



Paul Bernard Poracky

July 27, 1953 - May 5, 2025

Paul Bernard Poracky, J.D., M.B.A., age 71, of Ogden Dunes, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly on May 5, 2025.

Paul shared more than 50 years of love, laughter, and partnership with his wife and best friend, Jennifer (née Miller), who survives. Together, they raised three daughters who he absolutely adored: Lara (Robert) Gatliff, Dana (Michael) Staehle, and Molly (Brendan) McGuirl. Paul was overjoyed to take on his favorite role yet: “Grandpa” to four grandchildren: Robert Michael Jr. and Evelyn Louise Gatliff, Cora Ann Staehle, and Owen James McGuirl, who all brought endless joy to his life.

Paul is also survived by his siblings, John Poracky (Liz Finan) and Ann (James) Adams, along with many cherished nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Bernard Francis Poracky, M.D. and Elizabeth Mae (Meyers) Poracky, R.N., and by his dear sister, Jean Haley.

Born on July 27, 1953, in Chicago, Illinois, Paul spent his early years in the city before moving with his family to Merrillville, Indiana, and later settling in the quiet lakeside town of Ogden Dunes. He deeply admired his parents, whose warmth, work ethic, and unwavering support helped shape the man he became. Their example stayed with him through every season of life. As a spirited little boy in Chicago, Paul once rode his tricycle straight into a busy intersection—an early sign of the boldness and curiosity that would carry him through life. He graduated from Andean High School, class of 1971, then went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in business finance and industrial management from Purdue University in 1975. It was there that he met Jennifer and began a lifelong love story. Paul continued his education at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business earning his MBA in 1976 and later completed his Juris Doctor at John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1984.

Paul’s legal career spanned decades and was marked by thoughtful counsel, deep commitment, and genuine care for those he served. He maintained bar licenses in three

states—Indiana, Illinois, and Texas—because Paul believed if something was worth doing, it was worth doing to the fullest.

But his passions extended far beyond the courtroom. Paul had an infectious personality and a knack for storytelling that could light up any room. Whether retelling a legendary golf shot, delivering a one-liner or cringe-worthy “Dad joke,” or reminiscing about the time his grade school rock band beat the Jackson 5 at a Navy Pier music competition (yes, really), Paul always left people smiling. It came as no surprise when Paul was voted Best Dressed his senior year. His style, like his personality, made a lasting impression.

Paul placed immense value on education, both in his own life and in the lives of his daughters. He was endlessly proud that all three earned Master’s degrees, something that filled him with pride and a deep respect for their hard work.

On busy school mornings, Paul handled the chaos with his signature charm. If there wasn’t time for breakfast at home, he’d happily detour to Burger King for French toast sticks to make sure his daughters were full and ready to take on the day at Nativity. This sweet tradition perfectly captured his mix of practicality, thoughtfulness, and dad humor.

He loved music of all kinds, especially when paired with great food. Some of his most memorable meals were enjoyed in New Orleans. He cherished traveling the world with Jennifer, particularly during their time spent in Venice, Italy, soaking up the decadent culture, and in Yellowstone National Park, where the mountain views truly took his breath away.

Paul was also a daily neighborhood walker, averaging 20,000+ steps a day with his loyal dog by his side. His deep love for animals—especially dogs—started early, with his beloved poodle “Zsa Zsa,” whom he treated like royalty and loved fiercely.

A loyal Purdue basketball fan, Paul loved life’s simple pleasures—beach walks, mountain hikes, bike rides, the perfect Spotify playlists, and quiet moments with the people he loved most.

More than anything, Paul loved his family. He was proud of his daughters and the lives they built, and he found so much joy in being “Grandpa.” He never missed a chance to share a photo, tell a story, or brag a little. His marriage to Jennifer was the heart of his life and together they shared many happy adventures.

Paul’s faith was a steady presence in his life. He believed in God and leaned into prayer

each day for guidance and gratitude. He didn't preach it because he lived it, through his treatment of others and the loving way he moved through the world.

Paul's absence leaves a deep void in the lives of those who knew and loved him, but his spirit will live on through his family and the many memories they made together.

A visitation will be held on Friday, May 9, from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN 46307.

A Funeral Mass will take place on Monday, May 12, at 10:00 AM at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1855 Harrison Blvd, Valparaiso, IN 46385, followed by interment at Calumet Park Cemetery, 2305 West 73rd Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410. www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Paul Catholic Church
1855 Harrison Blvd
Valparaiso, IN 46385-8801
(219) 464-4831

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Remember him and the classes we had together at Andean. May he rest in peace.

