



Paul Alan Herman

November 30, 1938 - June 25, 2016

Paul Alan Herman, a loving husband, wonderful father and grandfather went to be with our Lord on June 25, 2016. He was born on November 30, 1938 in Martins Ferry, Ohio to Louis and Ruth Herman, who preceded him in death. He moved with his parents to Southern California at the age of 13 where he later met and married his high school sweetheart, Linda Ann Ochoa, who preceded him in death in 1986.

Paul served honorably in the US Army. He was sent to Fort Hood, Texas after basic training and was commended by the Commanding Major General and many other high ranking US Army Officers for being one of only two persons out of 52,000 trainees to ever make a perfect score on the Basic Combat Proficiency Test. He was a member of the Fort Hood Advanced Marksmanship Unit and the 1st Armored Division Rifle Team.

When Paul returned to California after his distinguished and decorated service, he began a career with the American Bakery Company in Los Angeles. He was very involved in his community and took leadership roles in many areas, including public education which led to his election to the Rowland Unified School District Board as President in 1969. He was the President of the Rod and Gun Club and a delegate to the California Wildlife Federation and became a leader with Linda for the Methodist Youth Fellowship at Glendora United Methodist Church.

In 1975, Paul and Linda moved their family to Tyler, Texas to serve the community with a family owned Christian Bookstore. They were active members of Marvin United Methodist Church. The first store they opened was The Glory Be. Later Paul incorporated The Glory Be with Better Books and Gifts, owned by Dr. Tom Lyles and Darrell Brown, and the three founded Better Books Christian Center, which the Herman family ran. Better Books Christian Center became one of the largest independent Christian Bookstores in the country and was recognized by the Christian Booksellers Association (CBA) as Store of the Year in 1985. Additionally, Paul was elected to serve on the board of CBA in Colorado Springs, Colorado and was later elected Chairman of the Board.

In 1987, Paul married Kathy Ruether of Colorado Springs. They shared a passion for the Christian bookstore industry, travel, birding and fishing at Lake Palestine as well as deep sea fishing all over the world. Catching a 500lb Black Marlin featured on the cover of Marlin magazine was a highlight of his life-long passion. Additionally, Paul was Kathy's biggest fan and Manager when she embarked on a successful career in writing. Together, they were long-time members of Bethel Bible Church in Tyler.

Better Books Christian Center served East Texas for two decades and in 1998, LifeWay Christian Stores purchased the store where Paul stayed on as Manager. He was recognized with numerous awards and under his tutelage, the Tyler LifeWay store was consistently a top 10 performing store in the nationwide chain. Prior to his retirement in 2010, the Lifeway Corporation awarded him the Career of Excellence Award.

In total, Paul Herman served the people and churches of East Texas with Christian products for more than three decades. He touched countless lives.

Paul is survived by his beloved wife, Kathy Herman, daughter and son-in-law, Paula Herman Smith and Brad Smith, son and daughter-in-law, Glenn Herman and Kim Herman, step-daughter and husband, Jody Ruether and Mark Johnson; five grandchildren Nathan Smith, Ben Smith, Claire Frances Smith, Selah Johnson and Lauren Herman. His cherished family will miss him more than words can convey.

A memorial service celebrating Paul Herman's life will be held Tuesday, June 28, at 2:00 p.m. at the Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Ken McEachern officiating, family will receive friends following the memorial service at 7525 old Jacksonville Hwy Tyler, Tx. 75703. A private graveside service will be held prior to the memorial service at Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. If desired, memorials may be made to Mercy Ships (www.mercyships.org) or Compassion International (www.compassion.com).

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Mem. Service

JUN 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Visitation and reception after service

JUN 28 (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

Karen Walker

“ I grew up with Paul on Seabrights Lane in Martins Ferry, Ohio before he moved away. His aunt Virginia was my Godmother. I remember him fondly. Karen Higgins Walker

Karen Walker - July 26, 2016 at 05:06 PM

KH

Karen, I always wanted Paul to take me to Martins Ferry, but each time we planned it, something happened and we never did get there. I've heard many stories of his boyhood days on Seabrights Lane. And though I never did meet his Aunt Virginia, her name came up numerous times over the years. His parents did take a trip back there, just before his dad passed away, and we enjoyed hearing even more stories that brought back fond memories for Paul. Thank you for remembering him here. I will miss him dearly.

