



## Paul Stanley Ryczak

December 1, 1953 - March 28, 2024

Paul Stanley Ryczak, age 70, of Fairfax, VA passed away peacefully while surrounded by many of his family on March 28, 2024, at Fairfax INOVA Hospital. He was born and raised in West Point, VA and was preceded in death by his parents, Stanley J. and Virginia B. Ryczak.

Paul attended Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic parochial school from 1st through 6th grade in West Point, VA. He attended Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, VA from 7th through 12th grade where he was a gifted scholar and athlete and he graduated in 1971. While in high school, he was very active in many activities including the Key Club, the Forensics Club, and the Student Government Association, and he served as the SGA president in his senior year. From there he went on to college at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN where he served as one of the equipment managers for the Fighting Irish football team under Coach Ara Parseghian. The highlight of his 4 years at ND was the 1973 Sugar Bowl when they beat #1 Alabama, winning the National Championship and earning the #1 ranking. He graduated with a B.S. in 1975 and remained in Indiana for 15 years. In late 1990, Paul returned to the east coast to be near his extended family and he eventually settled in Fairfax, VA.

Paul had a competitive spirit and was a natural athlete in his youth and participated in several sports. He played Little League, and later American

Legion, baseball in the summer months, and won several “Punt, Pass & Kick” football competitions put on by the local youth organization in West Point. In high school he lettered in basketball, track, baseball and soccer, and tied for Athlete of the Year as a junior. Outside of school, he enjoyed tennis and ping-pong. Over the years he enjoyed listening to music, especially rock music of the early 70’s, watching movies, working crossword puzzles, and playing backgammon.

Between 1981 and 1998, Paul was blessed with ten nieces and nephews. He was a proud and fiercely devoted uncle and attended as many of their baptisms, first communions, confirmations, athletic events, dance recitals, scouting ceremonies, high school and college graduations, and weddings as he could. Not having any children of his own, they were his family and he loved them dearly. They affectionately referred to him as the “fun” uncle because he was always willing to play and interact with them. He earned the title of “Sandcastle King” because of the many years he instigated and oversaw the construction of a large and elaborate sandcastle on the beach with his nieces and nephews during his family’s annual vacation on the Outer Banks of NC. The beach was Paul’s “happy place” and, above all else, he loved spending time with his family. One of his most treasured activities was working with his dad every December to set up a winter-themed model train village under the family Christmas tree in West Point, which was enjoyed by all of his siblings, in-laws, nephews and nieces. His patience and meticulous attention to detail was unmatched when it came to setting up the train village. Paul was a gentle, loving, kind, and generous brother and uncle, and he will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his brother Robert (Sonia) of Opelika, AL, his three sisters Maryann R. Casterline (Bill) of Chantilly, VA, Maureen R. Radford (Mike) of Wilson, NC, and Martha R. Whiteley (Eric) of Bowie, MD, six nephews John and David Casterline, Christopher and Brian Radford, Michael and Matthew

Whiteley, four nieces Julia Ryczak, Kathryn Casterline Stevens, Rachel Whiteley Rosenberger and Sarah Whiteley, four great-nephews, and six great-nieces.

A funeral mass will be held at 12:00 noon on April 4, 2024, at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in West Point, VA. Interment will follow at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Fair Oaks Vol. Fire & Rescue Co., Inc., 12300 Route 50, Fairfax, VA 22033-2810.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Theresa's Cemetery

2400 King William Avenue  
West Point, VA 23181

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

APR 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
3570 King William Avenue  
West Point, VA 23181

# Tribute Wall

EO

“ Sorry for your loss, I went to Walsingham with Paul in 7th and 8th grade. Knew him through high school and saw him when Ireton played Walsingham. Rest in peace my friend!

Ed O'Connor - April 10, 2024 at 08:08 PM



Thank you for you message Ed.

