



## Paul Allen Ostrof

October 28, 1946 - March 22, 2026

Paul was born on October 28, 1946. The first child of Rose (Babe) and Dan Ostrof. He was born on his mother's birthday! A gift to her, and a gift to the world.

He grew up in Rogers Park, in Chicago, Illinois, in a friendly neighborhood surrounded by family and friends. He was a happy, curious kid. He attended Rogers Elementary School and Mather High School.

As he entered his teen years, he became enamored with the guitar. At 14 years old he and a friend got on the train from Chicago to New York City. They stayed in the YMCA and made their way to the Newport Folk Festival, where he sat next to Pete Seeger. He was smitten with music. Paul practiced guitar day and night.

He became a major figure in the Chicago Blues guitar scene in the '60s. He was the lead guitarist for "The Little Boy Blues" band. They had several records and appeared a few times on Dick Clark's TV show, "Where the Action Is". They opened for many well known acts, including the likes of The Rolling Stones and Simon and Garfunkel.

He was a sought after teacher at the reputable Old Town School of Music in Chicago. He was accepted and studied at the school run by Andre Segovia, in

Alicante, Spain where he excelled, mastering flamenco and classical guitar.

He was fluent in Spanish and spent months living in the Canary Islands and traveled throughout Europe savoring his freedom. He “went wild with freedom”, as he often said of this time in his life.

He was the preferred guitarist for the Joffrey Ballet and various famous musicians requested him to accompany them when they visited Chicago. By that time, he was considered a legend in Chicago for his guitar work. He spent many years playing guitar and “all” fretted instruments for musical theater in Chicago. He became quick friends with the other musicians and actors. People were drawn to him. He had a way of being that was so authentic that people wanted his company. And he liked people. All kinds.

He had a lively sense of humor. This trait never left him.

Paul loved bicycles and bike riding. He liked the quiet and the freedom he found there.

He became a bike racer in his 30s. He did well and enjoyed that challenge. One day he got in a bike accident on his way home from a ride in his neighborhood. This accident was so damaging to his wrist that he could no longer play guitar professionally.

He needed to reinvent his life for the first of many times. He moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and opened a bicycle shop where he sold bikes and repaired them. He also took people on rides in the “campo”. It flourished it flourished for a couple of years. Then he met Sibyl and moved to Colorado to be with her. In Fort Collins he started a new business as the sole operator of a mobile bike repair shop which he called “Bike City”. His new business was featured in the local newspaper with a glowing article. He had reinvented

himself again and then discovered the brain tumor which changed his life.

When he was 43, he was at the height of his health and enjoying a new love with Sibyl, who would become as he liked to say, repeatedly, “my first wife & and my last wife”. He underwent surgery for his tumor in Chicago. This was a dangerous surgery in his brain stem to remove a Cavernous Hemangioma, which he was born with, but was never aware of, until then.

This surgery may have saved his life but left him with considerable neurological damage. He still was bright and clear mentally, but he had to put away his guitar. He had to let go of his love of bicycles and his joy in bike racing. It was a major, earth-shattering change. Somehow, he picked himself up and moved back to Colorado, lived with Sibyl and had a rich life anyway. He rode a stationary bike at a health club - for years. He became fluent on the computer. He started a business refurbishing old photographs, making wrinkled memories bright and shiny new. Kind of a metaphor for how he lived his life.

He had a way of making people feel comfortable around him. He somehow made people forget “his problems” and just see him as another person. An interesting, and funny person, too. Still, he was able to take raft trips, trips to Mexico and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He loved being in nature.

In the later years he thought it would be fun to dye his hair purple, and then pink. He had beautiful white hair but wanted the quirky joy of adding the color.

He continued spreading joy - with his unending smile - wherever he went. He had a lot of love for his family and friends and his wife. People from all over the world are feeling sad at his parting but, oh, so glad to have known this

man with such high spirits and a wonderful sense of play. A gift to so many that will not end.

