



Paul John Simkowski

October 7, 2023

Paul John Simkowski, of Providence, RI passed away peacefully at his home on October 7, 2023. For 70 years Paul touched our hearts with his warmth, his love, and his dry, irreverent humor. Paul was a loving husband, caring father, and a devoted nurse practitioner. He was also an artist, a musician, and a kind-hearted jokester who brought laughter and love to those lucky enough to know him.

Paul was born May 9, 1953 to John Simkowski and Helen Simkowski (née Walukiewicz) of Norwich, CT. Paul attended the nearby St. Joseph's School, also serving as an alter boy. Paul was a Cub Scout, then a Boy Scout, and loved camping and the outdoors. He was awarded a Full Scholarship to St. Bernard's High School in Uncasville, CT. After graduation, Paul attended Holy Cross College, earning his Bachelor's degree in fine arts with a minor in philosophy. Paul later earned his doctorate in nursing from Mass General Hospital.

Always a creator, Paul loved to work with his hands. He was a welder in Groton CT, and later a finish carpenter in MA. Paul, or "Pablo" as he was known by his friends at Holy Cross, was forever an artist at heart, at times an illustrator, a sculptor, and a printmaker. He was also a musician, taking up several instruments including the organ, accordion, guitar, and bass guitar. As a student he played the organ for church masses, at college he played bass

guitar in the bands Peyoteros and Blackstone River Junction.

In 1994 Paul became a Nurse Practitioner at the Providence VA medical center. There he met his future wife Christina, as well as many other lifelong friends. He was loved by his colleagues and his patients, as his caring nature, his insight, and his sense of humor made for an ideal bedside manner. Paul retired from the VA in 2017 after 23 years of service.

Paul is survived by his wife, Christina Simkowski, his son, Paul Martin Simkowski, his stepson: Dave Camara, stepdaughter: Jenn Austin and her four granddaughters. He also leaves his sister: Tina O'Brien, stepbrother: Dennis O'Brien, and nieces: Kristy Baracco, Amy O'Brien, and Anne-Marie Casaol, and their children. Paul was preceded in death by his father, John Paul Simkowski, mother, Helen Simkowski, and brother, Frank Simkowski.

As per his wishes, Paul's body was cremated privately on Oct 13th at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, RI. There will be a remembrance held at the Providence VA Medical Center, once the remains have attained their final form, at a time yet to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Paul's name to Habitat for Humanity.

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Tina & Family, extending my condolences for the passing of Paul. Having worked with Paul at the VA for 20 years and interacting with him on nearly a daily basis, aside from his unique humor that I got to experience, he shared a great deal with me from his nurses practitioner expertise which helped me grow to be more proficient in my own R.N. practice. My late Uncle Charlie was Paul's patient and he loved Paul, and I am very thankful Paul provided him exceptional care especially at the end of his life. May Paul RIP.

Shirley Townsend Dolan - November 05, 2023 at 07:34 AM

AA

“ My heart is filled with sadness, just hearing of Paul's passing. What an amazing man! I had the honor to work with him at the VA and he was the best! May he rest in the sweetest of peace 🙏 . My deepest condolences to his family!

Annette Amaral - November 01, 2023 at 10:43 AM

JE

“ My deepest condolences to Paul's family. He was a very caring, warm and oddly sarcastic man. He will be missed.

Jesse - October 30, 2023 at 12:27 PM

DP

“ Condolences to Paul's family. He was always smiling and extremely helpful whenever I worked with him at the VA.

Dawn Pedchenko - October 30, 2023 at 11:03 AM

EJ

“ I'm very sad to hear about Paul i worked with him at the VA hospital. he was always smiling and very funny, always lighten the day will be missed.

Edward j Guadalupe jr - October 30, 2023 at 10:13 AM

BC

“ I am so sad to hear of Paul's passing. I hadn't realized he was also a fellow Holy Cross alum! He exemplified living a life with the mission to help others and he brought a smile onto everyone's face that interacted with him. I enjoyed getting to know him at VA. Deepest condolences to his family and all those that had the privilege to know him.



Bonnie Chan - October 30, 2023 at 10:06 AM

RF

“ Along with others, I am saddened to hear of Paul's passing. We were "hall mates" freshman year at Holy Cross - Carlin 2. I remember his dry and disarming wit, his guitar playing, the Apocalypse coffee house, and our just "hanging out" on Carlin 2 floor. I am happy to hear that he had a wonderful life after he left HC.

R. Peter Fontaine - October 30, 2023 at 04:33 AM

RM

“ Paul and I grew up together in Norwich, and spent many days walking to St. Joseph's school, serving Mass and singing in the choir. My first day at Holy Cross was highlighted by a smiling Paul standing in the doorway. He was always eager to share his many talents, often lending his musical abilities to on and off campus endeavors. His family always set an extra seat at the holiday table, and Paul continued this welcoming attitude throughout his life. My fondest memories are from the year after graduation when Paul shared an apartment with us while "finding" himself. My condolences to Christina and family. Paul will always be a special memory for me and all who knew him.

Richard Morell 75

Richard S Morell - October 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM

BS

“ I haven't seen Paul since our days at Holy Cross but he was a great guy and I liked him a lot. There were many shared laughs. My deepest condolences to all of his family.

Brian Straub - October 28, 2023 at 09:20 AM

EL

“ Patients loved Paul, he always had a smile and a joke. Laughter is medicine and he will live on in our memories.

Emily LeVeen - October 28, 2023 at 07:35 AM