



N. Paul Gauvreau

August 4, 1948 - April 7, 2020

LEWISTON - N. Paul Gauvreau, 71, passed away unexpectedly in Lewiston, ME, on April 7, 2020. Paul was born August 4, 1948 in Burlington, VT to Dr. Norman and Dorothy (Daniels) Gauvreau. His family moved back to Lewiston in 1952 when his father began his medical practice at St. Mary's, just as his own father Dr. Horace Gauvreau had done. Paul graduated from Lewiston High School, the University of Maine, and the University of Maine Law School. His passion for social justice was cemented after working in Washington DC for two summers when he interned for then House Representative William Hathaway: on his first day in Washington DC in 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated.

Paul met the love of his life, Evelyn Greenlaw, while a law school student and they were married in 1977. He opened a private law practice in Lewiston in 1978, and later served in the Maine State Legislature - first in the House in 1982 and then in the Senate until 1992. Paul had a great respect for the people of Lewiston, stating in an interview for the Edmund Muskie Oral History Collection Muskie Archives, "The people are wonderful. I can say this because I've knocked on their doors; I've been in their homes. They are very, very hardworking, honest, honorable people with strong values."

Paul was always concerned about giving back to his community and felt a deep calling for public service, and as a result was heavily involved in organizations such as Tri-County Mental Health Services, AWAP, Kiwanis, Community Concepts, Legal Services for the Elderly, Boys and Girls Club, Advocates for Children, the Lewiston Area Public Health Committee and many more.

Paul left Legislature in 1992 to re-focus on his private law practice and spend more time with his family. In 1997, he was recruited by then Maine Attorney General Andrew Ketterer to join the AG's Office as the Chief of the Criminal Division. He stayed with the AG's Office in various capacities until finally retiring in 2019 (after several false attempts at retirement and milking multiple retirement parties only to come back "part time"). His colleagues describe him as putting the needs of the Office and the people of Maine above his own

needs and as a true selfless, sincere and genuine human being with a wealth of knowledge, wisdom and heart.

If you ever spent a moment speaking with Paul (which was likely more than a minute or two since he was so verbose), you instantly felt his warmth, as well as his passion for baseball. His knowledge of minor league prospects, Negro League players, World Series match-ups, and his forever hope of summer found in Spring Training was unmatched. Paul's love of baseball was not focused on the athletic ability of the players. Rather, it was far more about his passion for people overcoming life's challenges. Paul would routinely tell anyone who would listen that "in a metaphysical sense, baseball embodies our innate quest for happiness and satisfaction, even in an imperfect world." Paul's extensive baseball knowledge was accompanied by an equally extensive collection of baseball cards, books, scorecards, figurines, and many other memorabilia - some of which landed itself on the walls of the 6th floor of the AG's Office when he ran out of room in his office. When asked if he was a Red Sox fan, his automatic response was "baseball is just too good to limit yourself to one team."

In addition to his passion for baseball, Paul was a self-described history nerd who loved constitutional law; two topics which he believed were indelibly intertwined. Paul enjoyed reading the complete works of the Founding Fathers nightly – and would relay important lessons or tidbits from them to his family the following morning via email. Paul's "tidbits" were sometimes more intellectually advanced than his audience desired. To illustrate the point, the family received this email in January 2015: "I found a neat little website which allows one to discern which Founder one most closely resembles." He boasted that his profile aligned completely with that of Benjamin Franklin.

As one may have recognized during their interactions with the Gauvreau/Greenlaw family, growing up with Paul as your father/husband was certainly entertaining. Paul had a vocabulary unlike most and would constantly leave his family reaching for a dictionary. Although sometimes operating at a higher intellectual level than his family would like, it was clear how wholly and fully he loved his family. He was a loving and supportive husband and father who can never be replaced.

