



## Paul Hamm

February 25, 1929 - February 29, 2016

Paul Hamm, 87 Feb. 25, 1929 — Feb. 29, 2016 Bloomington — On the morning of February 29, 2016, Paul Hamm passed away peacefully at Brandon Health and Rehabilitation in Brandon, FL. Paul was 87 years old.

Paul was born in Bloomington, IN on February 25, 1929. He was third of twelve children.

Paul lived an eventful childhood. He told stories of his family moving every month or so, “just when the rent was due.” He was proud of where he came from, telling everyone his past made him stronger and brave enough to sign up for the military at the very young age of 14.

Paul was always so proud of his U.S. Military service. He was a member of the U.S. Army from 1944 until his honorable discharge on November 17th, 1946, 3 months before his eighteenth birthday. Paul received draft papers after turning eighteen and told of having to convince the draft board he had already served for 32 months, taking his papers in for proof. He would tell stories of his trip to Germany, riding on a boat across the Atlantic for 18 days. One of his favorite stories of his service in Europe was one where he told of the time he delivered a baby on the side of the road. A woman was stranded, without help or medical attention, and Paul gave her his only blanket and shirt off of his back. He delivered her baby right there on the road and helped her

to safety. He was a true hero from such a young age. Paul had many prized possessions from his time in World War II, but his favorites were his dog tags and a small bible signed personally by Franklin D. Roosevelt that he had with him his entire life.

After returning from his service in World War II, Paul began driving an eighteen-wheeler across the country, hauling beef and other foods. One of his favorite and “funniest” stories from this time was when he slid off of a cliff while driving because of black ice, ending up in the kitchen of a mother and child. After telling that no one was hurt in the accident, he would always say, “that woman said words I hadn’t even heard of when I crashed into her kitchen, and she didn’t even offer me coffee or breakfast!”

Then Paul met Hazel, his wife of nearly 53 years. He always would say, “she’s the best thing that ever happened to me, and I would marry her all over again.” They enjoyed traveling the country with their horses. Paul won many horse shows, collecting ribbons and trophies everywhere he went. His favorite horse was Lady Postman, his prized appaloosa.

The hours and days on the road kept Paul from his wife, Hazel, so he decided to take on a job that would allow him to come home every day. This is when he started working for Ralph Rogers. Paul was dedicated to whatever job he had at hand as was shown in his thirty year length of service to Mr. Rogers. He worked as a mechanic for Mr. Rogers and was his personal caregiver.

Paul was a member of the Ellettsville Church of Christ for many years. He loved going to worship on Sundays, being the doorman and shaking everyone’s hand. Paul loved people and loved to talk. He was a generous, kind, and loving spirit.

When Paul was 63, his only grandchild, Staci, was born. He was recently

retired and stayed home to care for Staci, sitting for hours in the rocking chair if she was sleeping, afraid if he moved he would wake her up. Paul and Hazel loved spending time with Staci, taking her to the fair and horseback riding. He was so proud of her accomplishments, as she graduated with honors from The University of Tampa with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health. She went on to graduate school at South University Physician Assistant Program and is expected to graduate next month. Paul always would say, "My two favorite ladies in the whole world are Hazel and Staci."

Paul is preceded in death by his father (Harvey Hamm), mother (Ida Mae Hamm), and son (Wayne Smith). Paul is survived by Hazel (wife), Staci (granddaughter), brothers, sisters, cousins, and many wonderful friends.

Special thanks to our dear friends at the Ellettsville Church of Christ for their continuous love and support.

Funeral services will be held at Chandler Funeral Home in Ellettsville on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. with burial to follow at Valhalla Memory Gardens. Jarrod Jacobs will officiate the service. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Saturday from 11:00 until time of services.

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47403

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 5. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Chandler Funeral Homes - Ellettsville Chapel  
203 E. Temperance Street  
Ellettsville, IN 47429  
(812) 876-6075  
chandlerfh@bluemarble.net  
<https://www.chandlerfh.com>

## Service

MAR 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chandler Funeral Homes - Ellettsville Chapel  
203 E. Temperance Street  
Ellettsville, IN 47429  
(812) 876-6075  
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# Tribute Wall

LD

“ To Hazel and Staci so sorry for the loss of Paul my brother I know we were not as close as we would have liked to have been but I ALWAYS LOVED YOU AND YOU WILL BE DEARLY MISS IN MY HEART and to Hazel and Staci my prayers are with you I live in LAKELAND FLORIDA now and won't be able to be there but you will be in my thoughts today and to my dear brother PAUL R.I.P



