



Paul David Vammer

June 2, 1957 - September 26, 2018

Paul David Vammer, 61, of Williamsburg was baptized into the family of Christ on July 17, 1957, and took his first steps into the kingdom of Heaven on Wednesday, September 26, in the presence of his loving family.

Paul was born to humble farm beginnings on June 2, 1957 to Philip Orvin and Elma Esther (Wessel) Vammer in Glenham, SD. His parents taught him the value of hard work and respect for the land. He married Pamela Elaine Griewski on June 18, 1976, a year after chance brought them together and love drove them home in Pauls' bright green 71 'Cuda. Their love only grew as they brought two daughters, Jocelyn Renee and Madeline Rose, into the world.

Upon high school graduation in 1975, he attended Lake Area Technical Institute for auto-mechanics in Watertown, SD and found employment as a mechanic for a year. For the next two years, he transported and maintained manufactured homes, then tried his hand at landscaping. In 1979, his passion for chemistry led him back to school to pursue Chemical Engineering at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, SD. While there, he worked as a carpenter for Boyd Lappegard, managed weekend-watch at MDU Utilities, and served as a volunteer firefighter.

Paul was fortunate to be offered an internship with the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, MI the summer before his senior year. His "only option" for transportation was to make the trip on his 750 Kawasaki motorcycle. That internship turned into a job, relocating Pam and him to Midland in 1983. He progressed from Chemical Engineer to Production Engineer, Production Leader, Safety Specialist, then to Site Leader at Harbor Beach, and finally to Business Manufacturing Leader with Dow AgroSciences. He retired in December 2014 after a dedicated 31 years. During this time, his career took him to five of the seven continents and introduced many cherished friends and colleagues along the way. In retirement, that circle only grew as he and Pam fulfilled their dream of living in a lake house up north.

Paul carried an inspiring love for his family because time together was his utmost priority. He was also a diverse man; in his well-deserved free time, he'd be found hunting, fishing, target shooting, boating, camping, and riding his Harley. For many years, Trinity Lutheran Church of Midland was a second home where he sang in the choir, served on several boards, acted as treasurer, and was blessed with many lasting friendships. Then there was his tinkering around the house and on machinery. Paul could fix anything and knew something about everything. His life experiences and voracious appetite for reading—biographies to historical works to instruction manuals—paired with his personality, made him a humble walking encyclopedia.

Paul will be remembered for his gentle, giving and kind-hearted soul. He was a beloved example for a life lived with deep care and respect for all peoples, creatures, and the natural world. No one was judged in his eyes; you were assured to be heard and engaged with. If you needed help, he would drop everything to assist in problem-solving, be it workplace opportunities, felling trees, math homework, or deck building. Everyone had a seat at his table.

Paul is survived by his beloved wife Pam of 42 years; daughters, Jocelyn (Jason Tate) Vammer, and Madeline (Nathan) Scurfield; mother-in-law, Darlene Mohr; siblings, Peggy Vammer, Patty (David) Baumann, Dallas (Denise) Vammer; in-laws, Mary (Jerry) Seil, Gregg (Debbie) Griewski, Penny (Ray) Salazar, Fae (David) Loop and Jeff Comley; nephews, Aaron (Katie and baby Ellie Mae) Vammer, Scott Baumann, Matt and Brent Griewski, Michael (Morgan) Comley; nieces, Keri Wanner, Alonna (Adam) Denney, Corissa Comley, Cierra and Tia Loop, and many other special relatives and friends. Paul is preceded in death by his father and mother; brother, Danny L. Vammer; and stepfather, Barrie Mohr.

