



Paul Dennis Gauthier

February 11, 1940 - February 9, 2020

Gauthier, Paul Age 79, Feb. 9, 2020.

Beloved husband of Judy (nee Bortolani) for 55 years. Loving father of Lance Gauthier and Lorne (Emily) Gauthier. Dear grandfather of Justin and Jessica and brother of Richard Gauthier. Dear brother-in-law of Denise Rabidoux and Dale (Melanie) Bortolani. Paul was also survived by many nieces and nephews. There will be a Memorial later this spring. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at WujekCalcaterra.com.

Paul was born February 11, 1940 in Detroit, Michigan. He grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan, and attended Shrine High School, where he graduated in 1959. While attending Shrine High School, he met Judy Bortolani, who he married in 1964. In 1967, Paul and Judy started a family when they welcomed Lance, their first of two sons, followed by another son, Lorne, in 1970. Paul worked the majority of his life as a machinist by trade. He worked very hard for his family. He was a very loving and loyal husband and father. Then, in 2001, he took on perhaps his most treasured title, that of grandpa. On January 30, 2001, Justin Hunter Gauthier joined the family, followed by Jessica Amber Gauthier on October 24, 2002. There never was a more dedicated grandpa. As his grandkids grew, he never missed a hockey game, soccer game, horseback riding event, figure skating show, football game, lacrosse game, and was in the audience for every choir concert. He was

always just a phone call away for a ride to practice, and would always arrive with treats that spoiled dinner. He was a person who didn't need anything other than his family to make him happy. He had a heart of gold, and made everyone around him feel special. He was the man, the husband, the father, and grandfather that everyone on this earth should aspire to be.

Tribute Wall

“ February 11, 2020

Dear Judy, Lance, Lorne, Emily, Justin and Jessica:

I wanted to write you all and provide hope and peace during a very difficult time as you each deal with Paul's passing. I can tell you I can't imagine the flood of feelings but it is my hope that this note allows you to find peace and perhaps joy again. And causes a momentary smile....

If I would have been asked to speak this week I believe it is words similar to this that I would have said. I will save these thoughts for our celebration of Paul's life in the Spring when the flowers are beginning to bloom and the days are warming. I believe Paul is looking down on all of us smiling and he will continue to do so each day and each Spring from this moment on; proud and happy that we have adjusted to life without him and helping us to remember only the happiest of memories.

With that here are my thoughts this afternoon.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven....There is only joy filled mornings reading the newspaper, having a cup of coffee, fixing scrambled eggs and cutting out all of the ads in the paper so that he can plan his shopping trips to Costco and Sam's Club and Kroger and Aldi's.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven....There are Justin's Michigan State Hockey Games in East Lansing and Jessica's Soccer Games all over Michigan. There are Emily's Baseball Games and Hockey. There are mornings going over which team sweatshirt or baseball hat to wear and worrying that if he wears one without celebrating the other he will not show you all how proud he was of all of you. There are Red Wings and Tigers and Lions and what ever sports event is on the television in the afternoon.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven... There are long Sunday drives with Judy and dinner together and ice cream cones and trips to Alex's and dinners at Penna's with family.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven... There are warm Sundays at the Marina and boat rides and lazy days watching Lorne and Emily and Jess and Justin and Oakley swim and laugh while Judy was by his side.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven... There are Fridays watching Lance clean the gardens and cut the grass while Paul pulled weeds and watered the flowers. There are lazy Sundays on the front porch visiting with family, watching Lance take care of the house and sharing his thoughts and views with all the neighbors on the block.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven... There are afternoons filled with Jessica's concerts and Christmas Eve together and Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Baskets... There are ice bucket challenges and bubble baths and trips to Florida and trips to the Casino with Mengo and Lotto Tickets hoping for that lucky win.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven... There is Garlic and Pheasant Stew and there are years of Thanksgiving Dinners at Dale's with all of its laughter and food and of course, more garlic.

There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven... There are the joys of blended families and lots of young ones wanting the attention of this big lovable man. I know Paul is in heaven making even the youngest happy right now.

We can breathe deep because I know that in God's Heaven there is no memory loss and confusion, no struggling for the right words and there is no pain. There is joy and love and green pastures and flowers and snow flakes as big as our hands.

Death takes our bodies... Our Lord takes our soul and in doing so

allows our minds only to hold the joy filled memories . God allows our hearts to secure deep within us the years of love. God also reminds us that he has Paul with him and we will all meet again in Heaven. There is no Alzheimer's Disease in Heaven.

