



Paul Edward Fisher

November 15, 1937 - October 30, 2020

On Friday, October 30th, Paul Edward Fisher “flew away” into the loving arms of God surrounded by his family and the caring staff of the Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House. Mr. Paul (as he was known by most) had been in declining health over the past year...not that you would have noticed based on his relentless drive to be useful.

Mr. Paul was born in Granite Quarry to Jacob Eli (J.E.) and Pearl Walton Fisher on November 15, 1937. Following the death of his birth mother when he was 14 months old, Paul was blessed with a second mother following the marriage of his widowed father to Dorothy Irene Peeler. He graduated from Granite Quarry High School and in 1960, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a lifelong Tarheel fan having experienced a basketball National Championship in his freshman year. After graduation, Paul married the love of his life, Kirby Sue Palmer of Spencer, NC. Their marriage would last over 60 years.

Mr. Paul went to work for Farmers & Merchants Bank in Granite Quarry in 1960. Following the death of his father in 1972, he became the President of the bank at the age of 34, and later Chairman and CEO. He served the bank for 60+ years, most recently as Chairman Emeritus and the Chairman of the F&M Foundation. As a banker, he loved helping people fulfill their dreams and gave them hope for a better tomorrow. He saw community banking as an opportunity to improve the quality of life for all his clients and the communities he served. Mr. Paul cherished the role of community volunteer. He worked tirelessly on many community projects. His love for this work was only outshined by his love of people. Mr. Paul never met a stranger and had a gift for making a person feel as they were the only person in the room that mattered. He loved music, but he couldn't carry a tune. Fortunately, that did not stop him from “butchering” hymn after hymn with his great friends in the Everyman's Bible Class at First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Paul was a gifted storyteller with an impressionist approach to the English language. If Picasso were a poet he would have been Mr. Paul. “Paul-isms” always added a dose of clarity and humor to any discussion. You may not have known what he was saying, but

you always knew what meant. He used analogies the same way a sculptor uses a chisel, to reveal a deeper meaning that you simply couldn't see from the surface.

Mr. Paul grew up shy with a slight stutter. He overcame these obstacles with practice and a little help from Dale Carnegie (cue Mr. Paul's relentless recommendation of the book – How to Win Friends and Influence People - a book he recommended to his nurses two days before he passed). Mr. Paul always wanted to leave the world a little better than he found it. When he received his cancer diagnosis (less than 24 hours before his death), his first words were "Well, I'm not going to get to walk through the park." He was referring to the Bell Tower Green Park that is currently under construction in Salisbury. The same park that Mr. Paul had spent the last few years trying to raise money to complete. "No worries," he said, "I was never sure I'd see it when I started raising money for it, but people are going to love it." That drive to plant a tree under whose shade he will never sit is probably the most telling attribute of Mr. Paul.

Mr. Paul had a keen financial mind and a love for the Banking Industry, but his most valuable asset was his wife Sue. Over their 60 years of marriage, they had two children and 10 grandchildren. They formed a lifelong partnership of love and mutual respect. Over his almost 83 years of life, Mr. Paul had a very simple recipe for life – Show Up, Find A Way To Be Useful, and Love With All Your Heart.

Thank you to the people of Rowan County and surrounding communities for offering him your friendship, helping him along life's path, challenging him to be better, and picking him up when he fell. Because of you...it truly was A WONDERFUL LIFE.

Mr. Paul was preceded in death by his brother Jacob Eli Fisher II, his sister Charlotte Fisher Eller and husband Vance, his sister Sally Fisher Peeler and husband Doug, his sister Jean Fisher McCombs and husband Eugene, and sister-in-law Mackie Ann Honeycutt and husband Chuck.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Sue Palmer Fisher, his sister Dorothy Fisher Mitchell and husband Don, his brother John Marshall Fisher and wife Joy, and sister-in-law Phyllis Loflin Fisher. He is also survived by his son Jacob Steven Fisher and wife Robin, and their children Paul Edward "Banks" Fisher II, Maxwell Hunter Fisher, and Jackson Ennis Fisher, and his daughter Paula Fisher Philpot and husband Irvin and their children Irvin Henry "Bo" Philpot IV and wife Rachel, Kirby-Annah Philpot, HopeEllen Philpot Turner and husband Alan, PollyRose Fisher Philpot, SamcieJoe Philpot Barrett and husband Carson, Paul Henry "Bubba" Philpot, ElizaPearl Walton Philpot.

