



Mr. Paul Glenn Cunningham, Jr.

April 17, 1932 - March 6, 2016

Paul Glenn Cunningham, 83 of Charlotte, NC passed away March 6, 2016 peacefully after a lengthy illness.

A native of Gastonia, NC, Paul was born on April 17, 1932 to the late Paul Glenn Cunningham Sr and Okie Smith Cunningham. He was also preceded in death by 3 brothers: Cecil, David and Roy. He is survived by his children: Glenn Cunningham & wife Donna of Anacortes, WA, Linda Merry of Boiling Spring Lakes, NC, Julie Nance and husband Paul of Davidson, NC, Phil Cunningham and wife Debbie of Wilmington, NC and Tim Cunningham and wife Cindy of Rome GA. He is also survived by 5 brothers and 3 sisters. Cunningham Brothers: Earl (Myrna); James, Gastonia, NC; Sam(Libby) Gastonia, NC; Gene(Nancy) San Antonio, TX and Wayne(Sue) San Antonio, TX . His Sisters: Kay Kirby, Mooresville, NC, Francis Givens (Ray) Hendersonville, NC and Martha Susan Brazzell of Charlotte NC. He had 9 Grandchildren, 18 Great-Grandchildren and numerous special nieces and nephews.

Paul was a proud veteran, having served bravely and honorably as a Sergeant in the US Army in the Korean War. During his service he earned the Korean Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star and a United Nations Service Medal.

Paul received his BA in Business from Belmont Abbey College where he, as a senior, served as Student Body President. He also played on both the basketball and baseball team. After graduation he began his career with International Harvester as a Sales Manager. He later went into business for himself, under the name "Cunningham Creations" where he manufactured and sold his baseball training aid invention, "Control-a-fli" and later his line of precision balanced golf putters, including the "Clique" putter.

Paul was an athlete, very competitive in all sports. He loved golf, billiards, baseball, bowling, and tennis, ping pong, you name it. He participated and won several medals in the NC Senior Olympic Games. He enjoyed competing with his brothers and his children in all sports.

Paul gave a lot of time and energy to helping others. He was involved in Starclaire Athletic Association and took care of the fields. For years he served as a substitute teacher at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary. He also served as a volunteer at CMC Hospital (Mercy South). Paul was involved with the Knights of Columbus and enjoyed serving.

He will be missed by many.

The family will receive friends at a visitation on Monday March 21st at the Summersett Funeral Home, 1315 W Innes St Salisbury, NC 28144 from 12:00PM until 1:30PM, followed by a graveside service with military honors at 2:00PM at the National Cemetery, 202 Government Rd. Salisbury, NC 28144. Rev. Ricky Alan Brackett officiating.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Cunningham family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

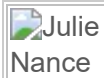
Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Summersett Funeral Home
1315 W. Innes St.
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 633-2111
<https://www.summersettfuneralhome.com>

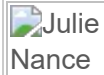
Tribute Wall



Julie Nance

“ Okie (mcclanahan) smith Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:36 PM



Julie Nance

“ Okie Mcclanahan smith Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:31 PM



Julie Nance

“ Okie Mcclanahan smith Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:30 PM



Julie Nance

“ Okie Mcclanahan smith Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

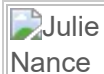
Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:30 PM



Julie Nance

“ Clara June Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:25 PM



Julie Nance

“ "linda" Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:25 PM



Julie Nance

“ Paul Glenn Cunningham was added to the Family Tree.

Julie Nance - September 28, 2018 at 08:23 PM

TF

“ *The Kirby Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mr. Paul Glenn Cunningham, Jr..*



The Kirby Family - March 20, 2016 at 03:22 PM

“ • *DAD, THE MASTER OF FREE ADVERTISING - THE MIKE DOUGLAS SHOW.*

a. *The "What's My Line" game show. Dad appeared on "What's my Line" as an inventor. He would do anything to get his baseball invention the Control-a-Fli in the public eye, and for free was a bonus.*

b. *The "Mike Douglas" talk show. Dad appeared on the show with Guest Host Chuck Connors "the Rifleman" and humorous sports announcer Bob Uecker. The Control-a-Fli was used to hit whiffle balls into the audience.*

b. *Houston and the Astrodome. Dad showed up in Houston one week to sell Control-a-Fli's to all the local sporting goods stores. On day one, before he even hit any stores, he called all the local TV stations and announced that in "two hours he was going to hit a baseball over the outside of the astrodome". Well, they rushed over with news crews and cameras, and were not disappointed for their effort. The next day Dad hit the sporting goods stores knowing full well that his sales pitch and sale were already 90% complete. He sold out our manufacturing capacity, for him a good problem, for me not so good.*

• *DAD, THE INVENTOR.*

a. *Control-a-Fli Baseball Invention. Dad had both a US and Japanese patent.*

b. *The Clique Putter. He came up with precision balancing well before any of the major golf equipment companies thought they had an original idea. This putter had a face that flexed that caused hole-seeking overspin and straightness.*

c. *The Beeper Ball - NOT Dad's Invention, but his Idea. He had blind kids catching whiffle balls with jingle bells inside six months before the beeper ball showed up. This is just one of the hazards of being an inventor. People are going to steal or improve upon your "original" (not really) idea.*

• *SON GLENN. DAD, THE ATHLETE. He was a great baseball player, golfer, bowler, and pool player. And VERY competitive and full of BS. Ask his brothers. I loved playing the fly on the wall when he and his brothers were interacting. For me, the nut fell pretty far*

from the tree on athletic ability. Tim actually is a lot like Dad, very athletic and Phil somewhat so too. My sisters were better athletes than I was - Julie excelled at stuff like softball and Linda kicked my butt at tennis. Of course, I can still outrun all of them - not even a contest.

GLENN CUNNINGHAM - March 19, 2016 at 07:47 AM

- “ • **SON GLENN. SHOWING THE CONTROL-A-FLI WITH DAD.** Dad's baseball invention the Contol-a-Fli was created for me, a nut that had fallen far from the tree with regard to athletic skills. I still attribute my poor eyesite to demonstrating this machine at one too many sporting goods shows. Squinting into the sun 1000's of times to pick up a fly ball that looks the size of a dust mite takes a toll. I shouldn't complain - he made it for a son that was the worst outfielder ever and less than average hitter. His initials are yours truly and his batting average went up to over 400 his senior year from hitting this machine over and over and OVER..... It was great for developing a good swing. Sadly though, still a substandard outfielder - never was interested in defense. Sorry Dad, I'm with Ted Williams on this - fielding = boring and hitting = all that matters to me. Of course, I still appreciate watching MLB defensive artists like shortstop Andrelton Simmons and first baseman Freddie Freeman (also on track to be a HOF hitter - this dude has a PERFECT swing). See, there I go back to offense already.
- **SHOWING THE CONTROL-A-FLI AT A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.** He once "showed" his baseball invention at a school for the blind. Well, the staff there was pretty much negative from the get-go - "hey buddy we're a school for the blind", but Dad being Dad was not deterred. He dashed down to the Woolworth's and picked up some whiffle balls and jingle bells. Next thing you know, there were blind kids catching jingling whiffle balls launched by the Control-a-Fli. What's really funny is, the beeper ball showed up about six months later. After all, inventors are merely opportunists picking up a non-original idea and taking it yet one step further.
- **DAD THE BS-ER.** Once he was traveling I-85 between Charlotte and Gastonia with two fellow International Harvester salesmen. He suddenly decided to propose a little wager. He claimed that he could flag down an attractive woman motorist, get her to stop and give him a kiss. He proceeded to do so. Of course, unbeknownst to his now worshipful colleagues, the woman he had flagged down was actually his sister.
- **DAD, THE INOVATOR, SALESMAN AND GAMESMAN.** He came up with the Clique Putter's heel / toe balancing 25 years before all

the big golf companies even got to what they thought was their "original" idea. Also a putter face that would flex and impart over-spin. And man, could he putt - and sell. On a sales call in new Jersey, he walks in the door and the owner's son put his hands above his head likes it's a robbery. When asked why he was doing that, the son replied: "last time you were here you took \$500 off my dad in a putting contest".

• SON GLENN. DAD, THE IMPROVISER. For a while after I got out of the Marines, I worked for Dad building clique putters while he was out selling them. It was a very small operation, and production-wise, we literally lived from week to week. Each week we would buy as many shafts as True Temper would sell us and that was not many - usually 100 at a time. Well, one week I really screwed up by cutting all the shafts too short. I thought he was going to kill me. But all he did was frown and go into his quiet thinking man's mode as he loaded a batch of all-too-short putters into the car. When he arrived home the next Friday, every one of those putters had been sold for full price. I never asked him how he accomplished that - was afraid to know the answer.