Survived by Sibyl Stork, wife, Fort Collins Co, Adriane Kaplan (Ronald), sister, Deerfield, IL, Marc Ostrof (Jacki Gladstone) brother, Chicago, IL, Alissa (Kaplan) Schachter (Lyle), niece, Highland Park, IL, Claudette (Stork) Reid (Rick Kraas), sister-in-law, Pentwater MI, Bruce Stork (Sally), brother-in-law, Warren MI, Andrea Stork (David Ostrem), sister-in-law, Portage MI

Some things that brought Paul great joy:

“Nature Boy“ by Nat “King” Cole.

Anything by Sylvio Rodriguez

The color “pink“

Motorcycle adventures on country roads with Frank and others.

Gabrielle, Garcia Marquez – everything...

Taking photos...

“Authenticity“

The kindness of Kara

Lifelong friends, and new ones, too.

Mexico, and its people.

The smell of guayabas.

The laughter of his CNA's.

Cookies

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ I knew Paul as an amazing person, and this obituary shows that he was more amazing than I knew. Until I read his obituary, I had never heard about Paul's connection with the Joffrey Ballet, or about his meeting Pete Seeger (one of my heroes). I would love to have asked about so many things listed here about his life. But that was so Paul— in conversation he didn't talk about himself, but was all about the present moment and present company. He had a particular ability to meet new people and immediately put them at ease, in conversation and enjoyment of life. I did not know all about his many talents, but I knew him as a big, big person, in the best way. The world is less without him and he is missed by many.  
Susan Webster

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**Susan Webster** - May 26 at 01:21 PM

MO

Susan... very nice of you to write this note about my brother ... he was a man of many talents, especially musical ... he will be missed.  
Marc Ostrof

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**Marc Ostrof** - June 04 at 09:36 PM

BH

“ Sybil, I am so sorry to hear about Paul--He was a crack-up! I loved being your neighbors on Park Street for some 25 years! I loved that Paul had no hesitation about coming to my house for a party, even when he knew he'd have to be hoisted up the front steps :) He will be missed by our whole community, and by me.  
BT Huntley

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**BT Huntley** - May 01 at 03:40 PM

SS

*Thanks, BT!  
I know, what a guy!  
And truth is, he loved the hoisting ... and the easy inclusion... And all  
the fun.  
Sibyl*

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**Sibyl Stork** - May 05 at 10:25 AM

MO

*BT...  
Thanks for the kind words ... my brother was unique... I am going to  
miss him too.  
Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - May 09 at 07:04 PM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Andrea Stork** - April 22 at 08:13 AM

DO

“ Paul never just attended family gatherings, he elevated them with wit and his enthusiasm for life and the world around him. He had a comfortable way of entering a room, and, within minutes, he could turn the ordinary into something memorable. Conversations were more interesting, laughter more frequent, and somehow, the world took on a new perspective—or at least became a bit more interesting—once he started talking. He had that rare gift: the ability to call out the absurdities of our times with wit and humor, making us laugh while quietly reminding us to think a little deeper and look at things from a different perspective.

*Paul was a great conversationalist. The kind of guy you knew you were in for something—whether it was a story, an observation, or just a perfectly timed comment that would have everyone smiling.*

*And then there was the garlic.*

*Paul’s love of garlic wasn’t just a preference—it was a commitment. A bold, unapologetic embrace of flavor, of life, of doing things fully and without hesitation. In a way, that sums him up pretty well. He didn’t do anything halfway.*

*But as much as we’ll remember Paul’s humor, his stories, and yes, his legendary relationship with garlic, what stands above all else is his love for Sybil. That love was unmistakable. It showed in the way he spoke about her, the way he looked at her, the way he built his life around their partnership. It was steady, genuine, and from the heart—the kind of love that doesn’t need to announce itself because it’s felt by everyone around it.*

*Paul brought joy into our lives in a way that can’t really be replaced. The conversations, the laughter, the shared moments at family gatherings—they’re what I will remember. They don’t go away. And while it’s hard to imagine gatherings without him, I think the best way to honor him is simple: keep talking, keep laughing, keep noticing the absurdities of the world—and don’t forget to enjoy them.*

