentations. I remember the games we would play. I remember the songs we sang at Sami and Holland State Park camping, family gatherings. We were always singing with Uncle Nort always leading us making us confident and blessed. We were singing hymns, and funny things like I know a girl by the name of Heather who is God's feather and things like that. stuff, but I remember them so well. Whether a fun song or Biblical hymns,

whatever they were we always had fun!When my father passed away, I remember going to Uncle Nort and telling him that you are my father now. He nodded and knew that that was the role he was going to be for me. He spent a lot of time participating with me and family watching Miles play football, basketball and track. He was a proud uncle and father figure.He was always a supporter of my children and we built a great bond together.I love him as both my uncle Nort and as my father from a different grandfather,after my father died in 1997.Uncle Nort cheered/supported the Forest Hills Athletic department and was dedicated to cheer on Miles and Richard in Football and Basketball...most people thought he was the grandparents he was on the sidelines cheering on his great nephews! I know that all his great work and associations with his church, school system, dedication to his family and his extended family will definitely provide him a place in heaven.I know my father Ralph,my mother Joyce and all my aunts and uncle's and grandparents and great grandparents and all the people over for all of them will welcome him with open arms for all he did on this earth to make it a better place for all.Love you always Uncle Nort and sing, conduct, orchestrate great heavenly things in Heaven Please look after all of us during our life journeys.Love and peace your nephew Rico, Richard Martinus"

RICHARD MARTINUS - October 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

VE

“Paul and I knew each other in High School. We both married, had our own families. After 58 years we became reacquainted when our spouses were in the same care facility. It helped to have each other's friendship and support as both Marcia and Ray suffered from dementia and eventually passed away. Over the past two years we were blessed to spend more time together. Paul was such a kind, honest, loving man. He was fun to be around and he made me a better person. After his cancer diagnosis we agreed to go through it together. It was an honor to be by his side as we navigated some difficult times. I can say I was truly blessed to love and care for such a fine gentleman. I will miss Paul greatly!”

Vonnie Elhart - October 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SB

“Paul was a kind, caring man with whom I shared Grandchildren. He will be missed by so many. His family was so fortunate to have him as long as they did. Rest in Peace, Paul.”

Sandy Buller - October 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BV

“So many lives were touched by Paul's spirit, compassion and enthusiasm. He was one of the 'good guys.' May you celebrate joyful memories of a life well lived!”

Bruce Vorce - October 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LH

“Heather and family, I am so sorry to hear this. Your dad was such a great man and father--always supportive, loving, and FUN! I remember the fun we had going to the beach and going blueberry picking, and boy did he love sports! He even came to watch my kids play basketball and volleyball. I picture him riding bikes and sailing with your mom. Heartfelt condolences to you all. Love and Hugs!”

Lori Humphrey - October 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Paul was a great student advocate for many young adults at FH Northern.He was a great help to me as a event manager for our varsity basketball games and state tournaments.He had a great sense of humor and served as a buffer for our fiery high school principal Jack Lane.Together they made a great team and were instumental in establishing traditions at Northern.Paul will be greatly missed by all the lives he touched in his lifetime. God bless Paul and his entire familyJim Ogilvie and family”

James Ogilvie - October 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TD

“Mr. Northuis,I was just sharing a story about the morning I drove my car right past your office window about 35 miles an hour. My punishment was fair and just, as were all my punishments fair and just. Always a gentleman on the many encounters we had together. I feel bad that you were never able to see the positive impact you made on a trouble making kid that grew up to be a devoted family man and business owner. With love to you and your family,Todd DuyserFHN Class of 1984P.S. It was in fact John Doorn and I that filled the courtyard with 4 truckloads of leaves one fall night that year. We knew you suspected us by that sly grin on your face. Your intuition was right on target.”

Todd Duyser - October 06, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DE

“Always loved Mr Northuis during my junior high and high school years. He always called me little Jeannie after my aunt who went to forest hills probably in his early years. He always remembered me even after graduation and coming back to northern as a coach and even later when he visited for various things. A great man! Love for education and keeping things in line! He was a man who expected respect and who gave respect in return. I know he will be greatly missed by his family and you all have my sympathies and prayers”

Denise - October 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CB

“Dear Michelle and family, Our deepest sympathy on the passing of Dad. May God grant you strength and comfort during your grieving.”

Charles and Jean Vanden Berg - October 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CU

“I am an employee of Forest Hills and I remember Paul as a nice, thoughtful, kind person always saying hello when you saw him I am about to retire myself from Forest Hills with over 35 years with Forest Hills and Paul I will always remember him, sorry for your loss..”

Carol Ullery - October 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JW

“Nort was a great educator and person.. He was a longtime employee of Forest Hills, teaching, an administrator, also overseeing multiple building projects during our expansion of facilities in the district. He was a long-time Principal and Assistant Principal at Forest Hills Northern HS and was well-liked by his colleagues, parents and staff along the way. He was present near the beginning of FH Middle and HS and coached and encouraged sports throughout his tenure. He was also a devoted family man, with a very supportive wife (Marcia) and 3 daughters. I know they followed him in education as well. I also carpooled with him from Wyoming to NHS and shared the residency in Wyoming and I had both his brother and sister-in law as teachers at Godwin.). He was an ardent Michigan and Hope fan.. He was an active church member and loved music and knew the Bible and doctrine, singing in a choir and even directing musical ensembles. He was a loyal employee of Forest Hills, a good guy and boss with high standards of service. Students appreciated his service and manner as well. To demonstrate the rapport he had with students, I remember one of his more challenging students shaking his hand and telling how much he appreciated his efforts on this behalf. Like many teachers, he touched lives in many ways known and unknown and he will be missed.”

Jim Ward - October 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AF

“He was one of my favorite teachers when i was in middle school at Forest Hills - over 50 years ago!!!Sandy (Marsman) Jeltema”

A friend - October 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SH

“*Though I only knew Paul for three years it was evident he was a person that was kind and had integrity. His caring and kindness to my friend Vonnie Elhart was genuine. You will be missed Paul and my sympathies go out to your family.*”

Sue Hoffman - October 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DR

“*Mr. Northuis genuinely cared about the students at FHN. His friendly smile and good humor often made my day, as a shy, introverted teen. I know he will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences to his family and prayers for comfort in the days ahead.*”

Diane Rinaldi - October 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TM

“*I was with Forest Hills Public Schools 90% of my career. Paul and I got to work together many times as buildings would go up. He was one of the best people to work with. Gentle, friendly, funny and kind. Sorry for your loss. Memories are great and know that he was a wonderful friend and co-worker. Terri Handlin*”

Terri Handlin Mulligan - October 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JB

“*A very fine gentleman has left us. He leaves memories of a good life, well-lived and enjoyed. We admired his many talents and were often glad to be with him at family gatherings. We frequently shared jokes through social media. He will be missed but fondly remembered.*”

John Bryson - October 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM