



Knute G. Paulsen

July 25, 1942 - September 3, 2025

Knute G. Paulsen, born July 25, 1942, passed away Wednesday morning September 3, 2025, at his home in Sunrise Beach, Missouri, with his wife and loved ones by his side.

Knute is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Karon, and Knute's three siblings: David & his wife Barbara Paulsen, Bill & his wife Mary Jo Paulsen, and Ann Geib. Knute is also survived by his Four children: Tammy & her husband Brad Scheiter, Steven & his wife Karla Paulsen, Dawn & her husband Merlyn Vandervort, and Jude & his wife Keri Paulsen. Knute also leaves behind thirteen grandchildren; Devin Rothove, Paige Roe, Brock Scheiter, Gibson Scheiter, Tyler Paulsen, Hayle Thornsberry, Hannah Hynes, Tanner Paulsen, Gunner Vandervort, Trey Vandervort, Malari Merz, Gavin Bachofer, Jocelyn Bachofer and seven great-grandchildren; Parker & Ryan Roe, Langston & Adalynn Thornsberry, Xander & Ember Hynes and Eske Merz.

Knute was preceded in death by his parents: Robert & Rosemary Paulsen, and his brother Pete Paulsen.

Knute grew up at Lake of the Ozarks, and after serving honorably in the US Army (1962 – 1964) he lived in St. Louis, Missouri until 1973, when he moved back to the Lake and founded Paulsen's Excavating Company. Knute owned

and operated Paulsen's Excavating Company for decades, until his retirement, when his two sons Steven & Jude, proudly took over the family business that is still in operation today.

Knute loved the lake, his family, and was an avid motorcycle enthusiast. Knute & Karon spent their "Golden Years" riding their Harley Davidson motorcycle over a hundred thousand miles and traveling all across America. A life well lived!

A visitation will be held on Sunday, September 7th, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., at Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home, 417 Silvey Rd. Laurie, MO with a funeral service held at 11:00 a.m. Graveside services and interment with full military honors will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery, 812 SSR-O, Laurie Missouri.

There will be a Celebration of Life, at 2:00 p.m., following the burial to be held at The Encore Lakeside Grill & Sky Bar, 3076 Bagnell Dam Blvd. Lake Ozark, MO 65049 (Faded Youth "Oldies Band" to perform on the Sky Bar from 3:30 to 7:30)

NOTE: In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Knute's honor; to Wonderland Camp, 18591 Miller Circle, Rocky Mount, MO 65072 www.WonderlandCamp.org

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery

800 Highway O
Laurie, MO 65038

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Service

SEP 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
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(573) 374-7688

Tribute Wall

TS

“ Memories of home for me cannot be confined to the house where my parents and my brother and I lived. As elementary aged kids, we spent as much time at the Paulsens' as we did at home, or at our grandparents' and great grandparents' homes (one seen in the 'Moving Day' pic above). My 'family' includes the Paulsens. Karon and Knute (I WISH we had called them Mr. and Mrs. Paulsen now) were my bonus parents. I had chores at the Paulsens'. I went to school on winter school- mornings from the Paulsens', after brushing my teeth with three other people angling for the one sink in the hallway bathroom, while singing to 'Babe' by Styx, on the local radio station. There, I warmed my socks over the (gas) heat vent in the living room. When Knute would come home in the afternoons, he would sit or lie down in his exhaustion, and it was Dawn's and my job to pull off his work boots, and often soaking wet socks. I remember moments in time, like when Knute had first seen 'Romancing the Stone,' or 'Footloose' on Beta (maybe VHS?), or when Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' was released, and that Knute was excited like a kid to share these, bragging them up as a must-see, or hear... I missed getting to go to the Michael Jackson concert with everyone somehow and I'm not sure now why... I remember God pride over his ducks and geese over at the Resort.. I was intimidated by Knute as a kid. He seemed huge to me then. His voice was big and resonant, and authoritative. His smile was bright and welcoming, and his laugh made us laugh, gave us permission to laugh in awkward moments. I remember how he laughed when I raised my hand at St. Pat's one night after a fellowship dinner when the congregation were asked about their financial commitment going forward. It could have been mortifying for a young girl, but the genuine joy in his response to my eagerness somehow set me at ease. I always knew that I was loved, I was one of the kids. I felt that the same as always, about five years ago when my husband Scott and I stopped in to see Karon and Knute at the house (the 'other' house where I grew up), to see if they might by chance be home. We were invited in with kindness, no fanfare or formality, no strangeness, even after years of no contact. I had