Maryann Casterline - April 14, 2024 at 08:07 PM

JR

“ JOHN & VICKIE ROANE lit a candle in memory of Paul Stanley Ryczak



JOHN & vICKIE rOANE - April 08, 2024 at 08:48 AM

LW

“ I think this was at Notre Dame. I remember Paul showing us the ND locker room and explaining how they painted the helmets. My Dad was over the moon as he was a lifelong Notre Dame fan. The picture is Paul, Sue and Lyn Gretkowski. Sometime in the 70's



Lyn Wood - April 04, 2024 at 02:34 PM

MA

*I love this picture Lyn! Thanks for sharing.*

**Maureen** - April 05, 2024 at 05:02 PM



*What a great picture! Thank you for sharing that memory.*

**Maryann Casterline** - April 05, 2024 at 05:29 PM

MW

*Such a fond memory of Paul. Thank you, Lyn, for sharing the photo and memory.*

**Martha Whiteley** - April 08, 2024 at 07:52 AM

RC

“ *RT Croswell And Donna Croswell lit a candle in memory of Paul Stanley Ryczak*



**RT Croswell and Donna Croswell** - April 04, 2024 at 06:33 AM

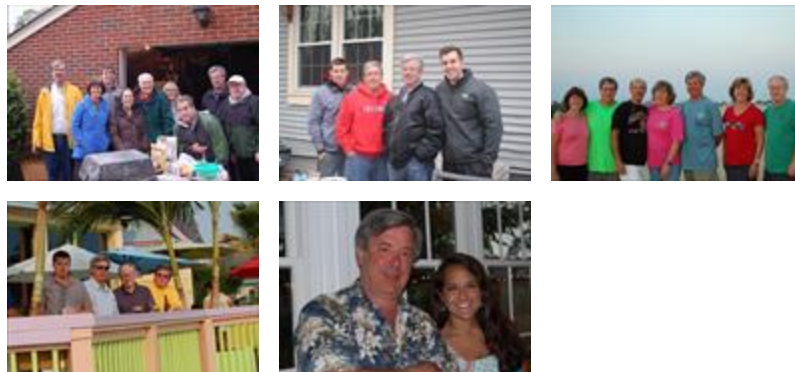


*Thank you so much.*

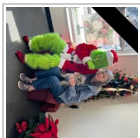
**Maryann Casterline** - April 14, 2024 at 08:07 PM

MA

“ 9 files added to the album Paul Ryczak



Maureen - April 02, 2024 at 08:08 PM



“ Margaret Ogg lit a candle in memory of Paul Stanley Ryczak



Margaret Ogg - April 02, 2024 at 05:29 PM



Thank you so much.

Maryann Casterline - April 14, 2024 at 08:08 PM

JV

“ Dear Ryczak Families, I am so sorry for the loss of your brother Paul. My prayers are with you during this sad time. Paul is with Jesus and will always be with each of you 🙏  
Prayers, Joann Wroblick Via and Robby Via

Joann Wroblick Via - April 02, 2024 at 11:15 AM



*Thank you so much Joann.*

**Maryann Casterline** - April 14, 2024 at 08:08 PM

MA

“ 4 files added to the album *Paul Ryczak*



**Maureen** - April 02, 2024 at 09:25 AM


MW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Martha R Whiteley** - April 01, 2024 at 05:18 PM

MS

*Dear family.... I send my condolences to the entire family....  
May Jesus be with you all..... And stay strong....Mark Serniak....* 

**Mark Serniak** - April 02, 2024 at 04:09 PM

MW

*Thank you, Mark, for your kind words. We so appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers.*  
*~cousin Martha*

**Martha Whiteley** - April 02, 2024 at 08:16 PM



*Thank you so much Mark. We will miss Paul so very much.*

**Maryann Casterline** - April 02, 2024 at 08:55 PM

MA

*Thank you, Mark, for comforting words.*

*Maureen*

**Maureen** - April 05, 2024 at 05:04 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Paul Ryczak



**Maryann Casterline** - April 01, 2024 at 01:47 PM

MA

“ 63 files added to the album Paul Ryczak



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Maryann - April 01, 2024 at 11:44 AM