He was predeceased by his parents. He will be sorely missed by his wife, Evelyn Greenlaw, and his daughters Jessica, and Johanna and her significant other Justin Smith, as well as his three siblings and their families: brother Doug and his wife Andrea, brother Ken and his wife Robin, and sister Gayle Keeshen and her husband Tim.

Due to the current pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Should you like to leave a personal condolence for Paul's family you may do so online at www.lynchbrothers.com

Comments



“ Dear Paul Gaurvreau family,

Your husband and dad has a soft place in many of our hearts. His dad was my mom's doctor, and our families were friends. As adults, I got to know Paul in political circles. I think my favorite memory was the time that we saw each other at a democratic convention. He came charging over to me to say hi and ask me how I was doing. As any candidate can tell you, Paul is our favorite kind of guy. When I told him that I was in another State Senate race - or maybe it was Congressional race, I forget - . . . all I remember is Paul's immediately starting to rummage thru hi many pockets only to pull out his checkbook and start writing a check to contribute. In his beloved baseball language, this fan got to watch him make a solid hit with me then and there. And there were other opportunities to observe him from a distance. What I clearly remember is catching his overpowering passion. He was "all in" with life. And his "all in" was for doing good for others. What a wonderful human being to have in our lives, however close for you and not so close but most appreciatively for many others of us. From the entire Longley family, we send you our respects for one N. Paul Gauvreau. Sincerely, Sue Longley

Susan W. Longley - September 22, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Abdou - May 04, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ Paul was the epitome of a servant. I had the pleasure of serving with Paul in Kiwanis, and he put his whole self in whatever we were doing. He especially loved our pancake breakfasts where he was able to talk to so many people and he was so full of joy. I too remember all of the "big words" he used, and it was quite impressive! I will miss his pleasant smile and demeanor. Rest in peace, Paul.

Patti Gagne - April 29, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ As a Hearings Officer with the Dep't of Human Services, I always looked forward to hearings with Paul. Always polite and always friendly. I especially got a kick out of the times when he would get into Latin jargon and bewilder us all!

Ron Stoodley

Ron Stoodley - April 18, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ I went to school with Johanna and remember what a presence her father was. He had this air of warmth about him, and it was very apparent how close his family was to one another. I want to extend my condolences to Johanna and family.

Melissa McCarthy - April 15, 2020 at 06:46 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Paul's sudden passing. Such a terrific guy . . . he was my softball teammate and a strong political ally. He shared my passion for baseball, and his encyclopedic knowledge of the game and its rich history was legendary. The state of Maine and the city of Lewiston have lost a great citizen. He will be sorely missed.

Roger Philippon - April 14, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ Very sorry to hear that Paul passed away. He was a very nice man, and a valued colleague at the A G's office. As an A G retiree, I was a recipient of one of those coveted Gauvreau baseball bats (which I still have), accompanied by one of Paul's scholarly monologues. Every time Paul performed one of these ceremonies, he would inevitably use at least one word I'd never heard before that would send me to the dictionary for a definition. My sincere condolences to his family.

F LaRochelle

Fernand LaRochelle - April 14, 2020 at 07:23 AM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathy. I was fortunate to know Paul in college; he was bright, funny and a wonderful friend. I admired his intellect, his idealism and most of all Paul’s willingness to put his values into action. His was a life well-lived.
-Belinda Ingraham Snell

Belinda Ingraham Snell - April 13, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ To Paul’s family & friends I am so sorry for your loss. Paul helped me get custody of my son about 20 years ago. I also did a roast on Paul during Inspired Voiced in 2016 or 2017. Every time he saw me he always said hello. He will be missed. May God be with the family.

Anthony Harmon Sr. - April 13, 2020 at 06:12 PM



“ Dear Evelyn,

I am so sorry for your devastating loss. I am thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

-Brenda Joly

Brenda Joly - April 13, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ Paul was one of the most decent, thoughtful legislators in Maine. A class act. He will be missed.