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**LOUEVA&WENDELL M DAVIS** - March 05, 2016 at 07:41 AM

SS

“ I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A LIITLE GIRL AND PAUL CAME HOME FROM DRIVING IS TRUCK. IT WAS CHRISTMAS AND HE BOUGHT ME MY FIRST DOLL BUGGY. IT WAS PINK AND BLUE. I WAS SO HAPPY BRCAUSE IT WAS MY FIRST DOLL BUGGY I EVER HAD. I AM GOING TO MISS YOUU PAUL. YOU HAD SUCH A KIND HEART. MAY YOU REST IN PEACE. I LOVE YOU AND IM SURE GOING TO MISS YOU. .

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**SUESIE HETTLE, YOUR SISTER** - March 04, 2016 at 05:27 PM

RG

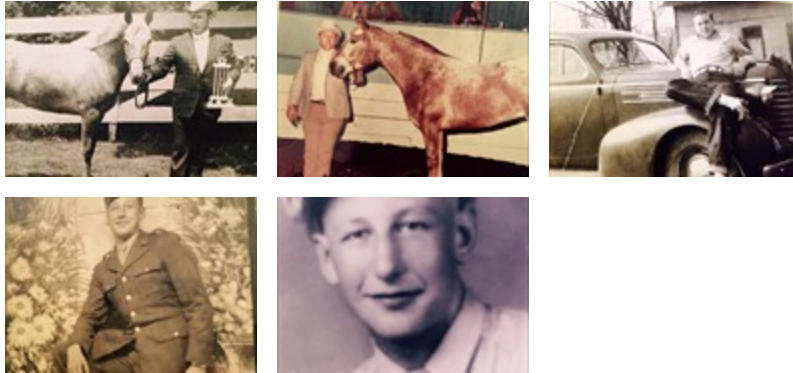
“ Today is a sad day for me hearing the passing of Paul. I will always cherish the times we sat in my office at the bank talking and listening to your stories. Thank you Paul for always asking how my boys where doing in the service. It was a privilege calling you my friend and you where a great man. RIP my friend

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**Rich Griswold** - March 04, 2016 at 10:48 AM

SS

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Staci Smith - March 04, 2016 at 07:36 AM

JT

“ I am pleased to have known Paul. I always loved to talk with him and listen to him recall his youth and proud service in the military. He was pleasantly surprised when I sent him a certificate thanking him for his selfless service to our country along with a US Flag carried in the cockpit of an F-16 during missions near Joint Base Balad while I was deployed to Iraq during 2008. He donated that flag to the local VFW to put on display. Paul would often tell me he was proud of my service. He will certainly be missed.

John Turk - March 03, 2016 at 09:29 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Paul Hamm.



March 03, 2016 at 08:47 PM



“ *Federal Display Case for Memorial Flag was purchased for the family of Paul Hamm.*



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March 03, 2016 at 04:35 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Diana Choate** - March 03, 2016 at 03:21 PM



“ *Sorry to hear of Paul,s passing , he was so good to vist my husband Roger Kerr during his time of need keeping you in my prays  
Wilda Kerr*



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**Wilda Kerr** - March 03, 2016 at 12:08 PM

JH

“ We are so thankful for Paul's service in the US Army during WWII, but much more so for his many years of service in the "LORD' ARMY".

*Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

*Joe Hamm and family.*

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**Joe Hamm** - March 03, 2016 at 08:12 AM

DP

“ Diana Phillips lit a candle in memory of Paul Hamm



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**Diana Phillips** - March 03, 2016 at 08:08 AM

DP

*Aunt Hazel, So sorry to hear of Paul's passing. I remember him vacationing with us in Gatlinburg when I was a child. He was so much fun and one day, even saved me from stepping on a snake! You are in our prayers.*

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**Diana Phillips** - March 03, 2016 at 08:10 AM

DE

“ We loved visiting with Paul and Hazel and hearing his stories. He had such a great memory for details and lots of pictures to share. He was so proud of you, Staci. We will miss Paul . Keeping you and Hazel in our prayers. Tom and Debbie Edwards

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**Debbie Edwards** - March 03, 2016 at 06:07 AM

DC

“ Hazel and Staci, We want to extend our sincere sympathy to you both at this difficult time. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Ron and Diana



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**Diana Choate** - March 02, 2016 at 01:14 PM