A memorial service will be held for Paul at 1 p.m., November 1, at the Feast of Victory Lutheran Church, 4400 Mount Hope Rd. Acme, MI 49610, with Pastors Carolyn Heider and Kirk Havel officiating . Celebration of life at Short's Brewing Company in Bellaire to follow. Wearing bright colors (or camo, if desired!) is encouraged. The family asks that memorial contributions be directed to Walworth County Care Center at Bank West, P.O. Box 334, Selby, SD 57472 to honor Paul's sister; Feast of Victory Lutheran Church at 4400 Mt. Hope Rd., Acme MI 49610 ; and Cedar Rod and Gun Club Educational Foundation at P.O. Box 171, Cedar, MI 49621. Kindly share thoughts and memories with Paul's family at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

Comments



“ Paul was, rather single handedly, responsible for maintaining the recruiting and corporate support relationship between South Dakota School of Mines and Dow for several years. He made it a priority when others didn't. He kept the connection active. It was with such pleasure and pride that I had the opportunity to get to know Paul over the years, working together on the university-corporate relationships. He became a good friend. He made a very big difference here at SD School of Mines by allowing young engineers the opportunity to be recruited into Dow, and through he and Pam's generosity in providing scholarships and other support to students and departments over the years. I've just today learned that he passed away last fall. A dark cloud of sadness covers me, and I will forever remember Paul as one of the truly great ones! He really was a great man, a role model. My sincere sympathy to all his family. I'm sorry it has taken me this long to acknowledge.
Brad Johnson, Rapid City, SD.

Brad Johnson - February 08, 2019 at 07:03 PM



“ Thank you so much for taking the time to write and acknowledging Paul recently Brad. I just read your note today and want you to know how much it means.
We are continuing to navigate a “new normal” without him and are so thankful for the many years of memories he created with his family, friends, work community, and friends from SDSM&T.
Take good care of yourself and family!
Sincerely,
Pam Vammer

Pam Vammer - April 01, 2019 at 10:56 AM



“ It was such a pleasure to get to know Paul & Pam through Maddie's marriage to Nathan . Paul was truly a special person. Our deepest sympathy to Pam, Maddie & Nathan, & Jocelyn & Jason. May the wonderful memories of a life well lived & Paul's great love help sustain you through the days ahead.

Shar & Arne Liimakka - October 30, 2018 at 06:40 PM



“ Dear Pam, Joz, and Maddie,
Brad and I considered it a privilege to have had the opportunity to know Paul. And, when we think of Paul, we think of the three of you and are immediately reminded of our own family of four. What fun we had when you guys came to NYC and we spent Thanksgiving together. It was Julia and Maddie who brought our families together and what a blessing it has been since. As I write this, my heart is heavy and profoundly sad when I consider the loss of this amazing man who lived his life with honesty, love, and integrity. His legacy will be felt for generations yet to come...we love you all and are praying that you will experience the “peace that surpasses all understanding.” Walking with you and holding your arms up...Georgia and Brad Miller

georgia miller - October 18, 2018 at 10:56 AM



“ My condolences go to Pam and her family. I had the great honor of knowing and working with Paul. He was a fine and godly man: an example for all of us. He exemplified professionalism, kindness, gentleness, and decency. I will miss him very much.

Dana Mathes

Dana Mathes - October 16, 2018 at 10:22 AM



“ To: Pam, Jocelyn and Maddie, and extended family...
Words can't express our deepest sorrow at your and our loss of one of God's warriors, and kindest of souls on earth. The humblest of giants in any parameter you can a human being by. And, no one ever was happier and enjoyed his life on this earth more...mainly because of his devotion to his family. Every one has their memories of someone, but mine (Larry) will always be, after ice fishing all day at Fletcher's pond, Paul and I going back to our room, and after three beers, blowing cigar smoke at the hundreds of flies on ceiling! Sorry if that sounds crass...but that was Paul at his best, having fun!
We are all deeply sorry, but if there's anything we all know and trust...he instilled in you three ladies the passion and strength to live on, knowing he spent time on earth as best as anyone ever could, and now he is in heaven, and you will all be eternally reunited again some day. We will all remember him forever.