Joan Sturmthal - April 13, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ I am shocked and saddened by the premature loss of this wonderful man. I met him through my work at Maine CDC. I loved his love of words (I’m an English major), his respect for me in sharing them with me without knowing a lot about me, and his great sense of humor. He was kind and compassionate. He also did a tremendous service for the Maine CDC and I learned a lot from him as he shared his wisdom. I am so so sorry for your loss. I’m hoping he’s having fun playing in a new league. Christine Lyman

Christine Lyman - April 13, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ So sorry to lose such a wonderful person. A person who treated all people the same with humanity and kindness in court and in life. Blessed to have known him. Love to his family.

Kathleen Ayers
Kennebec County Probate Court

Kathleen Ayers - April 13, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ Evelyn, Jessica and Johanna,

I am so very sorry to hear of Paul's passing. Know that I am thinking of you all and sending my heartfelt condolences at this difficult time. May the memories shared help you through this very difficult time.

Christine Iaconeta Dulac

Christine Dulac - April 13, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ We at St. Dom's wish to convey our sympathies to Paul's family for his unexpected passing. He contributed much to his community, including St. Dom's. He will be missed by many. We will send prayers for peace and comfort to Evelyn and his daughters.

Deb Anthoine - April 13, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ I am an attorney who has done many involuntary commitment cases at the PARC Unit at Pen Bay Medical Center. Most of them will Paul, so I was shocked to read his obituary a while ago. I last so him sometime last fall, before he actually did retire. I had many good conversations with him. He was most concerned about the wellbeing of the subjects of those cases. We also talked a lot about state and federal government and how much of the time it was not working in the best interest of the people and what he did in the Legislature To help people. A conversation, or two, about baseball. A highly intelligent, thoughtful, concerned about the welfare of people, gracious, and friendly man. I am a better person for having known him. May he Rest In Peace. Dan Purdy

Dan Purdy - April 12, 2020 at 10:31 PM



“ Evelyn, Jess, & Johnanna,
Sending much love and sincere condolences in the loss of your husband/dad. Your loving memories are etched in your hearts. Hold on to each one and cherish all those precious moments. Evelyn, I'll miss you talking about Paul, his so called retirement, baseball etc. Hugs my friend.
Love,
Liza Johnson

Liza Johnson - April 12, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ Evelyn, Jess, & Johnanna,
Sending much love and sincere condolences in the loss of your husband/dad. Your loving memories are etched in your hearts. Hold on to each one and cherish all those precious moments. Evelyn, I'll miss you talking about Paul, his so called retirement, baseball etc. Hugs my friend.

Liza Johnson - April 12, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ My sincere condolences to Paul's family on their loss. I knew Paul when he chaired the Tri-County Mental Health Board and showed leadership for many years. Paul has such a wonderful outlook often finding hope whenever there were tough times and seeing the good in us all. He was inspiring and had a great sense of humor. I cherished his commitment to public service and sharing his passion for baseball and his love of the game. He had such a calming presence and showed great humility. We'll all miss him dearly!
Warm wishes and prayers to his family
Charlie B.

Charlie Bernacchio - April 12, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ I was shocked and saddened today to read about the passing of N.Paul Gauvreau. It was obviously a premature passing. I had not seen him for awhile but the last time I saw him he was as vital, kind and insightful as ever. He was serving in the legislature when Maine was struggling with the HIV epidemic At that time I was the public health physician in charge of Maine's public health response. I learned a lot from him. He was a co-chair of the Human Services Committee and we worked together on a number of pieces of legislation. He was guided by facts and fairness in considering legislation. When there was discord on the committee, he was the one who helped everyone to find the way to work effectively together. He was just the kind of public servant so needed now. I admired him a great deal and I am sure he will be sorely missed. Please accept my sincere condolences.

Lani Graham

Lani Graham - April 12, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Evelyn and family - I was so sorry to hear of Paul's sudden passing. My condolences to you and the family. You are all in my thoughts and my prayers.