*You are missed, brother.*

*Thank you for the conversations. Thank you for the laughter. Thank you for the good times.*

*We'll carry them with us.*

*- Dave*

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**Dave Ostrem** - April 21 at 05:25 PM

MO

*Dave... thanks for taking the time to write about my brother ... I had some great laughing fits with him. Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 21 at 09:34 PM

AK

*DAVE, This is so beautiful!! Thank you for these wonderful memories of our brother. I agree with everything. Especially Sybil! I can't imagine a family gathering without him.*  
*Adriane*

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**Adriane Kaplan** - April 23 at 05:08 PM

ML

*I knew Paul mostly as his fan. When he came to my gig ,what could I play that'd measure-up? His encouraging words at the break were insightful, specific, & offered with humility. I still remember, 44yrs later.*

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**Mark Liloyd** - April 26 at 11:09 AM

MO

*Mark ... thanks for your thoughts ... proof that people remember how others made them feel ... my brother had a major musical impact. on many ... myself included. Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 27 at 10:20 PM

AS

“ To know Paul, was to know the heart of a joyous spirit who reveled in the absurdity of this life.

*Paul was one of the most optimistic people I ever got to know. He met my sister Sibyl while in Mexico and to hear him tell the story it was love at first site. I heard him tell this story many times, and always like it happened yesterday. He would whip his head around imitating a whoosh and his face would light up. He was totally back there in every cell of his being, and he would take us along for the ride.*

*That's the way Paul was. Paul had a great way of telling a story and just coming alive as he did. My kids always loved hearing an "Uncle Paul" story because there was always something surprising, outlandish, and a bit risky in every one of them. And he talked to them as peers, not kids, which was really the best affirmation of a young person's humanity. He never talked down to them; he let them rise to his level.*

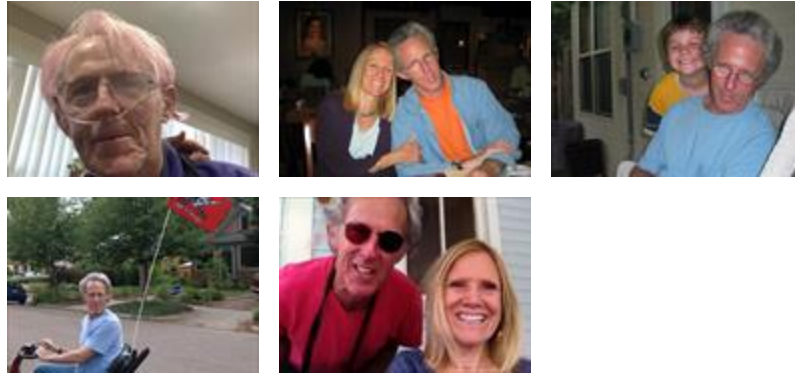
*Whenever I would call, after was had our little conversation, he would yell out to "Sabina, it's your sister Annnndddreeeaaa!" And every single time, I was honored and smiled loudly when she answered the phone. It was the joy and the glee that he always brought to even the littlest moments.*

*Paul had a certain way of being in the world. Confident. Curious. Exuberant. And interested in exploring new ideas, and challenging where and how ideas come to a person. We always saw politics as a fun place to start and mostly agreed that whatever the administration they weren't doing it right. And after solving the world's problems, he might say..." That's the truth Ruth" with a twinkle in his eye.*

*Though his abilities/mobility kept changing, he never stopped showing up fully, and never stopped trying to do more.*

*Paul was an inspiration of how to be happy—no matter what. And his memory will be a blessing to all who knew him.*

*Peace Brother / Annnnddreeeaaa*



**Andrea Stork** - April 21 at 01:10 PM

MO

*Andrea... thank you for the nice note ... with all the issues my brother faced ... he faced them "head-on" and with dignity. Marc Ostrof*

