



Paul Ruzler

August 23, 1933 - February 14, 2025

Paul Ruzler of Blacksburg, VA, passed away on Valentine's Day. He was born at home in Vigo Co, IN, the youngest of five children of Lloyd and May Ruzler, and grew up working on the family dairy farm where he developed his lifelong love of agriculture. Paul got both his undergraduate and Masters from Purdue University, where he was also an active member of the Purdue Glee Club. He received his PhD from Texas A&M, all in Poultry Science.

He served in the US Army, both on active duty and as a reservist; he was immensely proud of this military service, and retired as a Colonel in the Army Reserves.

His long career in the poultry industry began in commercial egg production and he later went into teaching and Extension work, beginning with the Univ. of GA at ABAC in Tifton, GA. In 1976, he joined the Poultry Science faculty at Virginia Tech, teaching, doing research and working with the poultry industry all over Virginia. As a Member the VA Egg Council, one of his favorite activities was working at the White House Easter Egg Roll. For many years, he would take his Sunday School students from Northside Presbyterian to DC to volunteer at this fun event. He also enjoyed working with 4H and FFA students at various fairs and judging poultry at the fairs. He was awarded the Eddie Mason Memorial Award by the Virginia Poultry Federation for his work with young people, and received The Greatest Stir Award from the VA Egg Council. In 2010, he was elected a Fellow of the Poultry Science Association in recognition of his years of outstanding service to the organization.

A devoted family man, he is preceded in death by his wife Diane Holt Ruzler and his four siblings. He is survived by his long time love, Betty Manus of Blacksburg, his daughters, Karen (Frank) Ertel of Healdsburg, CA and Linda Ruzler of Gaithersburg, MD; his grandchildren, Daniel Ertel of San Diego, CA and Jennifer Ertel of Brooklyn, NY; great grandchildren, Jaxson and Peyton Ertel of San Diego, and numerous nieces and nephews whom he treasured. His memorial service will be held at Northside Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg, VA, where he was a long-time active member, on Feb. 27th at 10:30 am and followed by burial with Military Honors at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Christiansburg, VA at 1:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the Paul Ruzler Memorial Fund at Northside Presbyterian Church, 1017 Progress St. NW, Blacksburg VA 24060.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Gardens

2880 N. Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 27. 10:30 AM.

Northside Presbyterian Church

Graveside Service

FEB 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Roselawn Memorial Gardens
2880 N. Franklin Street
Christiansburg, VA

Tribute Wall

AD

“ All of us here at Purdue Musical Organizations, and specifically the Purdue Varsity Glee Club, send our sincere condolences to Paul's family. We have been very grateful for Paul's involvement in PMO for many years and the impact he has made on our students. We are thinking of you at this time and wishing you all peace and comfort. Please stay in touch - purdue.edu/pmo. From Bill Griffel and Amanda Dunkle (PMO) and Mckenna Hufford (Purdue for Life Foundation)

Amanda Dunkle - February 27, 2025 at 12:07 PM

ES

“ For several years int early 00s, the VT Poultry Club will have a chicken BBQ sale at State Fair in the suburb of Richmond. My favorite part of the two-day event was the leadership of Professor Paul and his awesome sauce! His quiet humour was joyful and his presence a delight! RIP Paul!

Ed Smith - February 26, 2025 at 06:30 AM

PS

“ 1 file added to the album *Our Ruszler Patriarch*



Patricia (Patty) Smith - February 23, 2025 at 12:33 AM

BS

“ I'll always remember Paul as a big man with an even bigger heart. He was always ready to lend a helping hand and say a kind word. I have a fond memory of the time he brought newly hatched chicks to church and showed them to the children. They were entranced! He will be deeply missed at Northside.

Betsy Stinson - February 21, 2025 at 01:49 PM

KV

“ I first met Paul when he was visiting my grandparents on Harding. He would stop in and bring some banana bread and chat. Later, we became neighbors. We will certainly miss him up here on the hill. He was a wonderful neighbor and friend. We've appreciated getting to know Linda over this past year+ as she's also joined as a neighbor and give you, Linda, and Karen, our deepest condolences. Karen, Neal, & Mack

Karen Vines - February 20, 2025 at 06:48 PM

JR

“ Dear Karen and Linda, Your Dad was my favorite cousin and a favorite nephew of my mom. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. I always called him the "Chicken Doctor". He could make my mom laugh by just talking to her. I always knew when she had talked to him as her mood was up lifted even in her last months. I am so sorry for your loss. with love, cousin Janice .

Janice Russell - February 20, 2025 at 12:17 PM