



H. Paul Florin

November 16, 1922 - March 22, 2015

Sunday, March 22, 2015

H. Paul Florin, 92, of St. Joseph died Sunday, March 22, 2015, at the Hanson Hospice Center in Lincoln Township.

Services celebrating his life will be held at 11 AM on Friday, March 27, at the St. Joseph First Congregational Church with Rev. Dr. Robert Braman officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery. The visitation will be held on Thursday from 5 PM to 8PM with a Masonic Service at 7 PM at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Research or the Lake Shore Masonic Lodge #298 Scholarship Fund. Please share memories, messages or photos at www.florin.net.

Paul was born November 16, 1922 in Owosso, Michigan to Henry P. and Gladys (Bromley) Florin and moved to Benton Harbor in 1924. He graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 1940 and Wayne State University School of Mortuary Science in 1944. Paul married his wife, Marjorie Crandall, in 1944 and she preceded him in death in 1999. He became a partner with his father, Henry, in the family funeral homes in 1946. Paul was honored by the Michigan Funeral Director Association last year for over 70 years of service to his community.

Paul was active in many Twin Cities groups and organizations including his church, the Kiwanis, the BH-SJ Elks Club, the Fairplain Board of Education and other civic groups. He was a longtime supporter of Blossomtime serving as President in 1974 and since then as a member of the Board of Director. His love of the ideals of Masonry translated into a lifelong participation in all of the local and state Masonic Groups. He was a Past Master of the Lake Shore Masonic Lodge, Commander in Chief of the DeWitt Clinton Consistory and honored by the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in 1976 by being elected a 33 Degree mason for his service to Masonry.

Paul is survived by his children: John C Florin of Stevensville, Vicki (Al) Popke of St. Joseph, and Jane (Tom) Vitantonio of Portage; his 6 grandchildren: Randy (Buffy) Hall, Blake, Hillary, & Blair Florin, and Paul (Susanne) Vitantonio and Tracy Vitantonio; his 5 great grandchildren: Katie, Tommy, & Lauren Hall, Isabella Vitantonio, and Pyper Florin. He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Janie Hall.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

2925 Niles Rd
Saint Joseph, MI 49085
rvcemetery@parrett.net
<http://www.sjcity.com/services/riverview.phtml>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 26. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Masonic Service

MAR 26. 7:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Service Celebrating His Life

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational UCC St. Joseph
2001 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Burial

MAR 27. 12:30 PM (ET)

Riverview Cemetery
2925 Niles Rd
Saint Joseph, MI 49085
rvcemetery@parrett.net
<http://www.sjcity.com/services/riverview.phtml>

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *My heartfelt condolences go out to Paul's family, John. So many good memories from Blossomtime and Elks. Paul was always there, really enjoyed working with him and taking his advice with many things. Roger*

Roger Ballard - April 28, 2015 at 07:21 AM

RF

“ *Paul was a true leader in our community and profession. Sorry to hear of his passing.*

-Ralph Frost and Family

Ralph Frost - March 27, 2015 at 09:41 AM



“ *63 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Florin Funeral Services - March 26, 2015 at 11:47 AM

VF

“ *I am sorry for your loss. Paul handled our parents' affairs in a fine manner, and I appreciated that.*

Vance A Fisher - March 26, 2015 at 10:06 AM



“ Death of a Gentleman

The sheer irony of this weekend's death of a funeral industry titan almost takes one's breath. Seemingly hours after the last vestiges of his beloved funeral parlor faded from the face of the earth, so too did H. Paul Florin. He was 92 at the time of his death.

H. Paul Florin dedicated more than 70-years of his life to the funeral industry and now his family must prepare for the funeral to celebrate his life.

Paul was the epitome of the perfect funeral director. A true gentleman with a dignified demeanor that helped steady many a widow and widower, parent, child or other family member over the years as they paid respects to their own dearly departed. His depth of caring and his warmth of touch were legendary, and many will say it is fortuitous that his father took him in as a partner in the Florin Family Funeral business shortly after he earned his degree in mortuary science, so that he could soothe the grieving souls of many among us.

As his obituary reflects, Paul was born in mid-November of 1922 in Owosso, Michigan to Henry & Gladys Florin, but moved to Benton Harbor at the age of two. He would later graduate from Benton Harbor High School in 1940 and four years later from the Wayne State University School of Mortuary Science. In 1946 he joined forces with his father in the family funeral homes and proceeded to dedicate virtually the rest of his life to his trade. In fact, he was honored by the Michigan Funeral Director Association last year for more than 70-years of service to his community.