**Marc Ostrof** - April 21 at 09:39 PM

AK

*Andy, Such a beautiful tribute. Thanks so much for sharing. Adriane*

**Adriane Kaplan** - April 23 at 05:10 PM



“*My heartfelt condolences to the family of Paul. I remember him from when I was a little girl growing up in our neighborhood. I think he may have been friends with my brother Jerry, who passed away almost 20 years ago. Although I knew his younger siblings Marc and Adrienne better, I am always saddened by the passing of a fellow Roger Park-ian. RIP and may your memory be a blessing. Sincerely, Ellyn Siegel Kovalsky*

**Ellyn Siegel Kovalsky** - April 19 at 11:02 PM

MO

*Ellyn... appreciate your kind words ... i can see you on the 2900 block of Jaralath... at the end of the block. as i have told you before: "you are a class act". Marc Ostrof*

Marc Ostrof - April 21 at 11:32 AM

AK

*Ellyn!!! So sweet of you to acknowledge Paul. Thinking of you with love!!  
Adriane*

Adriane Kaplan - April 23 at 05:11 PM

JK

*“ Paolo was a good friend over the years, and I have many fond memories of our encounters and conversations on the Poudre Trail, coffee shops and at community events. I am blessed to have visited him last fall at the skilled nursing facility where he lived. We spent about an hour together, and he showed his genuine enthusiasm for life. He was happy. Que Te Cuides Mucho, Companero y Hermano.*

*John Kefalas*

John Kefalas - April 16 at 09:39 AM

MO

*John... thanks for your thoughts ... glad you were able to see happiness. Marc Ostrof*

Marc Ostrof - April 16 at 11:50 AM

FT

*Dear Sybil,  
I met Paul when I worked at the "Amnesty for Labor" program. He was a volunteer English teacher where he was very compassionate, and caring towards the students and their families. This meant a lot to them. I'm sorry for your loss, my deepest condolences.*

*Much Love  
Flora*

Flora Teran - April 19 at 06:32 PM

SI

*Thank you, Flora,  
He loved seeing you and I know he would be smiling so... that you wrote this.*

Sibyl - April 20 at 12:46 PM

MO

*Flora...  
I remember when my brother worked at Amnesty. Thanks for your kind thoughts. Marc Ostrof*

Marc Ostrof - April 26 at 02:29 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - April 15 at 04:14 PM

DR

“ To Sybil, and all of Paul's family, I'm sorry for your loss.

*Paul was electric, present, his gracious kindness filling the room.*

*His kind of goodness never leaves us.*

David Roy - April 15 at 12:28 PM

MO

*David ... Thanks for the kind words.  
Marc Ostrof*

Marc Ostrof - April 15 at 07:35 PM

SS

*Thank you, David.  
What a lovely remembrance!  
So glad you got to know him.*

**Sibyl Stork** - April 16 at 10:54 AM

AK

*Thank you David....Adriane, Paul's sister*

**Adriane Kaplan** - April 16 at 12:51 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - April 12 at 05:30 PM

AW

“ *I met Paul when I was 17 and he was the boyfriend of one of my high school best friends. We had the same birthday but he was a year older. For most of these years, we would always talk on our birthdays. We were great friends over the years, seeing each other when we could, sharing moments in our lives.*

*I will miss all that and I will miss Paul. He was a very important person in my life. I will think of him often with love.*

*ann wilson*

**ann wilson** - April 10 at 06:14 PM

BB

*I'm very sorry to hear of Paul's passing, He was a righteous individual. Growing up together, I have many great memories of him and times shared. It was an honor to know him.*

*Bruce Bahrmasel*

**Bruce Bahrmasel** - April 12 at 12:07 PM

MO

*Bruce... very nice of you to write your note ... i can see you at our house on Chase ... i too have vivid memories of you and my brother hanging out.*  
*Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 12 at 07:36 PM

MO

*ann wilson ... yes... I remember you. very nice of you to take the time and write a note remembering my brother ... he did touch a lot of lives ... we all are going to miss him.*  
*Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 12 at 07:42 PM