Janice Sullivan

Janice R Sullivan - April 12, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ I was saddened to read of Paul's passing. I remember him well when I was in the legislature, and he was in the halls. Mostly I recall his quiet, thoughtful, and reasoned counsel, his welcome smile. Paul was always a complete gentleman - kind and considerate. We are poorer for his passing.

Bonnie Green

Bonnie Green - April 12, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ It is with heavy heart that I learned of Paul's untimely passing.

Paul was an icon, a bright light in a sometime's dark world, the kindest and most compassionate of hearts, and a mentor...for me, and many others.

Please know that I hold you all in thought and prayer during this time of loss and grieving. May the legacy he leaves behind bring healing your way over the days to come.

Warm Regards,
Catherine Ryder

Catherine Ryder - April 12, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ Johanna and family,
Please accept my sincere sympathy. Paul was a fine and honorable lawyer and a thoroughly decent man. I enjoyed working with him on various projects and valued his advice and friendship.
Arthur Brennan

Arthur Brennan - April 12, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ I am sorry to learn about Paul's passing. This is a perfect example that life is not always fair. He has appeared as a lawyer in court in front of me several times, and I enjoyed his friendly demeanor, dedication to work, and sense of humor. He clearly should have been named "Baseball Fan of the Year" at some point. I see Johanna around the Portland courthouse and wish her the best. Kap Powers

Kap Powers - April 12, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Paul many years ago when I was an intern at the legislature. He was kind and a true gentleman. He was generous with his time. When you were talking to him, you had his full attention. If someone important walked by, you would not lose him. More recently, I enjoyed running into him at the AG's Office. I also had the pleasure of being introduced by my good friend Lenny Sharon to one of his daughters a year or so ago. The apple didn't fall far from the tree. My heartfelt condolences to the family. He was a good man.

Harry McKenney - April 12, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ Richard and I send our love and condolences to Evelyn and family. We both have wonderful memories of working with Paul on state and local issues. Paul was always thoughtful and truly motivated to find the best solutions to the many challenges facing Lewiston-Auburn and Maine. Yes, he could be very serious, very focused, and very erudite, but he was also lots of fun with a great laugh and an abundant sense of humor. It's a sad day for family, friends, colleagues and Mainers to lose such a special person.

Barbara Trafton - April 12, 2020 at 08:14 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you, I worked for many years with Paul and have the fondest of memories, smiles for his commentary and appreciation of the skill and depth of knowledge he brought to us all. In sympathy, Cathy McGuire

Cathy McGuire - April 12, 2020 at 07:50 AM



“ Ev, Johanna, and Jess you have my condolences with the loss of a great father, husband, and friend. I certainly witnessed his love of baseball and my heart is with you.
Love nick miller

nicholas miller - April 12, 2020 at 01:17 AM



“ So sorry to hear this news. Brilliant man, compassionate attorney. I consider myself fortunate to have worked with him. Sorry for your loss.
Jeff Dolley

Jeffrey Dolley - April 12, 2020 at 01:10 AM



“ Thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Paul was one of the most generous persons I ever met.

His love of baseball was not surpassed by anyone. We could talk about baseball forever. His knowledge of the sport was extraordinary. All teams. Every level. My only wish was to tag along with him on his summer tour of minor league baseball stadiums. I never made it. But I know it would have been splendid. That was who Paul was.

He always had time to share a story with me, or listen to mine. If I ran into Paul I would tell him my beloved Chicago White Sox were still undefeated (due to them not playing due to pandemic). And he would encourage me to stick with them. "They will get better soon..."

His commitment to the community was exceptional. Paul made a huge difference in this world. What more could a man or family want?

I will miss running into him... The community will also miss him...

Jim Lysen
Lewiston, Maine

James Lysen - April 12, 2020 at 12:52 AM



“ What a wonderful tribute! My deepest sympathy to his family for a loss of such a nice man! Paul has left the Ballpark on earth! Peace be with him and the family!