Paul's generosity of time, talent, and treasure traveled far beyond the funeral parlors his family owned throughout the region, playing an active role in many local groups and organizations including his church, the Kiwanis, the Elks Club of Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, the

Fairplain Board of Education and other civic groups.

He delighted in his service to one of the communities best known organizations at Blossomtime where he served as President in 1974 and ever since then as a member of the Board of Directors. The organization made him an Honorary Grand Marshal and cited both he and his longtime friend Gertie Johnson as Volunteers of the Year.

Additionally, his love of the ideals of Masonry translated to a lifelong participation in all of the local and state Masonic Groups, even serving as Past Master of the Lake Shore Masonic Lodge and Commander in Chief of the DeWitt Clinton Consistory. He was elected a 33rd Degree Mason for his service to Masonry.

Paul married his wife Marjorie Crandall in 1944 and she preceded him in death in 1999. He is survived by his children John C. Florin of Stevensville, Vicki (Al) Popke of St. Joseph, and Jane (Tom) Vitantonio of Portage, as well as 6 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

Both his son, John and grandson Blake Florin followed him into the family business.

Ironically, his death comes close on the heels of the sale and demolition of the Florin Family Funeral Home in St. Joseph which has been removed to make way for the forthcoming CVS Pharmacy.

Services celebrating Paul's life will be held at 11am this coming Friday, March 27th at the St. Joseph Congregational Church. Visitation will take place on Thursday from 5pm until 8pm with a Masonic Service at 7pm at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Research or the Lake Shore Masonic Lodge #298 Scholarship Fund.

<http://www.moodyonthemarket.com/Death-of-a-Gentleman/21215560>



. - March 25, 2015 at 01:08 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of H. Paul Florin.*



March 25, 2015 at 10:09 AM



“ *My husband and I met Paul at The Whitcomb while visiting my dad, Richard K. Belke. My dad shared a dining room table with Paul. My dad will miss him a lot. We will miss seeing him as we come and go each week. He was a very pleasant and nice man. Please accept the condolences of my dad, my husband Mark and I. Jan Weaver*

Jan Weaver - March 24, 2015 at 11:26 AM



“ *John and Family,*

*Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Our condolences,
Dan and Sharon Deja*

Dan and Sharon Deja - March 24, 2015 at 04:05 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of H. Paul Florin.



March 23, 2015 at 01:49 PM



“ Paul Florin was a great personal friend plus a wonderful client of Batesville Casket Company for many years. He was a joy to work with . . . like the photo of him here, he had a beautiful smile. Plus a positive attitude and was always forward looking. He was a mentor to me from time to time, too. He added to my life and I will miss him.

Jim Bauschke - March 23, 2015 at 01:27 PM



“ Dick Herrold and Financial Technology, Inc. purchased the Heartwarming Thoughts Boston Fern for the family of H. Paul Florin.



Dick Herrold and Financial Technology, Inc. - March 23, 2015 at 01:03 PM



“ RIP, H.Paul Florin, such a great man, my condolences go out to the family....

Jim Vollrath - March 23, 2015 at 01:02 PM



“ *H. Paul Florin hired Gary and myself on July 17, 1969, in Coloma at the Davidson Funeral Home, Florin Funeral Service. He was like a father to us and taught us well in funeral service. He was more than employer. He was a dear friend and always had time to talk and explain "Why". We know he is no longer in pain and has entered into the gates of heaven. We love you Paul and will miss you. Joyce and Gary.*

Joyce Gilpin - March 23, 2015 at 11:38 AM

MB

“ *The most knowledgeable and we'll liked boss I ever had. He will be missed greatly. He cared about his employees and treated me well. Rest in peace Paul.*

Merry Burkholder - March 23, 2015 at 09:43 AM

GP

“ *H.Paul was a great man,boss, and friend, he will be missed by all I had the prleasure of workin for John and Paul, back in the early 90s, not only did I work with Paul, but I also worked with him at the Masonic lodge. He was a ture partriarch, and he was definately an icon and fixture in the Berrien County area.*

Graydon Pope - March 23, 2015 at 08:48 AM

SC

“ *Star & Charlie purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of H. Paul Florin.*



Star & Charlie - March 23, 2015 at 07:32 AM