



## Paul Alain Ordronneau

October 30, 1945 - January 22, 2025

Paul Alain Ordronneau

Son, Brother, Friend, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Scientist, Researcher  
Beloved

Always had a smile and loving embrace for all

Paul Alain Ordronneau was born in Los Angeles County on October 30, 1945. He was third of four siblings (Charles, Annette, and Jaqueline). A first generation American, as a boy he loved playing with friends in his neighborhood in Monterey Park, CA. He would often climb the jacaranda tree in front of his house, visit with Family (both his Father's side – Ordronneau, and mother's side – Huitric) who lived close by, watch TV in the family room, and carousing with his brother and sisters.

Paul attended primary schools in the neighborhood (close enough to ride his bike). After graduating high school, he attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, CA. He married Noreen Depies in 1965, and Cherie Ordronneau Pagan was born in 1970. He was accepted to the Ph. D. Anatomy program in 1973 at UNC-Chapel Hill, and shortly after graduating, Roger Ordronneau was born in 1978.

He worked for several years in the research facilities at UNC-Chapel Hill and taught first and second year Medical School courses. He married Victoria Rick and soon thereafter went to work for Burroughs Wellcome company. Together

they had a son, Marc Ordronneau in 1996. The company later became Glaxo-Smith-Kline, where he met Ms. Mary Shaw and he retired from GSK in 2014. He passed away due to complications secondary to Alzheimer's disease on January 22nd, 2025.

He is survived by his partner Mary, his children, and his sister Jackie.

#### Favorite Memories:

Mary – Paul and I discovered early on that we shared a love of travel, adventure, discovery, nature, camping, family and friends. We were determined to live our retirement life to the fullest while we could. We were lucky to embrace many of these loves traveling to visit family in Maine, Vancouver, southern California, and Florida. In addition to traveling via the friendly skies, we found that we could incorporate many of these loves via camping with a travel trailer. In came an Airstream travel trailer we named UPTA which enabled us to travel up and down the east coast seeking more adventures. We joined the Airstream Club International (BRN #4132) and the local Carolinas Airstream Club which gave us access to a community of likeminded friends enjoying great adventures and camaraderie. Our adventures included leading a caravan of 30+ Airstreams on a trip from North Carolina to Fryeburg, Maine and caravanning with 20 other Airstreams driving the Blue Ridge Parkway. Favorite memories? Discovering that Paul was an expert hula hooper (who knew??!!) and witnessing that Paul could still maneuver a bicycle 17 miles downhill on the Virginia Creeper Trail.

Cherie – “The most lasting memory of my father was when I was about seven years old. I had a very severe ear infection and was in a two-week regime of antibiotics. They were very large pills (well, at least in the eyes of a 7-year-old), and tasted awful. I was so upset and crying, I could not swallow them. I remember my dad calmly drying my eyes and saying “let’s try something different”. I remember him going to the kitchen, crushing the pills into small

chunks and powder. He got out a bowl and mixed the medicine with my favorite grape jelly. And that is how I got through my ear infection. But I also learned some very valuable lessons – relax, think for a minute - and if one way doesn't work, then try something different.”

Roger – “Dad and I shared a love of baseball. I remember us having many regular games of catch and batting practice, sometime even when it was too dark to see the ball. He was always up for a round and was supportive of his advice giving. We loved the Dodgers and looking / talking about baseball players and cards.”

Son, Brother, Friend, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Scientist, Researcher,  
Beloved.

Always had a smile and loving embrace for all.

In lieu of flowers, Paul's family asks for you to kindly donate to

Dementia Alliance of North Carolina: [www.dementianc.org](http://www.dementianc.org)

Duke Dementia Family Support Program: [www.dukefamilysupport.org](http://www.dukefamilysupport.org)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 13. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park Mausoleum  
7002 Green Hope School Road  
Cary, NC 27519

# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Paul Alain Ordronneau.*



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February 23, 2025 at 02:08 PM



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

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February 23, 2025 at 02:08 PM