Due to coronavirus protocols, a private family memorial service was held on Monday, November 2, 2020 at First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, followed by a graveside service at Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

As an expression of sympathy, the family requests in lieu of flowers that memorial gifts be made to The Bell Tower Green Park at belltowergreen.com or Bell Tower Green, Inc., 141 E. Council Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. You may also contact Mary Heather Steinman at The Bell Tower Green Park at 704-637-0511.

Summersett Funeral Home is assisting the family with all funeral arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Chestnut Hill Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Previous Events

PRIVATE SERVICE

NOV 2 (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
308 W. Fisher St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I send my heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Paul Fisher. Banker was his daytime job; service to others was his calling. Words are inadequate to capture the life of a man who is a profile of kindness and generosity. He has touched the lives of people in Rowan-Salisbury and beyond. He has been a part of my life since the late 1960s when I graduated from East Rowan High School (where I met his brother John and sister Dorothy. my classmate) and later Catawba, and my professional life as a teacher. Early in my career when I was offered positions at a couple of universities, I realized that one needs a banker often before ones needs a relator when one has to move in a hurry. He was instrumental in the success that I achieved and I am grateful for his support and friendship that really blossomed when we served on the Catawba College Board of Trustees. Paul modeled Dr. Martin Luther King’s dream that one day “[we, in a multiracial society,] will not be judged by the color of [our] skin but by the content of [our] character.” The work that you have done here on earth speaks for you. Rest in power.

Dolan Hubbard

Dolan Hubbard - November 16, 2020 at 02:44 PM

DW

“ Dear Sue and family- So saddened to hear of Paul leaving this earth but rejoice in his homecoming in Heaven. My Dad, Max Whitley and my Mom thought so much of Paul, as I also. Find comfort in a life well lived , knowing you will be united one day for eternity.

Denise Whitley - November 11, 2020 at 01:05 PM

DK

“ Great friend and icon. Always willing to help the little guy. Always greeted everyone just like he would want to be greeted with respect and taught all his workers and family to do the same. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Fisher family during this time of great loss. Dorothy (his sister or Dottie as she likes to be called) graduated from East Rowan together. Paul you will be missed. Thanks for all he did for everyone in the community. God Bless all of you and may His example continue to grow in the Salisbury and surrounding area.
Don & Wanda Kluttz

Don Kluttz - November 07, 2020 at 10:34 AM

KK

“ We were saddened to hear about the passing of Paul. Sue, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We know that he will be greatly missed by his family. We also know that he will be missed by his many friends and the communities that he impacted in such a positive manner.

Kathy and Bill Ketchie - November 04, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Mr. Paul Fisher. In the short amount of time that I knew him, it was obvious that "Mr. Paul" was a kind and very generous man. He made great things happen through his compassion for people and drive to keep the Salisbury community moving forward, continuously improving, for the community's sake. He will be sorely missed, yet his extraordinary efforts will be cherished by many for a very long time to come. The results of your desire to create a better place for all will continue on, Mr. Paul!



Larissa Harper - November 04, 2020 at 03:34 PM

KC

“ Wishing you peace and love during this difficult loss. I know you will be telling Mr Fisher stories from now on and these memories will bring great comfort. Blessings,
Kim and Alfred Cole

Kimberly S S Cole - November 03, 2020 at 04:36 PM

AD

“ My heartfelt sympathy to you all. May your faith and your memories guide you through the loss of Mr. Paul.

Ann Deyton - November 03, 2020 at 12:51 PM

JM

“ Sending deepest sympathy to the family. May God comfort you during this sad time.

Jean Morgan - November 02, 2020 at 11:27 AM

AS

Shirley and I send our deepest sympathy to Sue and her family. Paul sure was good to and for me over the years and will be missed greatly. (Albert Shepherd)

Albert Shepherd - November 02, 2020 at 02:59 PM