



## Durance Leonard Paul

August 18, 1957 - January 18, 2025

Durance Leonard Paul, age 67, of St. Ignace Michigan, passed away on January 18, 2025, at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital surrounded by his loving family. He was born on August 18, 1957, in Traverse City, Michigan, to Bennett Marsten Paul and Marilyn D. Zerbe.

Durance grew up in Benzonia, Michigan, where he tested his limits and was a bit on the wild side by having fun riding dirt bikes, hunting, skiing and any fast-paced hobbies he could find. In high school he excelled in track and earned various medals. In 1975 he enlisted in the United States Army where he worked on tanks and jeeps and was stationed in Germany. After being honorably discharged he worked for the Benzonia Road Commission and then was hired by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians as a Conservation Officer and was quickly promoted to Chief Conservation Officer. In 1986, he was selected for the State of Michigan DNR Conservation Officer Academy and subsequently had a career in the Eastern Upper Peninsula working in both Chippewa and Mackinac Counties.

Durance enjoyed deer hunting and fly fishing with his son, grouse hunting with his bird dogs, snowmobiling, jeeping, Harley rides and catering to his children's many sports and activities.

Durance is survived by his wife, Becky (Anderson) Paul; children, Danielle

Blossom Paul, Page Lee Paul and Bennett Grant Paul; granddaughter, Gemma Sue Paul; and brother, Sylvester Paul.

Durance was preceded in death by his father, Bennett Marsten Paul.

Durance Paul lived a good life and will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He was taken too soon but his memory will live on through the lives he touched.

Per Durance's wishes, no services are being held at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring.

Family Life Funeral Homes assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at [www.familylifefh.com](http://www.familylifefh.com).

# Tribute Wall

LP

“ *Though I never met Mr. Durance Paul, This obit speaks a lot about him.  
Being a DNR/DEQ employee for 26.5 years, retiring in 2018, I know the "trials and tribulations" of doing that job. I desired to be a CO for many years, but the "physical requirements" were too much for me, and could not "qualify", so I spent my time "protecting your wetlands, and lakes and streams".  
Mr. Paul was born 9 months and 1 day before I was.  
What a shame to lose him so soon. I truly wish I would have known him...  
My sincerest condolences for your loss.  
The photo looks just like me now.  
Larry Poynter*

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**Larry Poynter** - January 31, 2025 at 07:15 PM

CE

“ *Very sorry to hear of your loss. Sending our thoughts and prayers.  
Mark and Carol Elmblad*

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**Carol Elmblad** - January 31, 2025 at 11:32 AM

RP

“ *I am sorry to hear of your loss. I remember Durance having a strong work ethic, being a person of character and courteous. He was a good C.O.*

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**Ruth (Binder) Pearce** - January 26, 2025 at 08:47 PM