“ Paul was my cousin, though 10 years older than me. Anytime I happened to be with him, it seemed like something uniquely memorable, funny, or both happened. In the early 1990s, when I was living near San Francisco, Paul came through the area for a conference. He was in town for a few days and made sure to visit my sister, Vivian, and me. Paul spent one night at my apartment in the town of Pacifica, just south of San Francisco. I decided to treat him to a dinner at a favorite restaurant in San Francisco near the famous Haight-Ashbury district of the City. We were driving east on Lincoln Way, just south of Golden Gate Park. Continuing east, I turned left onto Stanyan Street...and Paul shouted "Stanyan Street...the poem by Rod McKuen!" I was oblivious to this reference. Almost immediately, Paul started reciting verses to this poem...I was stunned by his memory for poetry! As we went north on Stanyan Street, Paul looked to our left and said, "Hippie Hill must just be over there beyond the trees in the Park!" We soon arrived at the restaurant (the name escapes me.) Everyone sat family style at these large round tables. We started chatting with several people at the table. One woman asked where we were from. We mentioned our current respective homes. The conversation at the table then led to where each of us were born and raised. Paul mentioned being raised in Monterey Park and I mentioned I had lived there the first four years of my youth. This seemed to pique the woman's interest as she said she knew the area well. Paul mentioned that he went to grammar school at Miraculous Medal School in Montebello and I said I was baptized there at the adjacent church. This woman smiled...paused for a moment...and said she was a nun and she had taught at Miraculous Medal School for many years! Paul and I looked at each other and exploded with laughter, as did the nun (maybe a little wine among the three of us led to that explosive laughter...nuns do drink.) Though we too old to be her students, we thought what were the chances of the three of us having dinner in the Haight in San Francisco and having this common link to this school of our past! These are some of the many reasons I always looked forward to spending time with Paul...for you never knew what was going to happen! I loved him deeply. He certainly was a great

*cousin! - Donald Bentley*

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**Donald Bentley** - February 04, 2025 at 10:21 PM

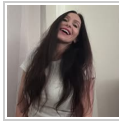
DB

*Here is a link to the Rod McKuen poem "Stanyan Street" that Paul quoted a stanza or two as we drove on that street passing Hippie Hill in San Francisco.*

*<https://allpoetry.com/poem/11885467-Stanyon-Street--by-Rod-McKuen>*

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**Donald Bentley** - February 05, 2025 at 06:22 PM



*That is such a great story. Thanks for sharing it, Donald.*

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**Jeannette Kantzalis** - February 26, 2025 at 06:01 PM

VM

*“ Paul had just graduated from high school. Because he was planning on going to Loyola in the fall, he had acquired a used VW bug. As I am sure that he relished every driving opportunity, he ended up driving his sister Jackie, myself, his mom and his friend, Jay to the beach. At a stoplight, he noticed the vehicle behind us, and commented on it. It was the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile! -Vivian McBride, cousin.*

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**Vivian McBride** - January 31, 2025 at 07:07 PM

TK

“ Uncle Paul was the absolute best ! I have so many memories of him growing up , he put up with my sisters and I climbing all over him when we would visit grandma and gramps house . As with Roger he taught me how to catch and throw a baseball and as a kid you never forget the memory of making that first catch ! , one of the best memories I have is of Fourth of Julys getting in the back of his VW driving to the fireworks stand and picking out the best assortment to blow up that night ! It was always awesome! Another one was getting to stay with uncle Paul and aunt Noreen one summer to babysit Cherie by day then get to go at midnight to hunt crabs at the beach for the class Paul was taking or teaching at the time , somehow Cherie survived ! lol ! Another was of uncle Paul staying with us a couple of summers to work in the steel mill , we couldn't wait for him to get home , I'm sure he just loved his nieces and nephew climbing all over him after a graveyard shift wanting to just shower and go to bed! There are so many fond memories with uncle Paul I could go on for days , his smile and good humor will be missed !

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**Tom Kantzalis** - January 30, 2025 at 11:32 PM

RE

“ Mary, we were so happy when you and Paul visited us on your Airstream trip to Maine. I remember Paul commenting on the location of our house in the woods and how it brought him joy in remembering his family's camping trips when he was a young guy. It is a delightful memory of an afternoon that we will cherish.

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**Regina** - January 30, 2025 at 08:17 PM

MJ

“ I loved having Paul as a neighbor. He always had a smile on his face. Oftentimes I would stop by his house and sit and chat with Paul and Mary and give their beagle, Albert, treats.

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**Margaret Jordan** - January 28, 2025 at 03:37 PM

CS

“ I met Paul in 2017 when I moved to Raleigh. I have known Mary for over 30 years, and Paul & Mary kindly let me stay at there place the night before my movers came, as well as treated me to dinner. Over the few years I've known Paul, he was always happy and smiling and will miss getting together. My deepest condolences to the family.

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**Carolyn Steinberg** - January 28, 2025 at 11:04 AM

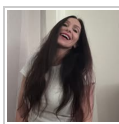
KH

“ Uncle Paul was my childhood hero! He was an amazing Uncle who was never short on adventures. One day we gathered around to hear the story of why you could only eat Cherry Vanilla ice cream on Washington's Birthday. Well, at 6 or 7 yrs old, that made perfect sense. He also managed to teach my sister, brother and I our first circus trick, how to wiggle your ears like Dumbo. There was also a week of learning how to stand on our heads in the front yard at my grandparents home on a slope. We dutifully followed his lead on these wild, fun times. He gave us rides on his motorcycle, took us to the beach in his Volkswagen bug, we watched him as a contestant on Hollywood Squares and win some great prizes. Sharing life with Paul was as good as only eating Cherry Vanilla Ice Cream on Washington's Birthday.