Love always, Denise

Denise Rabidoux - June 03, 2020 at 01:55 PM

LG

“ *I miss getting your dinners. and our trips to Meijers. You would fill that riding cart with donuts, pies, and ice cream---we could not forget your coffee creamer!! You would still be filling your basket while I was trying to check out. Dad, I found your stash of Coke under the workbench the other day. Mom said she was not going to buy anymore so you hid a six pack. Each week mom asked if you needed money and you always said yes. I want you to know she found that also!!! I wish I could still clean the crumbs that you would leave behind. I love you dad and miss you. No one was a better dad than you and I appreciate all that you did for me through the years. RIP dad.*

Lance Gauthier - March 02, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Paul, a quiet gentle man who married into a very vocal Italian family. His voice was gentle; His smile was contagious. We will miss many things about Paul, especially that Paul Gauthier smile.*

marilyn shook - February 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ My grandfather was sunshine in human form, he lit up every room or rink he walked into with his contagious smile and friendly personality. Anyone who knew him would be able to tell you how deeply he cared for us grandkids. He was at every soccer game, hockey game, lacrosse game, choir concert, everything, no matter the vicious weather conditions, he was always there for us. I've never known anyone with a bigger heart than my grandpa, he would give anyone the clothes off his back. I remember when I was younger he would come with us to cedar point and ride all the little kid rides with me in camp snoopy because I wasn't big enough to hang with the older kids yet, so he'd squeeze in next to me in the little race cars and the rest of the rides so I could still have fun and he'd say "anything for my baby girl." He always had a smile on his face and instantly brightened the day of anyone he met, he impacted so many lives and brought so much light to the world around him. I love you to the moon and back grandpa, until we meet again, rest in peace my angel.

Jessica Gauthier - February 20, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Paul and I worked closely together for a couple years. I learned that he was genuinely a nice person. He had a big heart. Great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. We shared good times together and I was proud to have Paul as a friend. His brightest stars were his grand kids. He was so proud of them. I will miss him, but I know that he is back to normal now, smiling and laughing once again. God Bless Paul Gauthier and his entire family.

Ken Morrocco - February 17, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Grandpa, I don't know where to start. Some of the little things that I recall back when I was younger being with you are things that I will remember for the rest of my life. Whether it be you and grandma buying Jessica and I a pack of 14 chocolate chip cookies each and telling us to finish them before we got home so mom and dad wouldn't get mad, or when we would sit down and talk about baseball and you would name off players that I never heard of, but always would love just to talk to you. A couple summers back I started cutting the lawn, and it was the best decision that I made. Not only was I lucky enough to get a couple bucks out of your wallet, but those hot summer days I had the best talks with you. I'd come over after school and cut the lawn in 45 min or so, then would stay there for another hour just talking to you and catching up on life. Whether we would leave to get slurpees or a coffee from Tim Hortons... I cherished those moments. Hockey. I was very fortunate to have a grandpa that cared for me as much as my grandpa did. But when it came to hockey, my grandpa was there not only for every game.. but every practice I was able to see him standing over on the glass watching, as well. I want to thank you for picking me up for every practice when I was younger and tuning to the radio and having just great talks the entire way there and back. For the rare occasions, not having my grandpa standing next to my dad on the glass just felt off, I could always see him having conversations with other hockey families and just smiling watching me play the game I loved to play. That smile was just contagious, after games i'd see him and he would have the biggest grin on his face, and you just couldn't help but smile. Thank you again for touching my life and I will never forget all the memories we made together. Until we meet again, I will have so many great stories to share with you. Grandpa. I love you. I miss you. May you forever rest in peace.

Justin Gauthier - February 16, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ On Paul's visits I knew we would get treats, I'm sure he is passing out treats in Heaven too! I will miss his smile and his humor.
Lorraine