GLENN CUNNINGHAM - March 19, 2016 at 07:44 AM

GC

“ *• DAUGHTER IN LAW DONNA PATTERSON CUNNINGHAM. MARCH 7, 2016 MEMORY. Paul Cunningham left this world yesterday. He was possibly the most interesting character I have met in this life. For the 38 years that he was my father-in-law - he never ceased to make me cringe, laugh or think. He will be missed.*

GLENN CUNNINGHAM - March 19, 2016 at 07:41 AM

GC

“ I have been so blessed to have a wonderful Uncle like Paul! I have many memories and great times with him! My Uncle Paul was generous, gentle, loving, kind and a terrific friend. Paul was a great golfer and had played golf with great passion, he was the best salesman you would ever meet. He loved his children, grand children and the ladies just as much as he loved selling his putters, (but family meant everything to Paul)! I will always cherish my memories of our time together and yes always Love and Miss him. Uncle Paul is in Heaven playing golf with his brother David and trying to sell God a putter!! LOVE YOU PAUL!

gary cunningham - March 18, 2016 at 07:41 PM

LF

“ Love, Sam & Libby & Family purchased the Sunny Memories for the family of Mr. Paul Glenn Cunningham, Jr..



Love, Sam & Libby & Family - March 18, 2016 at 05:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Paul Glenn Cunningham, Jr..



March 18, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:59 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:54 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:53 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:24 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:14 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:07 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:06 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:04 PM



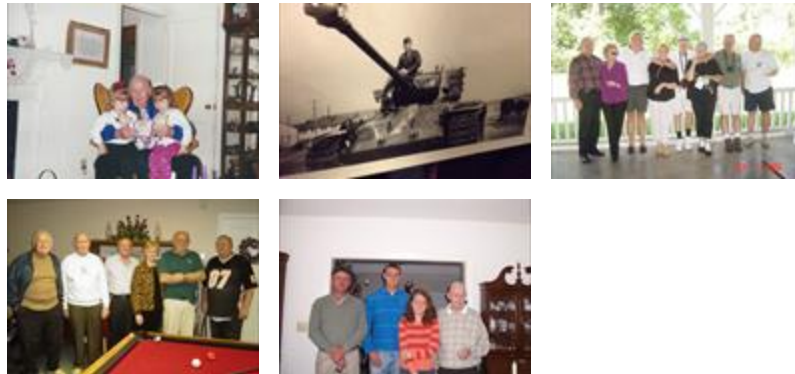
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 08:00 PM



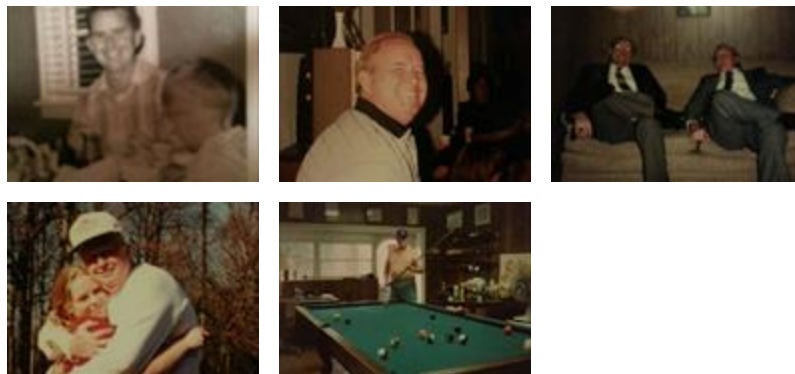
“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 07:59 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 07:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 07:46 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Paul Glenn Cunningham, Jr..*



March 17, 2016 at 07:24 PM



“ *My brother Paul will be missed. Much love and prayers for you all during this difficult time. I'm sorry that Ray and I will not be able to attend, but we will be there in spirit.*

Love, Aunt Frances

Frances Givens - March 17, 2016 at 06:29 PM



So sorry you guys can't make it. We will miss you. Love, Phil

Phil Cunningham - March 17, 2016 at 07:28 PM