



Paul Russell

December 22, 1947 - October 8, 2023

Paul Herbert Russell, age 75, of Witter, Arkansas, was born to John Moses and Ada “Jewell” (Steele) Russell on December 22, 1947, at Prairie Grove, Arkansas.

Paul spent his life working in the logging industry and was one of the owners of Russell Timber, Inc. until his retirement in 2008. He graduated from Kingston High School in 1966 and attended the School of the Ozarks at Point Lookout, Missouri, for several years.

Early in his life, Paul made a decision to follow the Lord and his faith never wavered throughout the rest of his earthly journey. Each day he prayed for his family, friends, and many other acquaintances who might come to his mind. During the past year Paul was determined to memorize Psalms 91, and his Bible, with wrinkled and worn pages, is proof of the time he spent at this chapter.

Paul experienced health problems while on this Earth but those who loved him are certain that he is now rejoicing with his Lord and Savior where he is experiencing total healing and understanding the fullness of God’s love and grace to him.

Paul loved exercising, jogging, playing basketball and weight-lifting. He was a

fan of sports in general, especially basketball. He was a dedicated Boston Celtics fan through most of his life, always cheering them on enthusiastically, even when the team didn't have the best seasons. Paul was a hard-working man and his love of timber/logging continued even after his retirement as he watched loaded log trucks passing by, and he always commented on who traveled by and the logs they were hauling. Many of his neighbors still remember him jogging on the road going up Slow Tom Mountain, often after putting in a long day working in the timber. In his younger years, Paul was known to have challenged several of his employees to a foot-race, which was done at the end of a workday in heavy logging boots.

Paul married Joy Elaine Anderson on December 27, 1974, and he was a loving father of three children: Christy (Russell) Bennett, Dustin Russell, and Shandy (Russell) Dersham. He was "Pa" to six grandchildren: Valerie and Gage Russell; Ryan and Maisie Bennett, and Mila and Cohen Dersham.

Paul is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren; a sister, Sandra Mae (Russell) Bell; two brothers, John David Russell and Joseph Dale Russell; and many nieces and nephews who grew up spending lots of fun days at Paul and Joy's home. His parents predeceased him.

Funeral services will be Friday, October 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel of Brashears Funeral Home in Huntsville, with Rev. Alex Foster officiating. Visitation, with family present, will be one hour prior to the funeral. The body will be laid to rest in the Witter Cemetery. Pallbearers will be: Eric Bell, Rick Bohannon, Matthew Cleaver, Ronald Dennis, Scott Dennis, and Marvin Ryan. In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Paul may be made to Every Soul Matters Ministries (non-profit ministry to the homeless in Fayetteville), 2532 West Megan Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703; or any ministry group of your choice. Services are entrusted to Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory of Huntsville.

Cemetery Details

Witter Cemetery

16430 Highway 23
Witter, AR 72776

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 13. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (cst)

Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory
509 North Gaskill Street
Huntsville, AR 72740
(479) 738-2123
<https://www.brashearsfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

OCT 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory
509 North Gaskill Street
Huntsville, AR 72740
(479) 738-2123
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Tribute Wall

JB

“ Joy & family, Steve & I both missed Paul death notice, but, know you & your children in our thoughts & prayers for comfort & healing. You & the children were blessed being a part of his life. God brings comfort & healing of lost loved ones.

Love. Hugs,
June Ball & bro. Steve

June Ball - October 17, 2023 at 09:59 AM

CC

“ PR was one of the best friends and cousins I had growing up. We spend many hours traipsing around both our farms, fishing, swimming and just being farm kids. He didn't like to milk cows, though, but loved jumping off the big rock down on Kings River. He had a sweet disposition and was blessed when he found Joy to marry. I know he is waiting at heaven's gate for all the rest of us. Aunt Jewell was a loving mom and I shared many meals with PR and the rest of the kids. He always had a beautiful smile and worked hard. I am thankful I had him to love and share my early life with.

Cae Cordell - October 16, 2023 at 10:04 PM

CO

“ Sending thoughts and prayers for the family.

Christal Ogden - October 13, 2023 at 10:36 AM

DP

“ Thoughts and prayers for all the family.

Donna Phillips - October 12, 2023 at 01:52 PM

CM

“ Prayers for Christy Bennett and family. This family means a lot to the McCoys and we send extra prayers during this time of loss.

Crystal mccooy - October 12, 2023 at 09:30 AM

PA

“ I was very sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Paul Andrews

Paul Andrews - October 12, 2023 at 09:12 AM

SG

“ Russell family, I am so sorry for your loss and will be praying for comfort as you grieve.