Lorraine Perala - February 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Paul Gauthier was a true Gentleman, the kind of man this world so desperately needs. He lived a life that some would say was ordinary, but in truth, it was extraordinary. For 55 years he kept his marriage vows and enjoyed a loving relationship with his highschool sweetheart Judy. Together they built a lovely welcoming home and raised two fine sons. Paul never shirked from a hard days work, but at the end of the day, he always had time to coach his sons' hockey and play an active part in their lives. He taught them by example how to be men. When his grandchildren arrived, he was delighted to have a little boy, a hockey protege. When Justin was just learning to walk, Paul gave him a hockey stick to assist and the two of them never looked back. Jessica was his little angel to protect, guide, cheer on and applaud. Jessica provided him with a full schedule, Tball, hockey, soccer, ice skating, choir etc.. Paul never missed an event. Paul instilled in both a vision of how a proper young man should conduct himself. Paul was a friend and "grandpa" to everyone. His smile would light up a room, but just in case he often brought cookies or donuts as reinforcement. He was a generous caretaker to his neighbors in need. He shouldered the burden of caring for aging and infirm parents without complaint. Yes, he lived a quiet life being a faithful husband, excellent father, super her grandfather, valued employee, loving son and brother. He exemplified the virtues we take for granted. His greatness was in the ordinary carried out with commitment and LOVE. Very appropriately, Paul began his journey into Heaven with the celebration of his 80th birthday. Alzheimer's robbed Paul of his memories, but he will live forever in ours. Love to you my Friend

Patricia Winkle - February 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ My father-in-law was one of the nicest people I know! He was always so kind to everyone, he'd give you the shirt off his back. He was always there for us. Anytime I had to be at 2 places at once with the kids, he'd gladly help out and get them where they needed to be. Justin and Jessica were the light of his life. They were extremely busy kids, trying just about every sport and activity, and he was there for everything! Whether it was Tball, baseball, hockey, soccer, choir, roller hockey, lacrosse, summer golf camp, awards at school, first communion, confirmations, graduations, parties, vacations, etc, he was always there. He even went to Lake Placid with the hockey team! When he wasn't with the kids he went to some of my hockey games and went to one of my baseball games! We'd often ride together to hockey and soccer games, he'd always be ready way ahead of time, excited and ready to go! All the parents from hockey and soccer were all his extended family that he cared so much about! He loved our dog Oakley too! Luckily Oakley was still able to come visit him in the end and bring him joy! He had a heart of gold and will be greatly missed. I'm so glad I have so many incredible memories to look back on! Rest In Peace!

Emily Gauthier - February 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ I can't believe that I am writing on my dad's obituary memory book. There are so many memories that I will cherish and carry with me the rest of my life. I would truly not be the man, husband, and father that I am today if it weren't for my dad. He taught me kindness, respect, responsibility, and the importance of always doing the right thing. He worked very hard for our family and provided me opportunities that allowed me to be successful on my own. He loved my wife like his own daughter, and he treasured his grand kids, Justin and Jessica, and loved them more than life itself. Thank you dad for always being there for me, whenever I needed you, you never let me down. Thank you for always loving me unconditionally. I hope to someday be the man, husband, father, and grandfather that you were. You set the bar very high. I am eternally grateful that I had the honor and privilege for the last 49 years to call you my dad. I love you dad, and will miss you very much. Rest in Peace pops.

Lorne Gauthier - February 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I looked forward to Paul's visits to our office. Always wearing the biggest smile! He was so generous and brought us treats to brighten our day. I enjoyed his stories and jokes. A wonderful gentleman and friend. Bonnie

Bonnie Hanus - February 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Paul married my sister when I was 5 years old. One of my earliest memories was that of being the ring bearer at their wedding. Paul was the big brother that I never had. He would always take me to baseball and hockey games even playing hockey with me and my friends on the stream behind our house where he thoroughly enjoyed hip checking us youngsters into a snowbank. Holidays meant so much in our family. He taught me how to carve a turkey which I do every year based on his teaching. We hunted pheasants along with my dad for many years and he always had a knack of being in the right place at the right time when a bird flushed. He loved his family - my sister, his children and grandchildren with all his heart. These are just a few of the memories I have of Paul. Lastly, he embraced my wife, my kids and grandkids and most of all our dogs. I always say that dogs sense kindness, compassion and love and Paul was never alone on the couch at our house and always had a canine following under his chair at mealtime. We miss you Uncle Paul.

Dale Bortolani - February 13, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ There are no words to describe Paul. He was not only my loving husband, but my best friend. God gave us wonderful years together and for that I will be forever grateful. Hopefully, we will be together again soon....missing you so much.

Judy Gauthier - February 13, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *The best Hockey Fan and supporter that I know. Since I've know the Gauthier's when Justin played hockey at a very young age, to OJG, Sting and even now for MSU Hockey, I have seen Paul smiling face at the rink, The most dedicated hockey grandfather I've known. If I am fortunate to follow in that footstep, I would be that much happier.*

My family and myself will surely miss his smile and interesting conversations.

JJ

JJ Arboleras - February 12, 2020 at 12:00 AM