



# Paul F. Bridgford

February 21, 2020

In His Loving Memory

PAUL F. BRIDGFORD, DES MOINES

Paul F. Bridgford, died peacefully at home of Myelodysplastic Syndrome on February 21st. He was 67 years old. He enjoyed a wonderful family, an accomplished career, passionate hobbies, and the respect and love of neighbors and friends.

Paul was born on the Ides of March, 1952 in Davenport, and raised in Des Moines where he graduated from Lincoln High School. With lucky lottery number 13, he joined the U.S. Air Force as a graphic arts specialist and cartographer. After a tour of duty in Southeast Asia, Paul began his career in advertising and illustration, teaching briefly at Des Moines Area Community College where he met fellow instructor Susan Koch, whom he married in 1986.

Paul expressed his love of nature as a wildlife artist. His extraordinary talent brought him success and national recognition, as he won 14 revenue stamp competitions in Iowa and six other states. His morel and chanterelle mushroom hunting and cooking were legendary. An avid bird-watcher, Paul especially enjoyed creating habitats for hummingbirds and butterflies.

Paul was an active Mason, a member of Gnemeth Lodge, the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, and the Royal Order of Jesters. He was a good man and true.

He was preceded in death by his father Ronald Bridgford and sister Mary Walker. Paul is survived by his wife, Susan Koch Bridgford, and two children, Clare Wiseman (Corey) and Grant Bridgford (Leah Ackerman), and granddaughter Haylie Wiseman. He is also survived by sisters Shari (Jerry) Fitzgerald, Deb Hobson, Anna (Brian) Lampe, Lora (Zane) Yates, Marla (Shawn) Kelly, and brothers Clifton and John Pierschbacher, as well as many loving in-laws and countless nieces and nephews.

Paul will be remembered at a memorial service held at First Unitarian Church (1800 Bell Ave., Des Moines, IA 50315) on Saturday February 29th at 10:30 a.m. followed by a celebration of life luncheon at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to; Iowa Rivers Revival; [iowarivers.org](http://iowarivers.org). Ouellette - Pierschbacher - Thomas Funeral and Cremation Care of Ankeny is caring for Paul and his family.

# Events

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<b>FEB</b>	<b>Celebration of Life</b>	10:30AM
<b>29</b>	<hr/>	
	First Unitarian Church	
	1800 Bell Ave., Des Moines, IA, US, 50315	

# Comments

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“ I just found out about this, I knew him as a member of ww2aircraft.net as Wildr1. He was a pleasure to know, a fantastic artist and gladly helped me with pictures for my book. He will be missed!

**David D Gravermoen** - July 25, 2020 at 04:00 PM

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“ paul was a special friend to me and ducks unlimited, donated his time and art work over the years. i own many of his prints but treasure his bronze of his dad cody which i have owned for over 40 years.susan you were blessed to have shared your life with paul. may he rest in peace. god bless you and your family

**BILL ARTIS SR. AND FAMILY**



**BILL ARTIS SR** - March 02, 2020 at 10:27 AM

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“ We wish to send our sincere condolences to you and your family. He had a life well lived.

Lorrie and Michael Hayes



**Lorrie Hayes** - February 29, 2020 at 01:34 PM

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“ Paul’s artwork of his wildlife was on the cover of our price list for years @ Corn States Hybrid Service in Des Moines. Our customers, seed dealers throughout the country, were sent one of his prints . They were so fond of them & to this day I know they still hang in a lot of homes & offices.  
Paul was a super guy to work with, it was always fun when he came in the office. My deepest sympathy to his wife & family. Jane Hoyman

Jane Hoyman - February 28, 2020 at 10:51 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Video



Ouellette, Pierschbacher, Thomas Funeral & Cremation Care - February 27, 2020 at 12:29 PM

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“ Dear Susan,  
Thank you for your friendship through the years. It allowed us to meet and get to know Paul, someone with passions, interests, and pursuits that created a life of meaning. But we give you much credit for that. Choices you made together shaped your lives in wonderful ways. How lucky for you and your family -- and for all of us who witnessed your loving bond.  
Ann and Bryan

Ann and Bryan - February 26, 2020 at 10:15 AM

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“ Dear Susan, Kathy and I are so sorry for your loss. We regret that we are out of state and won't be back until March 3. Thinking of you and your family from afar.  
Ed Fallon

Ed Fallon - February 25, 2020 at 07:06 AM

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“ Susan and family--I was so sorry to learn about Paul. My best memories of him have to do with Roosevelt and Castle Club. For Mac's senior party in 2004, Paul created the big banner of Teddy and it looked so much like him. He was so excited about the banner as we all were. And dancing away in Castle Club. He will be remembered and missed. Unfortunately, I am out of town or I would be at the service. I will be in touch Susan. Sending strength, courage, and love from far away. Jann Freed

Jann Freed - February 24, 2020 at 04:09 PM

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“ He did such a wonderful job of honoring my father's life at R.O.J. Thank you Paul.  
Mike Callison

Michael Callison - February 24, 2020 at 02:57 PM

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“ Clare and Paul's family,  
I remember your Dad helping me enter some of my paintings as slides via the Internet for some art exhibit. He showed me his wonderful duck stamp paintings. I was so impressed with his accurate eye, and great skills at painting.  
Also I had a conversation with Paul at the grocery store last time I saw him. He recommended we go to Penticton, Canada as a beautiful place to see on our drive from Seattle to Des Moines three summers ago. He said he served near there during his Air Force Service.  
He was a very kind intelligent man with great art skills and love for his family and nature.  
You have my deepest sympathy.  
Mary Helen Grace.  
Clare's long ago art teacher at Greenwood.

Mary HelenGrace - February 23, 2020 at 08:26 PM