During college years, Shandy would invite me to the Russell home. I remember the whole family made me feel very welcomed and apart of their family. It was a sweet gift to have a place to rest and relax on the weekends. Thanks to the Russell family for providing this. Mr Russell, I have no doubt that you have been welcomed into your eternal home, just as you and your family welcomed others so generously into your earthly one.

susanna gilstrap - October 11, 2023 at 11:22 PM

JW

Joy u and your family are in my thoughts. I know how u loved Paul snd how well u cared for him. God bless u dear friend

Jan woods - October 13, 2023 at 10:11 AM

RS

“ My sincere sympathy to Joy and the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. May God comfort you in a way that only He can.

Rita Sharp - October 11, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ Joy, I was so sorry to hear about your loss. I knew his parents from church. May the Lord hold each of you in His arms of love, may His comfort give you peace during this trying time.

Alvin L Herrington - October 11, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ Alvin L Herrington lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell



Alvin L Herrington - October 11, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“ Paul was always nice and respectful person I'm so sorry for your loss

lois Ryan - October 10, 2023 at 08:51 PM



“ Prayers for all Paul's family. He was such a nice man.

Tommy and Billie Whorton

Billie Whorton - October 10, 2023 at 08:14 PM



“ Prayers go out to all the family. Know Paul is healthy and happy in God's loving arms. Dorothy Dyer

Dorothy Roberts Dyer - October 10, 2023 at 03:53 PM

AB

“ Thankful and grateful to have had him as my Uncle Herb. He always made us feel welcome at his house - and I can only imagine that sometimes we were a little bit loud and annoying, LOL! - chocs, push-ups and physical activity, Celtics, big timber logs, Cadillacs, jeans and boots, basketball, goblet glasses, hoop earrings, his loud ‘coach’ voice, satellite tv, and so much more!!

I remember those holiday and summer time sleep-overs when we were all lined up in the living room floor like crayons in a box and hearing him getting ready for work at 4:30(??)am - his voice that never could whisper even though Joy tried to get him to (LOL), the sound of his heavy work boots on the floor, the sounds and smells of Joy cooking breakfast and packing his lunchbox, ice going into a water jug, the door closing when he went outside and the Ford diesel (always a Ford as I recall) firing up with a loud rumble. Then it was quiet and we all went back to sleep!

He cared about people. He wanted to know how things were going, what I was up to at work, and that I was doing ok. He was a big encourager as we were growing up (and even after we were grown) to work hard and get an education - and he kept up on where we were on that. As I got older, married, and we had children, whenever I saw him he always asked about David and the boys, how they were doing and what they were doing. He liked to know the details! He could always remember my kids’ names and even the ‘small stuff’ no matter how many great-nephews and great-nieces that he eventually had.

He was so proud of his kids and their families and all their successes - just ask him and he would tell you - and he had so much to be proud of! He also knew that he had a wonderful wife - and she truly was a blessing to him every day!

He is loved and will be missed!

Amie Breshears - October 10, 2023 at 02:14 PM



Thanks for these wonderful memories, Amie! Christy

Christy Bennett - October 11, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Paul Russell.*



October 10, 2023 at 02:01 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Paul*



Joy Russell - October 10, 2023 at 01:04 PM



I remember Paul, David and their dad.... I was 10-12 years old at the time 1978-80. We lived at the head of Long Valley road and they were logging a tract of timber nearby. My mother asked them to stop by with the skidder (an International cable skidder if I remember correctly) I remember Paul wrapping the cable around a couple of massive rocks and they pulled them down the hill out of the way. I was hooked from that day on and always had passion for logging that's unexplainable. I remember Paul and his brother were tall and their dad was short! I've always had a great admiration for Paul.

Wyatt Williams - October 10, 2023 at 03:27 PM

JW

One of the first friends I made at School of the Ozarks. A kind and gentle man at an early age. We were all young boys at S of O but PR was a Man.

Jerry Wood - October 10, 2023 at 04:37 PM

DD

Joy, I was so sad to see this notice - although I know Paul is rejoicing in Heaven! I do rejoice with him, but I know his absence on earth will be hard for his family. Reading his obituary and the remembrances of him make me fervently wish I had known him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all and sending my love and sincere condolences to you, my friend. May the Lord bless and comfort all of you and give you peace.

Diana Davis - October 12, 2023 at 12:04 AM

JO

*Joy,
I am sorry for your lose. I did not know Paul well but the few times i spent with him were enjoyable talking basketball with him.
I know he is in a good place with the lord and will be remembered dearly.
God bless you and your family.*

Jon

jon - October 13, 2023 at 11:07 AM