Peace an love, Larry and Anne Giebelhaus

Larry Giebelhaus - October 14, 2018 at 09:11 PM



“ Our hearts are heavy upon learning about Paul’s untimely passing from this earth. Pam, Jocelyn and Madeline we hold you close in our thoughts and prayers. It has been many years since we were neighbors and enjoyed get togethers with you. Please know we are thinking of you and praying that you will be wrapped in the arms of Jesus Christ and loved and supported by your friends and family. Love, hope and peace, Lowell and Janet Thomas

Janet Thomas - October 14, 2018 at 12:32 PM



“ We were privileged to spend time with Paul and Pam in recent years, brought together by a cadre of women from the Chestnut Hill school area. While Paul was an amazing engineer, it was his personal warmth that separated him from most people we have known. His early departure is sad and seems just wrong. But we sure have precious memories of times together when we celebrated our kids, life and the miracle of friendship.
Anna & Ted Calverley



Anna & Ted Calverley - October 10, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ Paul was a sincerely nice, his obituary states it well. We are sadden to hear of Paul's passing. I first meet Paul at a career fair and interview at SDSM&T, even though I didn't get the internship as a freshman - Paul remembered me as a Senior. Dow didn't interview on campus that year and had just started to hire again after a long hiring freeze. However, Paul called up the campus, found me, and brought me out to Midland for an interview. I had been planning to go to graduate school, but God had different plans and Paul was his instrument. If it were anyone else that had called, I would have said no. However, Paul's kind personality and genuine interest in helping others led me to change life plans. It all worked out for the better since the company my husband had been working for in ND announced shutdown a year later. God knows what he is doing, and am glad to have had Paul be apart of our lives and church. We will forever cherish our memories of Paul.

Anne Putnam - October 09, 2018 at 09:49 AM



“ We are deeply sorry to hear about the death of Paul. Words are inadequate to express the sadness we feel for you and your family. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and memories to forever hold in your heart.

Ken and Vickie Konst

Ken Konst - October 07, 2018 at 10:16 PM



“ When my daughter Pamela shared the news that she and Paul wanted to get married, my first thought was that they were too young! But Paul was so kind and lovable and I knew how much in love they were, so soon, we got Pam's gown and they had a beautiful wedding! There were humble beginnings for the newly Weds, shortly after leaving for their honeymoon, the car broke down and they asked me if they could borrow mine... This was the beginning of a wonderful marriage! Paul and Pam were very practical, hard workers and dedicated to one another and to their marriage. Pam worked at the bank and Paul had quite a few jobs before his next adventure took him to college at SDSM&T in Rapid City, SD where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Paul accepted a position with Dow Chemical, in Midland, MI, where Pam and Paul raised their beautiful daughters, Jocelyn and Maddie. Paul was a dedicated husband father and friend, and the most wonderful Son-in-law a mom could ask for. He will be missed so very much and I thank the Lord for him and for Paul and Pam's marriage of love and happiness!
Love you all, Mom/Grandma Darlene

Darlene Mohr - October 06, 2018 at 09:04 PM



“ Hi Mom, Thank you for you sweet words of comfort.
Love you!

Pam Vammer - November 15, 2018 at 10:34 AM



“ Dear Pam, I was so sorry to learn of Paul's passing. It has been many years since I left Michigan, but I have fond memories of you and Paul when your girls were small. My sincere condolences to you and your girls.
Carol Rainford, Lyndsay, and Laurel

Carol Rainford - October 06, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ Sending my love to all. Ted and I have met so many nice people with all of our moves. But when Far and Dave married we had a new family. So knowing the Vammers, and what an awesome family. A role model, wish more families were like them. My love to each one of you.

Carol loop - October 04, 2018 at 12:15 PM



“ Paul was a member of my first high school basketball team in the big city of Glenham, South Dakota. Glenham High School was so large that five boys were NOT on the team! I have held the memories of the team in my mind and heart all these years.

What a great group of guys. Paul was one of the kindest, quietest, and gentlest soul that I have had the pleasure to teach and coach. One of my fondest memories of Paul was at a game in Mobridge. Paul had a girlfriend who would come to the games with a camera. I remember Paul preparing to shoot a free throw and there was the girlfriend with the camera ready. Later in the game I pulled Paul aside and told him to please look at the basket and not at the girlfriend with a big smile on his face so she could get the perfect picture. I then told him JUST KIDDING!

