



Paul Joseph Fortelka

November 17, 1932 - July 24, 2023

Paul Joseph Fortelka of Cadillac passed away Monday afternoon July 24, 2023 at Country Pleasures in Traverse City where he spent the past two weeks with their loving care and that of Hospice of Michigan as well. He was 90. Paul was born on November 17, 1932 in Hoxeyville, Michigan to Joseph James & Marie Margaret (Jurik) Fortelka.

Paul graduated from Hoxeyville High School in May of 1951 (the only guy in his class). Soon after graduating he entered the United States Navy and served four years during the Korean War. While home on leave on June 12, 1954 in Harrietta he married the former Elaine L. Porter and after they honeymooned to Niagara Falls, Paul returned to the Navy to serve the balance of his term and was honorably discharged in 1956.

He then went on to attend Ferris State University for two years. After college, Paul started his career with the State of Michigan in Gaylord where he lived for 50 years. He retired from the State after 35 years of service. 15 winters were spent in Zephyrhills, Florida. In 2008 he and Elaine moved back to the Cadillac area to be close to family.

Paul enjoyed bowling, camping, traveling, playing cards, polka dancing and had played in the "Polka Masters Band" for 25 years.

Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Elaine and their 4 children: Lori (Sandy) Emerling of Troy, Michigan, Brian (Lorraine) Fortelka of Barrington, Illinois, Denise (Tim) Kohout of Stryker, Ohio and Karen (Brad) Foster of Ada, Michigan; 7 grandchildren: Eric (Jamie) Rzyzi, Kristen (Joshua) DeVries, Kalina & Brianna Foster, Devon & Patrick Fortelka, Tara (Eric) Alicea; 7 great-grandchildren: Ellie & Leah Rzyzi, Dylan, Lucas & Oliver DeVries, Anthony & Jackson Alicea; and a sister, MaryAnn Evens of Harrietta, Michigan; brother-in-law, Leo Porter of Harrietta, Michigan and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents Paul was preceded by a brother, Carl Fortelka and a sister, Betty Porter and in-laws: Willard Evens, Betty Ann Paul and Keith Paul and Betty Jean Fortelka.

Funeral services will be 11:00 AM Monday, July 31, 2023 at Peterson Funeral & Cremation Services in Cadillac. Burial will be at Sixteen Cemetery in Wexford County with full military rites under the auspices of the Cadillac Area Honor Guard. Visitation will be Sunday from 4-6 PM at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
info@petersonfh.com

Funeral Service

JUL 31. 11:00 AM.

Peterson Funeral & Cremation Services

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Schlanderer Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*



The Schlanderer Family - July 30, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*



July 28, 2023 at 09:29 AM

MO

“ *Motor City Viper Owners purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*



Motor City Viper Owners - July 28, 2023 at 12:12 AM

MO

“ *Motor City Viper Owners planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*

Motor City Viper Owners - July 28, 2023 at 12:12 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*



July 27, 2023 at 07:35 PM



“ *Don and Denise Kohout purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*



Don and Denise Kohout - July 27, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ *Don and Denise Kohout planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Joseph Fortelka.*

Don and Denise Kohout - July 27, 2023 at 11:21 AM



“ *We are sending our love and condolences to you all. Prayers for peace and comfort as you go through this difficult time.
Larry, Teresa, Colton, and Lars Soles*

Teresa - July 27, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.



July 27, 2023 at 07:48 AM



“ Our deepest sympathies to Elaine and family on Paul's passing. We have fond memories of them during our winters at Happy Days Park in FL. Paul and Elaine sold us our first little home in that park. RIP, Paul.

Paula and Dennis Cosmo - July 26, 2023 at 09:19 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Paul Joseph Fortelka.



July 26, 2023 at 04:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Joseph Fortelka.

July 26, 2023 at 04:18 PM

UP

“ To the Fortelka family, Many, many good memories with the family. You were always game for anything, like making 36 apple pies (in an evening, 1,000 Pierogi at a time because I said, "This would be fun." Or getting up at 2am for hamburgers with the guys. Alex did a lot of bonding with Paul on the way home from dance jobs as Kise-and-Bud slept. Rest, my dear friend, as I think of "ideas" for when we meet in heaven. Love and prayers, Ursula and Alex

Ursela prusakiewicz - July 26, 2023 at 01:24 PM

ER

Rest in peace, dear Paul. We always have appreciated your kind and friendly ways through our many years of contacts, especially during Elaine's and our class reunions, family and local events. Our hearts are with the family now and pray for peace in many loving memories they will always have of you and times together. We are glad for our hours and good times shared, thank you.

Elsie M. Randall - July 26, 2023 at 05:26 PM