Kathy Herman - October 30, 2016 at 05:13 PM

TR

“ *Therapy Dept. at Waterton Health and Rehab purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Paul Alan Herman.*



Therapy Dept. at Waterton Health and Rehab - June 28, 2016 at 10:28 AM

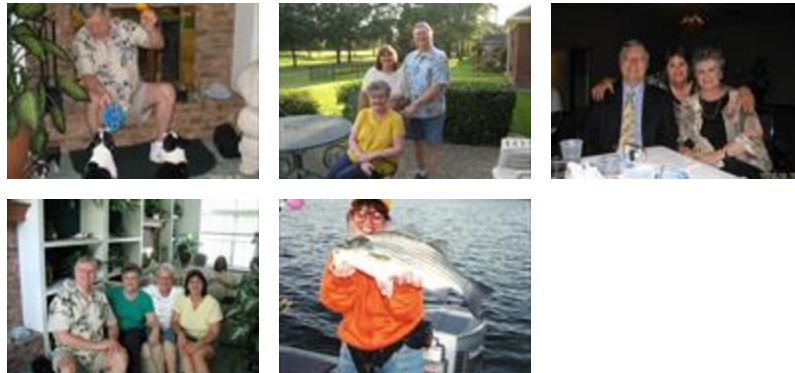
JB

“ My heart goes out to Kathy, and the family of Paul A. Herman. Kathy's testimony on FB was one of the most beautiful tributes I've ever read. I hope by sharing it, it will comfort friends that I have who are also suffering a loss. God be with you Kathy! I hope to meet you in person within the next 3-6 months! Jerre Gaddy Beal, Simpsonville, SC

Jerre Gaddy Beal - June 27, 2016 at 07:42 PM

PP

“ Paul is my brother-in-law and my Christian brother in faith. I'll never forget the Arkansas fishing trip he treated my husband and I to. It was an all expense paid trip. Paul paid for our motel, all our meals, a chartered boat, etc. It was on that trip that I caught the biggest fish of my life! Paul made it all possible. I'll never forget that trip. He was always gracious, kind, and beamed with Christian love and character. I know he is resting in the Light of our Savior's love. I've attached a few pictures that are close to my heart.



Patricia A Phillips - June 27, 2016 at 03:16 PM

BS

“ *Brad Swartz lit a candle in memory of Paul Alan Herman*



Brad Swartz - June 26, 2016 at 10:07 PM

BS

I never had the honor of meeting you. R.I.P. My prayers with you and your wonderful family.

Brad Swartz - June 26, 2016 at 10:10 PM

LD

“ *Lots of Love , Danny and Deanna purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Paul Alan Herman.*



Lots of Love , Danny and Deanna - June 26, 2016 at 04:20 PM

DL

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Dave Lewis - June 26, 2016 at 03:53 PM

SF

“ *What a life well-lived!
And such a legacy.*

*Thank you for a wonderful testimony throughout life. Our prayers and thoughts are extended to Kathy and all the family. May the comfort we know through Christ Jesus be evident as you grieve, but not as those without hope!
Great is His faithfulness!
What a joy to know we will be together for all eternity because of our faith in Christ.*



Stephan & KC Frantzen - June 26, 2016 at 09:52 AM

BL

“ *Always a gracious man of God, welcoming me to his home or store to share of the mercies of Christ he had experienced that day. Thank you for inviting me into your life and to experience Christ anew every time. Prayers continue for your family. Bruce Lininger*

Bruce Lininger - June 26, 2016 at 06:37 AM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Alan Herman.*



June 25, 2016 at 08:24 PM

PP

“ *Patricia A Phillips purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Paul Alan Herman.*



Patricia A Phillips - June 25, 2016 at 07:14 PM