



## Paul Allen Besteman

May 19, 1952 - February 23, 2021

Paul Allen Besteman, age 68, of Rudyard, Michigan, died unexpectedly at his home February 23, 2021. He was born May 19, 1952 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to Elmer and Gertrude (Ploegstra) Besteman.

Paul grew up in Rudyard and graduated from Rudyard High School with the class of 1970. After high school, he started working at Lake Superior State University (LSSU) in maintenance as a work study student. He met his wife, Bonnie, in 1975 and they married July 31, 1976. After completing his degree, he worked as a Central Heating Plant Operator at LSSU. He was later promoted as the Central Heating Plant Supervisor and then to Assistant Director Physical Plant. Paul was also the project manager for several of LSSU's newer buildings including the LSSU Fine Arts Building. In 2010, he retired and began helping Bonnie with her business "Besteman Creations", making things for her to paint on and attending craft shows, talking to anyone who would lend an ear.

Paul was very dedicated family man and would always put others first, helping anyone who needed it. He could fix just about anything and was avid wood worker and enjoyed gardening.

Paul was a member of the Rudyard Christian Reformed Church and served on the Rudyard-Pickford Co-op Board.

Paul is survived by his wife, Bonnie; children, Matthew Paul (Katie Wallis) Besteman of Kincheloe, Michigan, Krystle Marie Berg of Rhineland, Wisconsin, and Chelsea Anna Besteman of Rudyard; grandchildren, Brenja Ute Anastasia Besteman, Cylie Shayne Besteman, Abigail Marie Berg, Kayla Anna Berg, Emma June Wallis, and Conner James Wallis; siblings, Diane Bouwma of Englewood, Florida, and Michael (Denise) Besteman of Grand Rapids, Michigan; sisters-in-law, Marylyn (Jim) Vassar of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Linda (Jim) Coven of Lima, Ohio, and Candace Savoie of Jackson Michigan and brothers-in-law, David Savoie of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Richard (Jean) Savoie of Arizona.

Paul was preceded in death by his mother and father; Gertrude and Elmer, brothers-in-law; Robert "Bob" Bouwma and Robert "Bob" Savoie; and sister-in-law; Margaret Allen.

Visitation will be held on March 2, 2021 at Rudyard Christian Reformed Church from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the funeral service to take place at 6:00 p.m.

Final Resting Place will be North Rudyard Cemetery.

Memorial Contributions may be made out to the Rudyard Christian Reformed Church Building Fund, 17938 S Tilson Rd, Rudyard, MI 49780.

R. Galer Funeral Home of Pickford, Michigan is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 2. 4:30 PM (ET)

Rudyard Christian Reformed Church  
17938 S Tilson Rd  
Rudyard, MI 49780  
(906) 478-3204

# Tribute Wall



“ *Paul Allen Besteman*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Paul Allen Besteman*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Paul Allen Besteman*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Paul was a very special soul and I consider myself very blessed to have known him. He was a man of great humor, wisdom, kindness, and integrity. A man who earned my respect and admiration.*

*It hurts knowing I won't see Paul again. It was always such a treat to chat with him. He gave me needed life advice and made me believe in myself. I'll never forget the lessons I learned from Paul nor will I forget the laughs we had at the Plant.*

*His love for his family was immeasurable. He loved going to craft shows with Bonnie and talking about his children/grandchildren. His family was an enormous point of pride for him. I wish strength for the Besteman Family and extend my sincerest condolences.*

Letitia Phillips - March 01, 2021 at 09:40 PM

TM

“ Tony and Melissa McLain purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Paul Allen Besteman.



---

**Tony and Melissa McLain** - February 28, 2021 at 10:33 PM

BB

“ There were several Craft Shows that I looked forward to see him & Bonnie at. Always a good listener and good story teller. Craft shows won't be the same.  
He will be missed.

*Bob Berger*

---

**Bob Berger** - February 28, 2021 at 03:12 PM

CH

“ Bonnie and family--So sorry to hear of Paul's passing. I worked at Lake State with Paul for many years. What a terrific guy. A perfect example of humility and kindness. He will be missed by many people. Keeping you in prayer at this time.

