



Paul Dunbar

January 7, 1936 - August 30, 2011

Paul L. Dunbar (1936-2011)

CEDAR FALLS- Paul L. Dunbar, 75, of Cedar Falls died Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.

He was born January 7, 1936 in Dubuque, Iowa, son of Leo P. and Mary C. (Horan) Dunbar. He married Sara S. Cool on June 15, 1963 in Cedar Falls.

He attended Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California. He was employed with the Cedar Falls Fire Department from 1957 to 1965 and had been a professional photographer. He owned and operated Pfeiffer Co that became Dunbar Gift Shop, until 1985. He was a sales rep for GK Enterprises and then started Families in Action. In recent years he presented his speaking program, Real Kids Real Life, to school systems throughout the Midwest. He was Treasurer of the Cedar Falls Lions for many years and volunteered with UNI athletics. He was a member of Prairie Lakes Church.

Survived by: a daughter, Jennifer (Bill) Hostow of Grundy Center; and a son, Stephen Dunbar of Cedar Falls.

Preceded in death by: a son, Richard William Dunbar; a sister, Catherine York.

Services will be held 1:00 p.m. Friday at Prairie Lakes Church with burial in Greenwood Cemetery, both in Cedar Falls. Public visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Richardson Funeral Service and also for one hour prior to services Friday at the church.

Memorials may be directed to Prairie Lakes Family Experience or Cedar Valley Hospice.

The family would like to invite anyone who has a 'Paul story' to share, to please do so in the condolence section of this website. They would love to hear it.

Tribute Wall



“ I'm at Paul at a Middle School here in Iowa back in the 1990s I continued writing Paul even after I turned 18 for a short period of time just recently I found an old card that used to give out to everybody and wanted to let everybody know he is still thought of daily even though he has been gone for several years. To his family thank you for sharing him to the hundreds and thousands of kids throughout the country who looked up the pole all those years ago.

Tonya Stephenson - November 13, 2025 at 06:05 AM

JA

“ *"Fritz" (Paul) was a great friend of mine over the last few yrs. I met him when he spoke at my school when I was 16 (Im 31 now). I kept in contact with Fritz over the years as I battled my own demons. We were pen pals for a long time but as I weaved in and out of my addictions we would loose contact and then when I straightened out I would contact him again. I was going to go to speak at schools with him about addiction however I just couldn't grasps the sobriety thing until now. I decided that I wouldn't call Fritz back again until I had some time under my belt and could really let him know that I am making it this time. I called today to find that I am too late and Fritz has passed. I did not know he was sick but I do know that he has always been an angel to me. Fritz you inspired me when I was 16 and touched my heart then and over the years you always responded to my letters and calls and always held out your hand to guide me. I can not even begin to imagine the number of young lives you have touched. You are a geat man that I will never forget! I know that you are looking down and smiling while sitting next to your son! Thank you Fritz for all your hard work and dedication to many many young lives!*

Jackie - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

JS

“ Jenny & Family,
So sorry to hear about your dad. My family and yours, go way back...I know your dad was a great man in the community! My thoughts & prayers are with you all!~ God Bless- June Ceilley Swangel

June Ceilley Swangel - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

NI

“ I send my condolences to all family, friends, and those who had the blessing of knowing Paul. He was one of my favorite patients. I only knew him for a short while, but in that time he would always bring in such a cheerful smile, regardless of how he was feeling. He always had great, uplifting, stories to share. Paul will be greatly missed here on Earth, but Heaven has gained a wonderful addition.

Nicole - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

DW

“ As with Jean, our junior year stands out most in my memory----As I remember it, Sr. Mary St. Vivian had Paul sitting in the seat closest to the door so he could always be the one to answer the door (classroom doors were closed in those days) and she was often "on his case" about something but you knew he was her favorite kid in the class----I think she could see the goodness in him then. He had the greatest, most impish smile!!!

Dorothy Kerns Wilson - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

JS

“ Paul Dunbar

Jesy Santee-Shepard - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

SE

“ *Jenny, Sara, and Steven, My prayers are with your family and this time of loss, I remember your dad as being a really fun guy and he was a big part of our growing up. take care Love Sue*

Sue (Meeter) Eastman - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

BC

“ To Paul's family, friends, and KIDS in Pauls life....I met Fritz back in 1991 - he spoke at my high school when I was a freshman and my older sister was a senior. We invited him to come to our house for a home cooked meal with out family. He accepted and my whole family fell in love with him. No surprise to anyone who knows him. After that, although I was not one of his friends struggling with drugs or alcohol, I stayed in touch with him off/on throughout the subsequent years....not nearly enough in my opinion now that I realize how short my time and our friendship would be. Paul Dunbar is one of the most wonderful human beings I have ever had he pleasure of knowing....honestly, he is an example of God's finest work!!!! I know I am one of THOUSANDS who loves, respects, and honors this man!!! I will miss him and it hurts to know that I can't call him, email him, or check in on his website to see how things are going. Like many of us, I believe I took for granted that I would always have his friendship! Thank God that I have a copy of his amazing book to revisit his incredible work whenever I want. God bless each of you and I wish you comfort and blessings during this difficult time of dealing with life without Fritz. His time was simply too short here on earth, but God does tend to call the truly remarkable ones home sooner than we would like, right?

To Fritz - I love you and miss you!!! You made the most remarkable and honorable difference here on this earth, and I hope you know how much you are truly loved!!!! Again, you are our Maker's finest work and you truly made the most of your time on His earth. See you in the Promised Land! Love you so much!!!

Brandi Christensen

Brandi Christensen - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

TS

“ To the Fritz (Paul Dunbar) family,

I first met Fritz when he spoke at a school I attended in Des Moines, Iowa. I was about 13 years old. I tried to keep in touch with Fritz as often as I could. He helped me when things in my life were rather tough and times were hard. I recently found a card he had sent me that had his photo on it with a poem called You're Special and it made me think of how great of a person Fritz was to every student he came across. I am sending my condolences to your family in the loss of a great mentor to thousands of students he had come across. I will never forget the advice Fritz gave me and will continue to spread his word to my own two daughters. Thanks for a great memory Fritz.

Tonya M. Stephenson-LaFarr - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

KH

“ I would like to send my condolences to the entire family of Paul Dunbar, but especially to his daughter, Jennifer. We went to high school together and I also just lost my dad on July 11th. God Bless You All!

Kim Jasper Hauge - September 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Our Deepest heartfelt sympathies to the entire Dunbar family. Praying God's comfort and peace for you all at this time, from Debbie and the Campbell Family, xoxo

Debbie Campbell - September 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM