



Mr. Paul L. Date

August 30, 1925 - February 15, 2017

Paul Leonard Date, loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, died on February 15, 2017 in Longwood, Florida. He was 91. Mr. Date was born in Evanston, Illinois to Paul Date and Helen Aikin Date. He enjoyed a very happy childhood in Highland Park, Illinois with his brother and two sisters. The family spent many happy times boating on Lake Michigan. He was an excellent sailor and swimmer. His love of the water and sailing would last a lifetime. He was a 1948 graduate of Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, he was a member of Beta fraternity. He was a gifted and talented photographer. During his college years, he earned part of his tuition as a campus photographer taking pictures at many campus events. He and his wife, Betty, moved to Miami Shores, Florida in 1958, where they raised three daughters. He served as a governing elder at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church and director in The Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce. He was always active in church and civic endeavors, always seeking opportunities to serve his community.

His proudest contribution to his community was as founding director of the Dade County Church of the Handicapped. The DCCH was a "Floating Church", founded in 1973. It included all Christian denominations, with area churches taking turns hosting the "church". The purpose of the DCCH was to provide a church experience for the disabled who wanted to attend church, but found it too difficult. Attendance at a traditional church service could be simply too overwhelming in the early seventies when there was little "Handicapped Access". Paul Date's long-range goal for this program was to bring the challenges of the disabled community to the attention of the host churches and others. The participating churches were often unaware and surprised by how many unseen potential members were waiting for an opportunity to attend church! In describing the overall goal of The Church of the Handicapped, Mr. Date wrote, "... eventually the handicapped will all be assimilated into the individual churches on Sunday mornings on a continuing basis with architectural barriers and other problems eliminated." His vision and hope was for mainstreaming of all who were disabled. The first church service was held on June 9, 1973, with 31 in attendance. Within a year, attendance grew to 130. Significantly, on January 23, 1990, the 101st Congress passed the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" (ADA), which was then signed into law by President George

Bush. It established comprehensive protection for people with a variety of disabilities in many aspects of public life. Undoubtedly, Paul Date's earlier efforts contributed to the eventual passage of the ADA.

Paul L. Date was a manufacturer's representative during most of his working life and later, an importer and distributor. He was a very innovative and creative businessman. To increase his productivity, and to be more available to his customers, he attained his pilot's license and purchased a small red and white Cessna. This way, he could travel the state of Florida more efficiently, seeing more customers in less time. He also had one of the first car phones and did not hesitate to buy a home computer when that technology became available. Paul and Betty lived in Miami Shores until 1998, when they moved to Longwood to be near their daughters and grandchildren. Mr. Date was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Kinzer Date, and his sister, Beverley Date Hawes Boyer. He is survived by three daughters, Betty Clark (Mike), Jane McCann (John), and Catherine Gendreau. He is also survived by his sister Marilyn Kruecke, his brother, the Rev. Henry S. Date, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Paul Date was always looking for opportunities to serve his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He knew with confident assurance that, for him, "to be absent from the body would mean to be present with his Lord", 2 Corinthians 5:8. His wisdom, his guidance, his steadfastness, his sense of humor, and his love will be deeply missed.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
2 Timothy 4:7-8

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mr. Date to the Hemophilia Foundation. [https://interland3.donorperfect.net /weblink./weblink](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink./weblink)

Events

MAR **Memorial Service** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

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St. Andrews Chapel

5525 Wayside Drive, Sanford, FL, US, 32771

Comments



“ Dorothy Durden lit a candle in memory of Mr Paul L. Date



Dorothy Durden - August 11, 2017 at 06:20 PM



“ To Cathy and family,

First, I am sorry for you lose. Losing a parent has few words of condolence; only time takes the sting away from the pain of this absence.

I've a little story to share about my connection with your dad. I moved to Miami as an 11yr old in 1971, and was terribly homesick for Chicago. I met Cathy at school and was warmly embraced by her whole family. Your dad treated me with warmth and kindness, knowing well that I felt like a fish out of water in this new town. We used to talk about the wonders of Chicago's North Shore as he shared his life experiences to the delight of me and my mother. He once told me that "it will all be okay," which truly mattered to my young ears. And he was right....

Your mother was also very caring. Cathy, I am forever grateful to being invited into your lives; you and your mother corrected my use of Chicago vernacular with all its cringeworthy double negatives and taught me how to speak correct and proper English, which changed my life. It opened my eyes to the beauty of language, words, poetry and writing, which I've been pursuing ever since. Thank you.

All these years later, I remember with fondness the warmth and affection bestowed upon me by your family. It seems then, that acts of kindness are what really matters in life, and to touch the heart of any one person, is itself, what's most important.

It is my hope that the spirit of your father fills your heart with joy and his memories make you smile sooner than later.

With sympathy,
Karen Ohlson Winkler

p.s. I am reminded everyday of the "unique" grammar spoken to perfection by Midwesterner's--and I smile with appreciation of my awareness.

Karen Winkler - May 06, 2017 at 08:10 AM



“ I guess I owe my life to Paul and Betty Date. He introduced Mitchell Harris, with whom he did business in the 1950s, to another Betty in 1960. They were married a few months later. I am their daughter.

Paul and Betty were the only non-relatives my sister and I called Uncle and Aunt. They were with us on my first or second Caribbean cruise. Two pastel drawings done by Aunt Betty (of my sister and me as children) hang over my mother's bed now. I remember my parents talking about Uncle Paul's ministry to handicapped people. Many years my parents had dinner with Paul and Betty on December 4, because that was the birthday of both Bettys.

I thank God for creating Paul and Betty, and for calling them both to faith in Jesus Christ.

May their daughters and grandchildren carry on the example of faith and service to others.

With sympathy,
Ruth Harris

Ruth Harris - March 04, 2017 at 06:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Paul L. Date.



March 03, 2017 at 02:36 PM



“ Bob & Diane, Tony & Pauline, Steve and Linda purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Paul L. Date.



Bob & Diane, Tony & Pauline, Steve and Linda - February 28, 2017 at 10:58 AM



“ Tara Sacco lit a candle in memory of Mr. Paul L. Date



Tara Sacco - February 24, 2017 at 06:09 AM



“ I did not know Mr.Date but I have known Kathy and her boys for many years. He had to be a great Dad because his daughter and grandchildren are fine people. I am so fortunate to have knowing them all. God Bless you all in your loss of such an important part of your life.



wayne Lockett - February 23, 2017 at 08:37 AM



“ Thank you for your kind words, Wayne. They mean so much to us. Blessings to you and your family.

Cathy - February 23, 2017 at 02:51 PM



“ What an inspiring legacy! How cool is it that he had a heart to bring Jesus to the handicapped & helped to bring about better public access for handicapped?! When I was reading about his life, it helped me see where Jane gets her creativity from and her far-reaching efforts to challenge the intellectually gifted! What a blessing he must have been to all who knew him and to all the lives that were impacted by his service to the Lord, his family and his community! Thinking of your family & praying you find comfort in sweet memories and knowing he is with Jesus.

Katie Rhoads - February 23, 2017 at 08:35 PM



“ Thank you so much, Katie, for your sweet, thoughtful words. <3

Jane - March 02, 2017 at 11:53 AM