ALICE B CHICOINE - April 11, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ Ronnie Paradis lit a candle in memory of N. Paul Gauvreau



Ronnie Paradis - April 11, 2020 at 03:03 PM



“ Oh Evelyn! Thinking of you and holding your family in my heart. Sending love and comfort and hoping you are able to find it in each other and in your memories.

Daphne Comeau - April 11, 2020 at 02:25 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Paul's death. We worked together in the AG's office until I retired in 2011. Your obituary of Paul was wonderful to read, it encompassed everything I knew of Paul. He was such a wonderful man and a pleasure to work with. My sincere sympathy on his very untimely passing.

Sally DeMartini - April 11, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ During my law enforcement career and interacting with him as a lawyer, I always found him to be so respectful and caring for his clients as well as for us cops. I also got to know him in his service in the Maine Legislature again serving with care for his constituents. He was a people person. I remember once when he was running for the Maine Senate that he didn't have any signs up, so I went and helped him to put up signs. He was so appreciative and I got to know him even better doing that. Of course, baseball was his true love and it was always a pleasure to talk baseball with him. I was so surprised when my wife told me he had passed away and I was so sorry to hear that. He will be missed by not only family but the community as well and those throughout the state that got to know him in his public service. Evelyn, we extend our condolences and your children will be in our prayers to help you through this most difficult period.

Larry Gilbert, Sr. - April 11, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ I was fortunate to be a member of Paul's Senior College class, "Baseball and the Pursuit of Happiness". He was a wonderful teacher who knew his subject so well. To be in a room with baseball lovers learning so much more about baseball through Paul's eyes and knowledge was a joy. The fact that he brought along with his love of baseball a love for the U.S. Constitution and history were the frosting on the cake. I am glad that I got to know him and am shocked and sad at his passing. He was a good man and I am very sorry for your loss.

Laura Sturgis - April 11, 2020 at 10:27 AM



“ Evelyn and Family, Lynn and I were saddened to learn of Paul's passing. I am thankful for the times I got to know him through Kiwanis. He had such a wonderful soul and big heart. Whenever I saw him, however brief the encounter, I always felt like he was truly glad to see me and I went on my way with a renewed sense of joy and optimism. We'll miss him and will carry you in our hearts during the coming days.
Cousins Rob Crosby and Lynn Derderian

Rob Crosby and Lynn Derderian - April 11, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ Early in Paul's political life he was a member of the Lewiston City Committee@ late 1970s. This photo will bring a smile to some faces. He'd have loved reminiscing too.



Laurie Maloney - April 11, 2020 at 10:12 AM



“ My deepest condolences. I got to work beside Paul when he was in private practice, and knew him as a mentor, and as a caring, generous, and skilled advocate for his oftentimes poor and disadvantaged clients. Paul's vocabulary and baseball knowledge were unforgettable, but I will remember most his grace, dignity and interest in life. I am very sorry for your loss.

Donald Hornblower - April 11, 2020 at 09:39 AM



“ Dear Evelyn, I'm so sorry to learn that you have lost Paul. Please know that you are in my thoughts.

Jennifer Sullivan - April 11, 2020 at 08:25 AM



“ My sympathies to you, Evelyn, Jessica and Johanna. I am blessed with the memories of conversations about baseball or politics, sometimes baseball and politics, with Paul when he'd stop by the office. I always enjoyed his insight and perspective. He will be missed.

Lisa Laliberte - April 11, 2020 at 07:38 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Paul's passing, Evelyn. My prayers are with the two of you.

Phil Rioux - April 11, 2020 at 06:39 AM



“ Evelyn, my deepest condolences. Paul was a wonderful person. I enjoyed talking with him when I would see him. His integrity and compassion is something we should all strive to obtain.

Karen Hobson - April 11, 2020 at 05:52 AM



“ I'm so sorry to learn of Paul's passing. I've known Paul for most of my life and always loved running into him and having great conversations. He will be greatly missed by many. My deepest condolences to Evelyn and family.