DH

“ *Had met him a few times but knew about his love for music a guitar. I got to chat a bit late in his life when he was in Chicago for a family event and I was able to move him around in a wheelchair which I have gotten experienced at and we had some time to talk . Sorry to family and friends which had been many and thanks for sharing his accomplishments and his various interests that he pursued and seemed to strive to be the best at what he was involved with.*

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**David Homer** - April 10 at 03:06 PM

MO

*Thanks for your kind words, David. Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 10 at 07:54 PM

WW

“ *A great guy. Looked after us even tho we were 2 years younger than he. May he rest in peace. Billy Walker*

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**William Walker** - April 09 at 12:53 PM

MO

*Billy...  
Thanks your note... I can see you at Chase & Sacramento. Marc  
Ostrof*

Marc Ostrof - April 10 at 12:12 AM

MO

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Marc Ostrof - April 05 at 03:50 PM

JL

“ *I just heard of Paul's passing, and I am finding it hard to breath. He had such a beautiful and magical spirit. Always gentle and always aware. The beatnik poet and the deep lover of music at it's realest truth, and deepest power. Pauly got me my first Stella guitar. The strings were an inch off the neck. I told him something was wrong and I couldn't play it! He came over and played the hell out of it. First lesson ----it's not the guitar, it's the guitarist. We will all miss his light. - Loving thoughts, Jilly down the block.*

Jill Lewis - April 05 at 12:58 PM

MO

*Thank you for thoughts, Jill ... yes, for sure, he could play and will be missed.*

Marc Ostrof - April 06 at 03:12 PM

WM

“ I am so sad to hear that Paul has passed away, I was the singer for the Little Boy Blues, he was a great guitarist in a class by himself, took me to Harry's on Chicago's south side for my first electric guitar, he was a cool guy, always wore waistcoats, I spoke with him a couple of years ago, got his number from his pal Warren, he will be sorely missed, rest, in, peace, old friend wherever you may be, thanks for the memories 🙏

William McColl - April 04 at 08:26 AM

MO

Billy ... thanks for your note ... I remember you as a little kid in our basement with Jim Boyce. My brother always thought you were a great performer ... hard to believe he is gone... but he did leave a musical legacy.

Marc Ostrof - April 05 at 02:32 PM

GOES  
FUNERAL CARE

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - April 01 at 01:23 PM

BN

“ Marc, Adrienne and family, I offer my sincerest condolences for your loss. Although I had met Paul many years ago, I did not know him well. What I did know was how gifted and accomplished a musician he was and of his legendary prowess on the guitar. Despite his setbacks, he was able to enjoy a full life. May his memory be a blessing.

Bob Nemzin

Bob Nemzin - April 01 at 12:58 PM

MO

*Bob... thanks for your thoughts ... its too bad you did not meet my brother at the height of his musical talent ... both of you would have connected. Marc*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 01 at 08:30 PM

MK

*Paul and I went to Roger's, Mather and Hebrew school together. I think we laughed more than we studied. What a great guy. Great memories. My condolences to his family.*

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**marc Kravets** - April 03 at 06:52 PM

MO

*Marc ... thanks for your note ... the north side of Chicago was a classic place to grow up ... you are correct... you could have some great laughing fits with my brother ... I had one with him about a year ago... will miss that.*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 05 at 02:37 PM

AM

“ *I met Paul on a school bus when we were 14 years old. Our friendship has lasted for 65 years. We had made a pact that on our 80th birthday we would pierce our ears and some a big fattie. Paul changed my life. He gave me a copy of “On The Road” a Miles Davis sextet album, and some Allen Ginsburg. He changed the course of my life with his music, reading, and General beatnik persona. I would not have gone to college if not for his influence on my life and would probably be dead somewhere in Viet Nam. I loved Paul like a brother and tried to call regularly even as his speech was becoming difficult, this did not matter at all as we just needed to stay in contact. Oh by the way we never did pierce our ears and I don't smoke fatties anymore.*

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**alex michaels** - March 31 at 03:27 PM

MO

*Alex... my brother held you in the highest esteem ... every time we would speak I always asked him: "have you heard from alex?" the answer was always yes ... you were a great friend over a lifetime. Marc*