Jim Donner - August 12, 2025 at 09:38 AM

KK

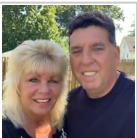
“ Dear Poracky family: I am sorry to learn of Paul's passing. I met him through a lawsuit where he was representing clients on the other side of a transaction. He was always so kind, friendly, professional. Everyone involved in the matter is so sad about this. Heaven rejoices while we weep. Keri-Lyn Krafthefer

Keri-Lyn J Krafthefer - July 14, 2025 at 11:23 AM

TI

“ Paul and his "life long girlfriend and wife " Jennifer took me under their wing when I needed friends the most. He was the most generous and caring friend. Always concerned about everyone else, never sharing his own trials and challenges. I will miss his friendship and I pray his family finds some peace through this difficult time. Losing someone this special is truly heartbreaking. Love to all those who appreciated him, saw beyond his gruff exterior (I only saw it 7 years ago and it was instantly gone) to understand truly what he was made of, he was more than a neighbor to me, he was extended family. Always there with a tequila for me and a willingness to listen with a, " hey kid what's going on?" While I blabbered on and he listened with intent. I could go on and on but for now I am going to leave with this, Paul Poracky was all about love. He deserves a penthouse in Heaven surrounded by his beloved parents and his Harry and other friends and animals that went to Heaven ahead of him. He'll be playing golf, listening to hard rock and wearing the most beautiful outfits. Surely he will be the most best dressed in heaven. Love, Tina

tina - May 11, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ So sorry May You Rest In Peace And You Will Be Missed

John Strehl - May 10, 2025 at 10:00 PM

JM

“ Jane, Tommy, & Mark purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



Jane, Tommy, & Mark - May 09, 2025 at 09:35 AM

MV

“ Me'chel'le Vaughn purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



Me'chel'le Vaughn - May 08, 2025 at 08:45 PM

MF

“ We are devastated to hear of Paul's untimely passing. No doubt Paul has now been welcomed into the kingdom of heaven. He was a great friend, from the days we hung out together at Purdue as young men, up to the great times we had in Tampa and New Orleans with Paul and his beautiful wife Jen as well as the Florida Keys. Dear friend, old friend, our hearts ache. May God comfort the Poracky family during this sad time. Mark and Julie Flodin.

Mark Flodin - May 08, 2025 at 08:17 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



May 08, 2025 at 08:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

May 08, 2025 at 08:09 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



May 08, 2025 at 06:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

May 08, 2025 at 06:26 PM

AO

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Poracky's passing. I have many fond memories of him, but my all time favorite is when he was kicked out of Kaitlyn and Molly's basketball game with my step-dad while wearing a mink coat and a Harry Potter hat after they both became a bit irritated with the coaches. He sure had a sense of style!

I'm sending my love from St. Louis- Anne O'Dette

Anne O'Dette - May 08, 2025 at 05:49 PM

JF

“ Paul , meant so much to me and so many other people. Paul and John are my partners. We were different but yet similar in so many ways. We are partners in incare global, a healthcare business. We helped hospital and nurses. Our mission and desire to help both hospitals and nurses. We didn't do it for money , iir was to help others. We knew our nurses helped care for the sick and weak. Paul , was our lighthouse keeping us pointed in the right direction. Paul was adored worldwide by so many. We were so blessed knowing a great man like Paul Poracky. Our simple mission, working together , caring for others. He was our guiding light

jerry lee fozzard - May 08, 2025 at 03:55 PM

LF

“ Lebioda family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



Lebioda family - May 08, 2025 at 02:45 PM

LF

“ Lebioda family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

Lebioda family - May 08, 2025 at 02:45 PM

TL

“ Timothy L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

Timothy L. - May 08, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



May 08, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

May 08, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



May 08, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

May 08, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



May 08, 2025 at 08:46 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

May 08, 2025 at 08:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Iris Xie - May 08, 2025 at 07:58 AM



"The weight of it flashes before our eyes all at once when time is stolen away."

You left suddenly, we are caught off guard, surprised and still unable to comprehend nor accept it. We feel cheated and shaken to our core that thinking about it is just too painful to even try to accept. I guess some are indeed taken suddenly that there was no goodbye, no chance to say "talk to you later," or as times when we call you "Can I call you back".

Some of the things you have accomplished for other people that seem small at the time but in actuality bigger than you can imagine. You met with several of our INCARE nurses when they arrived in Indiana. You have helped many of our nurses and what I cannot forget is you helping one nurse being trafficked and never knew she was a victim of illegal labor and immigration practices. She is now an American Citizen. You helped 6 of our nurses during the time their landlords are holding them with their leases. You have helped 78 nurses and counting, achieve their dreams to live and work in US.

You are our rock, the person that hold everything together. The strength of character you have shown and that is the legacy you are leaving us.

Iris Xie - May 08, 2025 at 11:06 AM

MD

“ Mark & Annie DeBats purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Paul Bernard Poracky.



Mark & Annie DeBats - May 07, 2025 at 11:06 PM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Bernard Poracky.

May 07, 2025 at 06:25 PM

JM

“ All of you are on our minds at this sad time. Paul will be truly missed. Love to you all Aunt Julie and Uncle Jack

Julie McQuinn - May 07, 2025 at 05:49 PM

LA

Love you, Aunt Julie and Uncle Jack.

Lara - May 08, 2025 at 02:25 PM