



Paul D. Moonan

June 4, 1929 - December 3, 2011

BRIGHTON; Saturday, December 3, 2011. Paul D. Moonan was born – lucky – in Rochester NY, June 4, 1929. First son of Mary Sheehy and Paul, Sr., he graduated from Nazareth Academy and Aquinas Institute, and then went on to the University of Toronto, Saint Michael's College. Honors Philosophy was a choice that was the foundation for the rest of his life.

WWII saw a young Paul Moonan Assistant Pro at Ridgemont. A natural athlete, it spurred a lifelong passion for the sport. Never again a scratch golfer, he played when he could, and found total relaxation on the links. A natural at whatever he loved – skiing with family and friends, or walking five miles in the Daytona Beach morning, both were high on the list. The Korean War gave him a chance to figure out the rest of his life. First stop Army Counter Intelligence – interesting but a bit rigid. Next was surveying in Texas. Giggling around Austin after hours, he and his group of musician buddies were seen on Lyndon Johnson's local television station – and the Union notified the General, who was not pleased. It became very hot in Texas. So, an application to the Army Language School in Monterey, California was just the thing. A year later, Paul graduated at the top of his class as a Russian Interpreter. Sent to Germany on the wrong MO, he observed old classmates freezing on the Wall, ear to the enemy. A band was playing at a basketball game, Paul sat in. The Captain liked his horn, and voila, he was with the Tamtettes and the USO touring the world. This culminated in their winning the All Army entertainment contest, Instrumental Group, and appearing on the eponymous Ed Sullivan Show.

On 7/11/59 Paul married Lawrence and Helen Cusolito's, Diane in Milton, Massachusetts with her sister Donna as only attendant. His brother, Thomas P., Esq. (Marie Attardo) was best man. A storybook 'tents, champagne and music' wedding, it was at home on a sunny, sunny day – then they were off to Europe for a two months' adventure on \$17 per.

Two years in Buffalo preceded a return to Rochester. The Moonan-Sheehy clan, with his Missy and 123 others, is on its fourth generation of judges and lawyers, but Paul saw,

instead, the romance in searching property titles and figuring out intriguing puzzles from the past. As he worked his way to Vice President, President (and briefly) Chairman, the people he worked with became family and Monroe Title Insurance became his life.

His children, first Melisa (Missy) and seven years later, Lawrence (Lorenzo/Larry) are everything he could have wished for. Miss, fun, talented and always somewhere else in the world, is recently, serendipitously, in Skaneateles, regulatory counsel at Welch Allyn; she loved playing cards with her dad, who always won. Larry, dry witted, a talented artist and athlete, is the owner of Full Moon Landscape here in Rochester. Larry was a pillar for Paul in his last years (and always made sure he had a full supply of chocolate bars).

Paul and Diane's house in 'Andy Hardy' Meadowbrook was the core of his friendships. The Finigans, Lanes, Dempseys, Redmonds, McLaughlins, Dammens and Novaks formed a circle of laughter and fun 'n' games that embraced them, their kids, and grandkids on every holiday, real and imagined, of the year. The truths learned and friendships made there continue to enrich the lives of those who grew up in the circle.

The Michie and Hartman families each asked Paul and Diane to be legal guardians of their children, a privilege and an honor, and they were all very special to him.

Paul followed his father into Andre Simon's Wine and Food Society. Another amazing circle.

Paul's gift of music was just that – a gift! He found lifelong joy in picking up his clarinet, hips a-swivel, and just plain playing! The Bourbon Street Parade (nee the Beale Street Bandwagon) – Baker, Pierce, Tomanovich and Menke, Young, and Yeates (later Beck) were a musical family that enriched life in too many ways to tell. The stories deserve a book.

The retirement years in Daytona gifted him the 'Pretty Boy Freud' Band of 20-somethings. He was their 'grand old man' and with them he covered the coast from South Carolina (every New Year's at the Jekyll Island Club) to the Keys.

Highlights: the annual Wine and Food Picnics at the Shack with Gold Seal's Charles Fournier grilling the steaks and Meadowbrook urchins as house staff; the year of the Sunday night concerts at the newly opened Marriott Hotel; the Saranac winter Carnival where the Band took over the town and were thanked at Sunday mass for "bringing joy to Mudville;" the Road Trips for Charity with kith and kin in tow; the annual NY State Dixieland concerts where standing ovations were de rigueur; the boat on Lake Tahoe with

Missy shilling for him on all three floors; the Christmas Brunches at home, avec Band. His children grew up surrounded by music.

Paul's was a life well, and thoroughly, lived. His kids had the best, most idiosyncratic father on the planet – he loved them truly, along with his life, and did not go gentle into that good night. His inner sailor came out those last few weeks and he “raged, raged against the dying of the light”. Michelle Lezo's remarkable “Healthcare at its Finest” staff helped him and the family through those final days, allowing him to stay at home. His death was peaceful – a ‘religious experience’ with Father Jim Callan, two of his many favorite Finigans; his sisters-in-law Marie Moonan and Donna Cusolito (who kept him in dockers and vanilla milkshakes to the end), and others of those who loved him.

Mass will be Thursday, December 8, 11 AM at Immanuel Baptist, 815 Park Avenue, Rochester. Those who wish to would honor him by making a donation in his memory to the New Orleans Habitat Musicians' Village and its Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, www.nolamusiciansvillage.org

Apologies to all poets misquoted.

Anthony Funeral & Cremation Chapels

2305 Monroe Ave. 244-0770

Events

DEC **Service** 11:00AM

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Immanuel Baptist Church

815 Park Ave., Rochester, NY, US, 14607