



Paul Raymond Reed

August 29, 1948 - December 15, 2025

Paul Raymond Reed, age 77, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, died on December 15, 2025, at Medilodge of Sault Ste. Marie. He was born on August 29, 1948, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Raymond and Edna (Hawk) Reed.

Paul was raised in Philadelphia and attended a special education school there. Living with cerebral palsy made life a challenge, but Paul accomplished more than most. He never allowed his disability to keep him on the sidelines of life. An active and vibrant member of his community, Paul dedicated his life to breaking down barriers that prevented others with disabilities from fully participating in society. His fierce determination and “never quit” attitude enabled him to remain independent despite many physical obstacles. Each day, he faced life with tenacity, continuing his mission to eliminate barriers so that disabled individuals could live normal, fulfilling lives.

As a passionate advocate for the disabled, Paul made significant contributions both locally in Delaware County and throughout the region. He served on the SEPTA Advisory Committee as a liaison, bringing attention to the concerns and challenges faced by disabled riders, and worked closely with SEPTA Paratransit to help facilitate service requests. He also served as a community advocate at Fair Acres, Delaware County’s nursing home, where he monitored patient care and ensured residents’ needs were met. Additionally, Paul was a Peer Mentor with Liberty Resources, where he shared his life experiences to

help others with disabilities work toward independence. He would even accompany individuals on their first SEPTA ride to ensure everything went smoothly. Paul also worked with the Advisory Committee for Barrier Awareness of Delaware County, helping educate public officials and schoolchildren about what it is like to live with a disability and how individuals overcome daily challenges.

Though Paul faced his own challenges each day, he did so knowing he had made life a little easier for others. Inspired by his strength, generosity, and perseverance, Paul was nominated for and received the 2006 Mercy Courage Award for Personal Achievement.

In addition to his advocacy work, Paul enjoyed the simpler pleasures in life. He loved painting and traveling, finding joy in creativity and new experiences.

Paul was lovingly taken care of by his niece, Melissa Bernhardt, the staff at Freighter View, Medilodge and especially his buddy Shawn McMahon.

Paul is survived by his sisters, Joan (Scott) Reed Mahanna of Kincheloe, Michigan, Carol (Roger) Ridgley of Kapaa, Hawaii, and Sue (Howard "Buddy") Borders of Aldan, Pennsylvania; Aunt Judie (Uncle Phil) Alwine and Uncle Bill (Aunt Barb) Hawk; and many cousins, second cousins, nieces, nephews and friends of family all scattered around the country.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Edna; and brother, Alan Reed.

A graveside service will be held in the summer of 2026 in Pennsylvania.

Family requests your thoughts and prayers be for those who struggle to live their lives to the fullest and support them in any way you possible can in

Paul's memory and honor.

Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.

Tribute Wall

PA

“ *May Paul's memory be a blessing to your family. I am so sorry for your loss.*



Patricia Armitage - December 28, 2025 at 06:27 PM

BP

Joan we are so very sorry for your loss. You and family are in our prayers.

Barbara Petingalo - December 29, 2025 at 10:17 PM

VJ

So sorry to hear the passing of your brother. Sending prayers

Vi jolly - December 31, 2025 at 04:44 PM

MT

*Paul had a wonderful mind. Many people were not aware of his many accomplishments in different fields of his life! His Father took him to craft fairs to display and sell his paintings. He was a strong advocate for public transportation to be accessible to all. The disabled also need to get to their doctor's appointments or out to meet a friend for lunch on time. My son was building a model handicapped home for a veteran in Texas and Paul helped by explaining in detail what was needed inside and out of the home. He had a wonderful smile. In his later years, his illness stole away his ability to communicate. Be at peace my friend.
Mary T.*

Mary T. - January 07 at 03:42 AM

CA

“ 2 files added to the album Photos



Carol - December 27, 2025 at 01:51 AM