*Cheri Hoornstra*

---

**Cheri Hoornstra** - February 28, 2021 at 02:36 PM

LF

“ So sad to read this. Had a very nice talk with Paul the other day. Many good memories of him from my years at Lake State. Peace and blessings to his family.  
*Lee Freedman.*

---

**Lee Freedman** - February 27, 2021 at 05:37 PM

FS

“ *Bonnie, Matt, Chelsea and extended family, My heart felt condolences to you all. A tragic loss to anyone who knew Paul as he was a kind, generous, gentle man. May all your find memories comfort you now and in the future. His passing will leave a tremendous void in many people's lives. I am thankful and proud to have been part of his work family. Rest in Peace 'papa Smurf'. Fly high with the angels.*

-----  
**Fern Spencer** - February 27, 2021 at 10:16 AM

JN

“ *Dear Bonnie, Mike & Dee and Diane, and families! We are so saddened by the sudden loss of Paul and our heartfelt condolences go out to you and yours. Praying for a sense of God's comforting presence and His peace. Wish we lived closer so we could do more. Miss you all, especially in difficult times like this. Love, Jane & George Nieuwenhuis, Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

-----  
**Jane & George Nieuwenhuis** - February 26, 2021 at 07:09 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Allen Besteman.*



-----  
February 26, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Allen Besteman.



---

February 26, 2021 at 02:46 PM



“ I first met Paul when my wife and I became the Supervisors of the Student Village dorm at Lake State. Paul was "the man" that got things done on campus. No matter what it was, Paul always handled the situation and fixed the problem. Students, staff and community members always knew to talk with Paul to get the job done. Paul and "the crew" at the Physical Plant would and could fix anything. Numerous times Paul would help students fix their car or lend a tool to help. Paul was someone you could count on anytime for anything when it came to the students and his "Lake State Family." He was a gentleman and someone I was very proud to call my friend. God Bless you Paul.

*Sympathies and Condolences to Bonnie and Family.*

*Mike and Gwen Worley*

---

**Michael Worley** - February 25, 2021 at 10:31 PM



“ The Burton Excavating Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Paul Allen Besteman.



---

**The Burton Excavating Family** - February 25, 2021 at 08:55 PM

JW

“ He had a big smile and heart, was always friendly. I will miss seeing him at the craft shows.

jeanny wilson - February 25, 2021 at 05:13 PM

MC

So so sorry, Bonnie and family...prayers on the way for strength to get through the sadness. Mary Cahill

Mary Cahill - February 25, 2021 at 08:05 PM

CB

I'm so sorry for your loss Bonnie and Family . Paul was a straightforward kind of guy . He also had a good sense of humor. I will miss our chats at craft shows .

cindy Baldwin - February 26, 2021 at 07:44 AM

KB

Aw Bonnie so sorry. He was such a trooper. Never a complaint always approached life with a smile. Lean on your family and friends at this time.

Karen Sutton- Boger - February 26, 2021 at 09:52 AM

PB

Dear Bonnie and Family, Although I never knew your Paul, I know my brother-in-law, Fred Rose, worked with him and he and Jackie had good things to say about him all the time. We are holding you and your family in our prayers for strength and peace in such a difficult time. A fellow painter, Pat Bennin

Pat Bennin - February 27, 2021 at 02:34 PM

KB

Paul when I had my stent talked to me over coffee at church! He gave encouragement! He loved the Lord was one of the kindest and caring persons I have known!

Karen Busman

Karen Busman - March 01, 2021 at 05:37 PM

AS

*Bonnie and the entire Besteman family. Just learned of Pauls untimely passing yesterday March 10th I was shocked and sadden. We worked together at the Physcial Plant at LSSU.Many years. Paul was a great person well respected throught the LSSU community and beyond. He was always more than a coworker he was also your friend. Paul always had your best intrest in mind and time to chat. One could tell good storyys for hours about Paul. Prayers for all !*

*Art Smart*

.

---

**Art Smart** - March 11, 2021 at 08:49 AM