



Paul John Renne

September 27, 1965 - August 6, 2017

Paul John Renne

Age 51, lost his battle with heroin addiction on August 5th, 2017.

He was a kind and beautiful soul, and his spirit lives on in his family and friends. He is survived by his mother, JoAnne Lightner; stepfather, Don Lightner; father, Paul F. Renne; brother, Ian Renne; sister, Jennifer Renne; nieces and nephew Leah Renne, Jackson and Julia Roth.

Paul was a math teacher for many years in the Pittsburgh Public school system, designed math curricula, and pioneered a way of teaching math that lives on. His students adored him, as he connected with them by care for each and every one, and brought his passion for math and learning to the classroom every day. Paul was an avid outdoorsman, enjoyed kayaking, hiking, camping, travel, and adventure. He loved music, art, and literature.

He is also forever in the hearts and souls of his aunts and uncles, Virginia and Peter Hutchinson, Patricia and Samuel Lee Armfield, III, Michael and Susan Renne, and cousins Caroline Armfield (Derek), Christopher Hutchinson (Lilia), Bridgett Javid (Khalid), Brian Hutchinson (Heather), Fernando DeMoura (Katelyn), and the dear friends he had.

Our hearts are broken, but we keep the spirit of Paul John alive through our children, and our stewardship of the earth. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, 614 Dorseyville Rd., Pittsburgh, PA, 15238, or Northside Animal Rescue Center (Animal Rescue League), 1101 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15233.

Viewing Thursday night 7:00 to 9:00, Thomas M Smith Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd., 930 Center Avenue, (Blawnox) Pittsburgh, PA 15238. We invite you to celebrate his life on Friday afternoon at 2:00 where Paul will be brought to his final resting place at Penn Forest Natural Burial Park, 155 Colorado Street (off Hunter Road), Verona, PA 15147. Paul will be buried in a biodegradable casket so that his body feeds the trees, meadow, and plants that he loved so much. Please dress comfortable and casually, weather appropriately. Paul would want us to be comfortable as we mourn, rejoice, and give gratitude that he touched us so deeply. He will be forever missed. Buffet Friday afternoon 4:00, Walnut Grille Fox Chapel (in Waterworks Mall), 911 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh PA. 15238.

Cemetery Details

Penn Forest Cemetery

121 Colorado Street
Verona, PA 15147

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 10. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
930 Center Avenue
Blawnox, PA 15238

Graveside Service

AUG 11. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Penn Forest Cemetery
121 Colorado Street
Verona, PA 15147

Tribute Wall



“ *Paul John Renne*

October 09, 2023 at 09:55 AM



“ *Paul John Renne*

October 06, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ *Aunt JoAnne, Jen, Don & Ian,*

I am so sorry for your loss!! My cousin Paul John was a beautiful person. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you & I love you all. I will never forget him!!

My heart is broken but Paul's legacy will live on through all of the children that he has taught and impacted through the years. Love you forever cousin!! ~Bridgett



Bridgett - August 10, 2017 at 02:02 PM



“ *A beautiful, kind soul with the spirit of an artist. I will miss our birthday get togethers. My heartfelt prayers for his family. I will miss you my friend.*

Al Miceli - August 10, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul John Renne .



August 10, 2017 at 10:39 AM



“ Dear Jenn - I am so sorry for you and your family. My fondest memory of Paul John is a jr high school dance. I sat like a wall flower the entire night until Paul John asked me to dance. He was that kind of friend and i will forever remember his kindness.- Vicki Weiss

Vicki Kisslinger - August 09, 2017 at 10:50 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul John Renne .



August 09, 2017 at 10:42 AM



“ Two of my favorite memories of Paul, both of which show some of his most endearing qualities, are his waking on his hands on the beach, to the delight of my little son Andrew, and his rescuing of a stranded sting ray, holding it dangerously close to the stinger as he carried it back to the water. He was a kind and gentle soul and full of gentle humor.

Sam Tindall - August 09, 2017 at 09:18 AM