



## Paul Sorrentino

September 3, 1946 - June 10, 2025

Paul Sorrentino, of Blacksburg, VA. passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025. Dr. Sorrentino served as a Professor of English at Virginia Tech and as Co-Chair of the English Department for many years. He also served as a U.S. Army Captain in Alaska prior to his graduate studies.

Professor Sorrentino was a noted expert in American Literature. His biography, entitled *STEPHEN CRANE: A LIFE OF FIRE*, broke new ground, and is seen by many as the most in-depth work on Crane. In addition, Professor Sorrentino was the author of numerous books and articles. He was a highly regarded teacher, much beloved by his students, many of who continued to communicate with him after their graduation.

Paul earned both a B.A. and Ph.D. from Penn State University. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, where he served as a lector.

He was a member of the International Magicians Society. Paul enjoyed performing magic professionally, enchanting many children and adults at their events. He and magician friends enjoyed yearly magic conferences in Pigeon Forge, TN.

He loved to cook and share this talent with family and friends.

Paul received Gugenheim awards for his work on Crane.

He is survived by his wife Margaret C. Sorrentino, step-daughters Elizabeth Webb, Sophia More, and step-grandson, Dasan Bolanos.

Known for his generosity of spirit and kind, loving nature, he will be greatly missed.

A service will be held at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Blacksburg, VA on Saturday, July 12 at 11 AM, followed by a reception.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
1205 Old Mill Rd  
#3705  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Paul and I were office mates in the English Dept. at Lehigh University starting in 1967, when we began grad school. I remember him fondly as a teacher, a magician and a scholar (i enjoyed his book about Crane). Sorry to learn of his passing at this late date.  
Bob Sprague

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**Bob Sprague** - February 19 at 10:20 AM

SW

“ I completely enjoyed working with Paul during my time in the English Department at Tech. I learned so much about his favorite muse, Stephen Crane, from assisting him with his periodical publication, "Stephen Crane Studies." Paul had a gentle spirit and a dry wit and quirky smile. Everyone loved and respected Paul. I pray for the Lord's comfort for his family and friends. Rest peacefully.

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**Sally S Wieringa** - June 29, 2025 at 08:47 PM

AF

“ Paul was a beloved member of our family. We are so happy that we were able to visit with him these past couple of years. It was always a pleasure to be around Paul. Paul never lost his sharp mind or his warm personality and was always very hospitable. We were able to share family memories and learn of others during these visits. Our sincere condolences to Peg and family for their loss.  
We appreciate, so very much, Peg's help in arranging our "get-togethers.”

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**Al Sorrentino & Family** - June 23, 2025 at 02:43 PM

ES

“ Paul was the epitome of a teacher-scholar. I co-taught a number of seminars with him and had to work very hard to keep from being embarrassed. His work on Stephan Crane will remain a foundation for all future scholarship on one of the most significant American authors.

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**Ernest Sullivan** - June 16, 2025 at 04:14 PM