RIP:
Ron Davis

ron davis - October 04, 2018 at 11:58 AM



“ Dear Pam and family,

I am saddened to hear of Paul's passing. I came to know Paul over 10 years ago when I began to support him as his HR Partner. It didn't take very long to see the kindness in his eyes and his genuine soul. He always had a smile on his face and it was a complete treat to see him pop into my office during his trips to Indianapolis. He was a fountain of knowledge and was always willing to help educate me on various technology/manufacturing topics. Of course, our work and time together at times involved the not so pleasant situations but Paul always approached situations with integrity and compassion. His salt of the earth, humble demeanor made him very approachable and those of us who were blessed to know him will dearly miss him.

Rosie Pitones-Dunasky

Rosie Pitones-Dunasky - October 04, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ Dear Pam & Girls,
We were so saddened to learn of Paul's passing. He truly was/is an inspiration for many, including us. He always had a positive attitude & a smile on his face. We plan to see you on Nov. 1 and share a beer in Paul's honor!

Mark & Maureen Becker



MAUREEN BECKER - October 04, 2018 at 06:52 AM



“ Dear Pam, Joz & Maddie,
Up early this morning thinking and praying that God is holding you all in his loving hand and that you feel his love, and Paul's. What a Blessing to have him as a husband and a father! He taught us all how to be better. Love you all and Rick and I will see you (maybe in bright colors or camo) on November 1st!

Terri Stevenson

terri stevenson - October 04, 2018 at 08:06 AM



“ Paul and I were close friends through the high school years. As I read the comments that have been posted my heart is at ease to think that's the same Paul I grew up with in the innocent years. (Okay maybe some not so innocent times). To Pam and the kids u recently mentioned being on a journey. Journeys most times take us home and in this situation I know in my heart that home is the kingdom of God where there is no pain a suffering. On behalf of the graduating class GHS (75) rest in peace buddy.

Gary Byre - October 03, 2018 at 08:13 PM



“ The world has lost one of its truly great people. I have known Paul since our time together at SDSM&T. Throughout that time, Paul never put himself first. His showed compassion and caring for everyone.

Rest in Peace, my friend. You will be missed.

Rich Wells - October 03, 2018 at 02:17 PM



“ Paul was my summer mentor when I interned in the Michigan Division in Brine Chemicals. He was wise, kind and thoughtful. Our paths crossed back and forth as we both moved and I changed careers. It was always a pleasure to get 're-acquainted' with Paul and Pam. Speaking of them as a couple, I can only hope my 3 week old marriage mirrors their love and dedication to each other and their family. While much too short, Paul lived life well. Pam, Jocelyn, Maddie and the rest of the Vammer family - you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Ralph Brozzo - October 03, 2018 at 11:19 AM



“ It was a privilege to know and have worked for Paul. He was a wonderful person that always treated those around him fairly. My heart and sympathies go out to Pam and their family. He will be greatly missed. May the memories of Paul help ease the grieving and may he rest in the arms of Jesus.

Connie & Jeff Nault
Wanigan Crew

Connie Nault - October 03, 2018 at 07:03 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Diane Karna - October 02, 2018 at 12:31 PM



“ I will miss you with all of my heart Paul, I'm so thankful and blessed that our families grew up together and shared so many beautiful times, my heart is full of memories. I will fondly recall our shananigans together, and the endless laughter. Thank you for loving my sister in a capacity not many get to experience. Your and Pam's love spilled over to Jocelyn and Maddie and on to Michael and Corissa... Thank you for being the best brother a sister could ask for and loving my kids like your own. You have always been a role model for everyone who met you, as to the kind of person we should be, and the kind of person we should be to others. My heart is broken, my heart is full. Love you...

Fae Loop - October 02, 2018 at 11:55 AM