Diane M Duplissis - April 10, 2020 at 09:56 PM



“ This is such very sad news. Paul was one of a kind: his knowledge, integrity, and sense of justice were innate to everything he did. My deepest sympathy to you Evelyn, Jessica, and Johanna, the true lights of his life.

Laurie Maloney - April 10, 2020 at 07:18 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Evelyn Greenlaw - April 10, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ Words can't describe the horrible loss I feel for this man to have left us so soon and so unexpectedly. His energy and passion to help those in need were phenomenal. I can think of no instance when he spoke a negative thought about someone, but rather could put a positive (perhaps hopeful?) spin to guide the rest of us to recognize the true goodness in people and our community. Paul truly made this world a better place...for so many.

Sarah L Glynn - April 10, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gene Geiger - April 10, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ He sat right behind me in Miss Miller's English class. He was constantly whispering and causing Miss Miller to look at us over her glasses. "Mr. Geiger, Mr. Gauvreau have you anything you would you like to tell the class?"

Gene Geiger - April 10, 2020 at 03:44 PM



“ What a really, really good person. So very sad today.

Gene Geiger - April 10, 2020 at 03:45 PM



“ This is a huge shock. Paul and I were next-door neighbors and buddies all the way through high school, from the day that my family moved to Lewiston in 1964. We played in the LHS band together, were on the debate team together, and on a baseball team together. Paul had a great wit, and we became notorious for our "pun battles" on a variety of subjects. Of course, we also had a lot of long discussions about baseball. Paul could really be serious at times, but had a great sense of humor. I'm so very sorry for your loss.

Mike Cohen - April 10, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ I still can't believe it...I met you two on a trip to Ireland and he was a good buddy and adventurous and lots of fun to talk to. I'm glad you had that last trip west - you both looked like you were having a lot of fun. So very sorry for your loss...

Gale Greenleaf - April 10, 2020 at 02:55 PM



“ Genuine, wise, full of life, a great servant to the community he loved! He will be sorely missed. My prayers go out to Paul's family during this difficult time. Joyce T. Gibson

Joyce T. Gibson - April 10, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ Maureen Perry lit a candle in memory of N. Paul Gauvreau



Maureen Perry - April 10, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ We deeply saddened by the news of Paul passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Zam Zam Mohamud - April 10, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ A true gentleman, scholar, and fearless defender for fairness and truth. One of Lewiston’s greatest. His legacy of service-leadership will continue through the many lives he touched and inspired. A great friend and man of integrity.

John Jenkins - April 10, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ Paul was in our class of 1967 at LHS and he was just what the tribute to him says: A man whose vocabulary challenged us all....and a person who did indeed care about causes and rights for those less fortunate or those who had mental health challenges. I always enjoyed running into Paul and am grieved for his family.
Sincerely, Linda Murch Leiva

Linda Leiva - April 10, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ sorry to hear .. my condolences to his family and friends in this extremely difficult time

Larry Strout - April 10, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ My deepest sympathy and condolences Evelyn, Jess, and Johanna. I was shocked to hear of Paul's unexpected passing. Took my breath away. My heart aches for all of you. Sending you love and hope that the memories of your husband and father bring you great comfort during this time.
XOXOXO Lynn

Lynn I. Poor - April 10, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Paul’s passing. We were class mates at Lewiston High. My condolences to the family.
Lucy Levesque Scribner
Mount Pleasant, SC and Boothbay, ME

lucy scribner - April 10, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gayle Gauvreau Keeshen - April 10, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ Wonderful photo...as I will always remember him. <3

Catherine Ryder - April 12, 2020 at 01:08 PM



“ Very sorry for your loss. It has been said that life , in part, is about collecting memories. I have many great memories of Paul working on various campaigns and serving in the legislature with distinction. His compassion, sense of humor and dedication to public service will be sorely missed by all.

Steven Minkowsky

Steven Minkowsky - April 14, 2020 at 09:44 AM