



Paul Wayne Prins

July 4, 1941 - December 8, 2025

Paul Wayne Prins, age 84, of Holland, Michigan passed away peacefully on Monday, December 8, 2025.

Paul was a devoted follower of Jesus whose life reflected his deep faith and commitment to serving others. Known by colleagues, friends and family as a witness, mentor and leader in faith, Paul lived with humility, integrity and compassion. He had a wry wit, a constant curiosity and a quiet kindness.

As one of the pioneers of Ferris State University's plastics and engineering technology curriculums, Paul inspired generations of students and helped shape the future of engineering education. He served as a professor, associate dean and associate provost, stewarding and advancing the College of Engineering Technology's future. His careful planning of class schedules and K-12 campus tours reflected his dedication to students at every level.

Paul also contributed to the local community where he and his wife, Karen, were founding members of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Big Rapids, Michigan, leading a growing community from a home church to a gathering of people impacting parents through its daycare program, an impactful college student ministry and two building programs. For three decades, Paul and Karen were active members of the church's Growth Group and choir at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan, where they grew

and matured in their faith alongside fellow believers.

A proud University of Michigan alum and steadfast supporter of Rotary, Paul brought optimism, humor and a generous spirit to all he did. He was a son, brother, engineer, deacon, husband, dad, papa, uncle, and friend. Paul found joy in volunteering for organizations such as Bibles for Mexico, Bible Study Fellowship and Crossroad Prison Ministries. He also enjoyed golf, bowling, fishing, outdoor walks, cross country skiing, snow mobilizing and Lake Michigan sunsets. Paul shared his deep tenor voice in choirs - Barbershop Quartet, Men's Chorale - that uplifted many. His signature whistle and heartfelt laughter will long be remembered by those who knew him best. Above all, Paul exuded compassion through his genuine care for people, embodying a rare sensitivity and kindness that left a lasting impact on everyone he met.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, John and Charlotte Prins, and his brothers, Jim (Arlene) Prins, and Bill (Marty) Prins.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Karen (Quist) Prins; his son, Michael (Hope) Prins; his daughters, Diane (Kevin Sheldahl) Prins Sheldahl and Anita (Brian) Edwards; his grandchildren, Jonathan (Sarah) Prins, Elizabeth Jayne Prins, Sydney Grace Sheldahl, Brooklyn Quist Sheldahl, and Zachary James Scheldahl; and great-grandson, Judah. His memory will live on in the love of his family and the many lives he touched throughout his lifetime.

Memorial contributions in Paul's honor may be given to KidsTown International Romania at www.kidstown.org/romania; Crossroads Prison Ministries at www.cpministries.org/donate; or Ferris State University's Manufacturing Engineering Technology Annual Scholarship at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/XVJ4sA?vid=1nka9w>.

No services are planned at this time.

A graveside service will be held at a date to be determined within the coming months. Please check Langeland Sterenberg Funeral Home website for those details at www.langelandsterenberg.com.

Tribute Wall

LS

“*Condolences from the Schipper family. We will miss Paul doing his daily walks, some times 2 or more times a day. He was an inspiration along with Karen. We will also miss his gentle smile, laugh and nice comments about the yard or neighborhood. You will be missed in this neighborhood that you called home. Love, Randy and Lynda Schipper*

Lynda Schipper - December 19, 2025 at 02:18 PM

LD

“*love, Jill & Clint Daniels purchased the Arrive in S
tyle for the family of Paul Wayne Prins.*



love, Jill & Clint Daniels - December 16, 2025 at 12:26 PM

DB

“*What a beautiful tribute to this beloved man. He truly lives on in his children and grandchildren who are kind, loving and gracious. —
Debb Bennett*

Deborah Bennett - December 12, 2025 at 10:51 PM



“ So we’re sorry to read this today. Although, we do not recall ever meeting Paul, our wives, do remember Aunt Shy, Marty, and Arkie from Swifney showers given for us the daughter-in-laws of Fero! Swifney many, many years ago. Those were good times.

Paul sounds to have been a wonderful person. Heartfelt sympathy to all.

Thomas and Diane Swifney

Diane Swifney - December 12, 2025 at 01:14 PM

MS

So sorry for your loss, Karen, and family💕💕

Marilyn Quist Schurman - December 19, 2025 at 06:37 AM