**Marc Ostrof** - March 31 at 05:54 PM

JA

“*Paul was a good friend of mine and we enjoyed many fun times together. His Bike City gig was a great adventure and I had good times using his services. We also enjoyed many great times together during his computer wizard times. His good humor and amazing good will shone through all during his time in rehab and at the care center, where his love for others and his caring sensibilities shone brightly with his relations with the many staff who assisted him daily, and with whom the goofiness and fond flirtatiousness just bounced back and forth gleefully. I Love This Man and the Many Good Times that We Spent Together !!!*

**Jack Armstrong** - March 31 at 11:49 AM

MO

*Thanks Jack... great memory... my brother could be hilarious. Marc Ostrof*

**Marc Ostrof** - March 31 at 01:46 PM

AS

Mark,

*I was very close with Paul for a number of years when we were in our late teens and twenties. Paul was truly a mentor for me. He taught me so much about music when I was beginning my music career. He played mandolin in our first bluegrass band that included Wally Fredericks and Dan Zazove. I moved to Vermont in 1975 and have played in many bands over the years. Paul was my inspiration. He was a tremendously talented musician. We smoked our first joint together! And had so much fun together. We double-dated on occasion. I remember you (Mark) and your sister. And your Mom was always a welcoming person. I spent many hours in the basement of your house with Paul (and often Larry Robins) playing, listening to, and talking about music. When Paul bought an electric guitar and formed The Moving Violations with Nate Herman and Bob Hoban, I began focusing on the mandolin and continue to play it for more than 60 years. It has been about 10 years since I was in touch with Paul. I am so sad that I didn't keep in touch with him.*

*Andy Sacher*

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**Andy Sacher** - April 05 at 01:14 PM

MO

Andy...

*I am blown away to hear from you... of course I remember you. I remember Wally who played the banjo, Nate Herman, Bob Hoban and Larry Robins. They would all be in the basement in our house on Chase. I remember you playing the Mandolin. I once asked my brother what happened to you and he told me you moved to Vermont. There was always a wide variety of music coming out of the basement on Chase: rock, jazz, blue grass, classical, bossa nova ... just constant music ... if people were not playing ... the records were on. You, Paul, & Wally played some great blue grass ... I can visualize right now ... I remember Wally was huge. My brother influenced a ton of musicians ... yet he kept a low profile and maintained a dignified life. If you so desire ... you can give me a call and I can get into more detail on the rest of his life. You can message me on Facebook. Keep playing the Mandolin and stay connected to the arts. Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - April 06 at 03:41 PM

SS

*Andy,  
I remember when Paul told me that you had gotten in touch with him.  
He was very excited! He showed me a picture of you and told me of all  
the great times you guys had. Just know you warmed his heart. He was  
the kind of person that was a friend forever, whether you saw him or  
not.  
Glad you got to know him, as am I.  
Sibyl*

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**Sibyl Stork** - April 09 at 09:26 AM

SH

“ *A consummate musician, an amazing cyclist, a non-stop sense of  
humor, a beloved friend who will be greatly missed by all who had  
the good fortune to share a lifetime with him. He is irreplaceable!  
Love, Sally*

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**Sally Havens** - March 30 at 07:09 PM

MO

*Sally... my brother spoke to me about you often.  
Marc Ostrof*

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**Marc Ostrof** - March 31 at 01:48 PM

CR

“ *This is Paul at our "Stork Family Reunion" in 2015. He was a  
wonderful addition to our family and we will miss him so!  
Claudette*



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**Claudette Reid** - March 30 at 06:43 PM

MO

*Claudette... connecting with your family & Sibyl was the best medicine Paul ever received.*  
*Marc*

**Marc Ostrof** - March 31 at 01:51 PM

MS

*I remember his sense of humor and I know he will be very much missed. His long distance cousin Mike Satter.*

**Mike Satter** - April 02 at 01:36 PM

MO

*Thanks for the note, Mike*  
*Marc*

**Marc Ostrof** - April 02 at 11:09 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - March 30 at 03:05 PM