



## Paul John Pruchnicki

August 22, 1933 - March 5, 2019

Paul John Pruchnicki

Paul John went home to God, his beloved wife, Suzanne, and his “Ma and Pa on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at Amita St. Mary’s Hospital in Kankakee. Born in Chicago, August 22, 1933, Paul was the second son of Michael & Mary (McNamara) Pruchnicki.

The Pruchnicki family was part of Vistaiton parish, “the largest Irish American Parish on the planet” as Paul animatedly described it.

Paul received his early schooling with the Dominican Order of Sisters, whom he remembered with affection. In high school where he was educated by the Jesuits, he gained recognition and honors on the debate team. In sports, he ran track. He was a close enthusiast and follower of boxing. After graduation, Paul experienced a call to the priesthood and subsequently entered an extensive academic and religious preparation as a Jesuit seminarian. A final discernment led him to a teaching career as a lay person.

He taught high school English in various schools in Chicago, including several years as an educator at Marmion Military Academy. While completing his years in English at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, he met Suzanne Smith Granzow, the high school’s Art teacher. They married in 1981. Suzanne preceded him in death on August 28, 2017.

Thereafter, he became a partner with his wife, Suzanne and her sister, Elmira Smith Wilkey in The Bronte Press (a limited editions press founded by Suzanne and Elmira in 1977), at their Manteno facility.

Though history and travel were Paul John's avocations, he embraced being a grandparent and great-grandparent, and became a favorite uncle. He touched the lives of many people in all walks of life through his affirming and caring nature.

Surviving are one step-son, Harry III & Lynn Granzow of Sioux City, IA; one step-daughter, Charlotte (Granzow) & Alan Caron of Port Orchard, WA; five grandchildren, Edward Caron, Lydia Caron, Alexander Granzow, Austin Granzow, Elizabeth (Granzow) Crow; one sister, Helen (Pruchnicki) & William Peterson; one brother and three sisters-in-law, Daniel & Joan (Callahan) Prunicki, Carol Lynn Pruchnicki, and Mary Elmira Smith Wilkey; and nieces and nephews, Dr. Michael Pruchnicki, Mary Ann Picone, Mary Ellen Lewandowski, Patrick & Mary Ann Peterson, Kathleen Peterson, John & Pamela Peterson, Daniel "Danny" Peterson, Helen Pruchnicki Peterson, Bridget Prunicki, Andrew & Mary Prunicki, Dr. Julia & Shawn Steinke, Claire & Eric Duncan, Anthony Wilkey, Eric Wilkey, Martin Wilkey, Barry Wilkey, Tad Wilkey, and Jeremy Wilkey.

In addition to his beloved wife, Suzanne Pruchnicki, Paul John is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers-in-law, Raymond Lewandowki and Lowell G. Wilkey; and nephews, William Peterson and Thomas Peterson.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 9:30 until the 10:30 a.m. memorial mass on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manteno. Inurnment will follow at Blooms Grove Cemetery in Manteno.

Memorials may be made for masses, Hospice of Kankakee Valley, or the family wishes.

# Cemetery Details

## Bloom Cemetery

W. 8270N Rd.  
Manteno, IL 60950

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

APR 6. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Church  
207 S. Main St.  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 468-3403  
<http://www.stjosephmanteno.com>

## Memorial Mass

APR 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Church  
207 S. Main St.  
Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 468-3403  
<http://www.stjosephmanteno.com>

# Tribute Wall

PZ

“ An English teacher like no other, always challenging us at Marmion Military Academy to understand why the English language was so much more than just another class required to take in high school. Unconventional to put it mildly, his way of teaching English really got through to this Cadet. I credit Mr. P. with my ability to convey my message through the written word throughout my career. He enlightened us all with facts of life we would never know if not for him. Rest in Peace Mr. Pruchnicki, you made a difference in my life for sure. Cadet Patrick Zak, Marmion Military Academy, Class of 1971

---

Patrick Zak - May 30, 2025 at 09:14 AM

DK

“ Paul you are now reunited with your beloved wife. I pray that the Angels of the Lord carry you to your heavenly reward and that they comfort you family and friends that you leave behind. I knew you only for a short time. It was my honor and privilege to be able to pick you up and take you to church. Although it was only for a short time I will remember you fondly and I will miss your notes that you sent to me. Rest in peace my friend.

Dan Krueger



---

Dan Krueger - April 05, 2019 at 09:19 AM



“ *Dear Paul, you must be so happy to be with Suzanne and Corky. Bless your heart. You were always so good to me. I will miss your letters.* 🥺🥺🙏

---

**Carol Lynn Pruchnicki** - March 31, 2019 at 09:07 AM