



PAUL DONALD GENSMER

May 1, 1932 - August 2, 2025

Paul Donald Gensmer, age 93, passed away Saturday, August 2, at Bethany St. Joseph Care Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Paul was born on May 1, 1932, to Grover and Erna Gensmer in La Crosse. He graduated from Caledonia High School in 1950. After high school he attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis for 2 years before transferring and graduating from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Paul returned to Caledonia, where he joined the family hardware business with his dad and his uncles. Shortly thereafter, he married Ethelyn Myrah at Trinity Lutheran Church in Spring Grove, Minnesota, on September 4, 1955. This coming September, they would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

Paul took over the family business and ran it for many years. In addition to operating the

hardware store, he took on a position as a substitute rural mail carrier with the United States Postal Service. This later turned into a full-time position. Paul was with the Postal Service for a total of 37 years.

Paul loved his hometown of Caledonia!! He lived there his entire life, except during his college years and his time at Bethany St. Joseph.

Paul enjoyed many interests, including golfing, bowling, watching sports, playing cards, playing baseball and reading the daily newspapers. Euchre and baseball had a special place in his heart. He rarely refused a game of euchre, or when he was younger, playing catch in the back yard with his boys.

Paul was an active, lifetime member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Caledonia and served on the church council for many years. He was a dedicated Christian who read his devotions daily.

Survivors include wife, Ethelyn Gensmer; sister, Anita Hirschhoff; brother, Walt (Alice) Gensmer; sons, Tom Gensmer, Tim (Julie) Gensmer and Terry (Christine) Gensmer; grandchildren, Nick Gensmer, Alison Gensmer, William Gensmer and Annika Gensmer; sisters-in-law, Norma Munson and Margie Parkos; and many nieces and

nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Grover and Erna Gensmer; parents-in-law, Gilman and Minnie Myrah; in-laws, Otto Hirschhoff, Earl and Eloise Hoff, Charlie and Patsy Solberg, Jack Munson and Bill Parkos.

The family would like to thank Bethany St. Joseph Care Center and the Mayo Hospice staff for the compassionate care given to Paul. Memorials are preferred to St. John's Lutheran Church and/or school.

Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 am, Monday, August 11, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 650 N Kingston Street, Caledonia, Minnesota. Visitation will be at the church starting at 10:00 am until the time of the service. Burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

The service will be live-streamed via the St. John's Lutheran Church YouTube channel.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
650 North Kingston St.
Caledonia, MN 55921

Funeral Service

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
650 North Kingston St.
Caledonia, MN 55921

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *The Albrecht's in Sarasota purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of PAUL DONALD GENSMER.*



The Albrecht's in Sarasota - August 09, 2025 at 02:10 PM

TS

“ *The Albrecht's in Sarasota planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of PAUL DONALD GENSMER.*

The Albrecht's in Sarasota - August 09, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of PAUL DONALD GENSMER.*



August 08, 2025 at 11:38 AM

LF

“ *Love, The Doelger Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of PAUL DONALD GENSMER.*



Love, The Doelger Family - August 06, 2025 at 10:46 AM

DS

“ Terry & family: our condolences are extended to you! Paul certainly lived a long, full-life & left an impacting legacy! RIP Paul!

Dave & Wilma Schoh - August 04, 2025 at 10:22 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of PAUL DONALD GENSMER.



August 04, 2025 at 06:29 PM

DK

“ Deepest sympathy to the Gensmer family. Very sorry for your loss.

Duane Kinneberg - August 04, 2025 at 03:47 PM

GR

“ Dear Family,
Sincere sympathies for your loss..
I remember going to the hardware store with my dad to visit with Paul when I was a young boy. My dad Joe considered Paul a great friend and coworker while at the post office.
May the many found memories of Paul be of comfort to all of you.
Sincerely,
Gordy Rostvold.

Gordon Rostvold - August 04, 2025 at 11:55 AM

SB

“ We are so sorry for your loss

Susan Bauer - August 04, 2025 at 06:46 AM



“ *I always enjoyed talking with Paul at Ma Cal Grove and him asking for a smoke and wanting to give me a quarter :)*



Julie Merzenich - August 03, 2025 at 07:07 PM