walked down the dirt road from Lone Oak many times before as a grown up, but somehow had missed them most of those times. That time five or so years ago, Knute showed us their beautiful Volvo(?) motor home. I remember thinking at the time that it was a joy to imagine Knute and Karon being able to travel and play after working so gruellingly hard for so many years. Hedidn't seem so huge to me then...

I remember thanking them for being who they are to me, and the tears in his eyes and the beautiful smile on Knute's face at the words I spoke. I remember being so grateful for that one chance to speak it. I know now that God used them in my life to draw me to Himself. I will carry that in my heart in this life. Knute lived kindly, with an open heart and a wonderful generosity toward others. He was a friend to strangers and neighbors the same.

Colossians 4:5-6

Hebrews 13:1-2

May your hearts be at peace, and may you know how deeply you are loved, All. I have missed you, and will continue to carry you with me always, and pray for you. I love you, Tristan

Tristan Sherman - September 06, 2025 at 08:32 PM

TS

'God pride' = Knute's pride

Tristan Sherman - September 06, 2025 at 08:35 PM

MS

“ I grew up near the Paulsens and we had a trail beat down through the woods to their house. It was like a 2nd home for Tristan and I. I remember Knute at our house sitting at the dining table telling stories as one of my earliest memories. He had a great laugh and the warmest smile. He was kind and I think he loved kids because he had a bunch-Tristan and I always wished our house could be like theirs because of all the activity. It was a warm and friendly environment . Knute was always taking care of business and the only time I saw him in clean clothes was when he took Jude and I to St Louis for an air show by the arch. We rode in his awesome Riviera on that trip. I was always surprised that he later drove a Volkswagen Beetle. I don't think I ever saw him angry- but he would call us Hoosiers when he thought we were full of it. I still remember when he sat me down with his beard and flannel shirt to tell me that Jude was on the way and would be born soon. A new friend he said. A friend for life I say. I love you Paulsens! My heart goes out to you, especially Karen. You're always in my thoughts and I hope to see you soon.



Matt Sherman - September 06, 2025 at 01:00 PM

MS

This was us

Matt Sherman - September 06, 2025 at 01:02 PM

TS

Man...way to tear me up Uncle Matt. Gosh I love that picture!

Tristan Sherman - September 06, 2025 at 04:42 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



jim sherman - September 05, 2025 at 11:41 PM

JS

“ Like many of his friends, I could share a volume of stories with Knute as the main character. Beginning with those crazy Paulsen kids down for the summer without their parents doing lots of fun stuff. Of course, Knute was like a second father to Tristan and Matt. Our friendship was enabled first through children and proximity and then through his unwavering presence whenever Lone Oak needed a helping hand. He was at the top of his game as a storyteller (BS er), on or off the job. He certainly raised (along with Karen) some of the nicest children I knew, addressing me with 'Mr. Sherman' long into their adulthood. Although I haven't seen him since leaving the lake area, I will carry the fondest of thoughts of him with me as long as I can. My sorrow is deep felt for Karen, and the kids and grandkids for a wonderful man.

Jim Sherman

jim sherman - September 05, 2025 at 11:35 PM

RF

“ Rita Fees lit a candle in memory of Knute G. Paulsen



Rita Fees - September 04, 2025 at 05:29 PM

LG

“ Great memories spending summers with my cousins and Knute at the lake. Condolences to Karon, the kids and grandkids. Lu Green

Lu Green - September 04, 2025 at 02:39 PM

MS

“ Knute's spirit was larger than life. He always made me smile. Deepest condolences to the family, Knute will be missed by many.

Mark Shellenberg

mark shellenberg - September 04, 2025 at 02:15 PM

JP

“ Jo Papen lit a candle in memory of Knute G. Paulsen



Jo Papen - September 04, 2025 at 11:10 AM