Uncle Paul will be missed by many. But I will carry with me some of the fondest childhood memories a kid could ever have. Thank you Uncle Paul for all your time, patience and love! I love you dearly!  
Your Niece, Kathy

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**Kathy Hoosier** - January 27, 2025 at 05:15 PM



Remember when we used to fight over him? He was our first love.

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**Jeannette Kantzalis** - January 30, 2025 at 10:42 PM

JO

*Paul was my big brother, 4 years my senior, and he really lived up to the role. This included tickling me on the front lawn till I screamed (though I was flattered by the attention!). I remember both of us laughing so hard at dinner one time that we fell off our chairs while our parents patiently waited for the giggles to pass before resuming the meal.*

*I can still see him in his VW waiting to pick me up from high school while wearing his ROTC cap and acting the role of bus driver. Weirdly, a whole bunch of my friends suddenly needed a ride. He even allowed us to raffle off a date with him as a fundraiser and one of the nuns bought a whole bunch of tickets (though she didn't win--darn!).*

*He was fun but always there for me as a teen. He gave me 'older brother' advice on boys and just about anything my adolescent angst could bring up. I can remember sitting in the back seat of my parents' car as we drove out of LA on the way to Seattle for my first year of university. There were tears running down my cheeks--I was thinking of leaving my big brother.*

*Now he's gone from us--but always there--in our hearts!*

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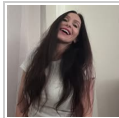
**Jackie Ordronneay** - February 02, 2025 at 06:16 PM

VM

*I remember that date raffle! And many other things.*

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**Vivian McBride** - February 07, 2025 at 11:52 PM



*I remember one summer with Uncle Paul, Noreen and baby Cherie. He took each of us for one week; first Tom, then Kath and finally, me.*

*We'd go for walks in the evening and when we returned we'd watch The Wives of Henry VIII on PBS. It was such a weird thing for a 7 year old but Uncle Paul guaranteed me I'd love it. He was right.*

*We'd eat coffee ice cream and play cards. It was one of the best times of my life.*

*We both loved music and adventure.*

*He somehow thought all of my crazy dreams were doable and encouraged me to try. "Jett-Louie, the fun is in the trying!" Right again, Uncle Paul.*

*He was the very definition of joy and wonder and touched so many lives.*

*To me, he was the best Uncle in the world.*

*I will miss him terribly.*

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**Jeannette Kantzalis** - February 26, 2025 at 06:19 PM

NO

*knew Paul for 23 years. great memories with his family and our two wonderful children. he had a great memory. WE got to see the Beatles at Dodger stadium because of his sister Jackie! Had to hold him back at a Joan Baez concert in Pasadena Civic Auditorium from giving her his draft card. He was game for most activities. may he rest in peace.*

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**noreen ordronneau** - March 07, 2025 at 11:47 AM

JP

*I knew Paul for almost 30 years, mostly as as "dad" or "grandpa", as I was lucky enough to marry Cherie. Dad was funny, kind, intelligent, and philosophical. Usually someone with a quick come-back or insight, I remember one of the few times he was left speechless:*

*During our wedding, I remember him walking with Cherie down the aisle and sharing a hug with me (which seemed to last forever). He held me in a bear hug and did not say a word - after trying to coax a reaction from him I finally had to simply tell him, "Dad, you have to let go." Years later, we would laugh about that moment.*

*He was competitive and formidable at games (although known to cheat - especially in games where bluffing was part of the strategy). We will always remember a particularly energetic game of Scattegories where his deadpan answer to "things you can buy in a vending machine" was - "garbanzo beans" (cough - NOT!).*

*Whether enjoying the outdoors or the company of family, he was a joy to be with. His impact on those he shared his life with in undeniable, and I undoubtedly see the best of him in his children and grandchildren. Dad, you will be missed, but not forgotten. All our love and rest in peace.*

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**Jose Pagan** - March 11, 2025 at 09:25 PM

AR

*I knew him as Uncle Paul. He was kind, generous and a joy to be around!! When I used to travel from California to N.C. for visits (and later lived there) with my Grandma Carol, some best times were spent with him, Aunt Vickie, Grandma and lil' Marc at their house. He was a gracious host and always interested in what I had to share about the journey of life as a young person in my 20's and early 30's. His love was genuine and sincere. I always appreciated how special he made me feel. I am thankful for the sweet impact he had on my life.*

*\*\*If I could have shared a photo, I would have uploaded one from my birthday in 2006. He and Vickie had a little party for me and he grilled for us. There's a snapshot of us in the backyard with him by the barbeque holding up tongs and pretending to grab my nose. He was so much fun to be around!!*

*\*\*\*Also, his tender and loyal love for and toward my late Grandma Carol meant so much to me AND her! It was appreciated and she loved him for it! She was one of the first people I thought of when I heard of his passing. Tears from heaven, I'm sure.*

*Love to all who knew him...*

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**Acacia Roberts** - March 17, 2025 at 10:12 AM