



# Paul Davenport

FEB 13, 1926 - NOV 20, 2012



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## **Paul Davenport**

FEB 13, 1926 - NOV 20, 2012

**P**aul Davenport, age 86 died Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at the Centerville Nursing and Rehab Center in Centerville.

He was born in 1926 to Reuben and Lorah (Johnston) Davenport in Mineral Wells, Texas. He lived in Texas until he joined the U.S. Navy in 1944. Paul served 20 months sea duty as a Gunner's Mate in the Asiatic-Pacific area during World War II. After his discharge in 1946, he held a variety of jobs in the Merchant Marines, logging camps, and mining.

Paul decided to continue his education by enrolling at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma. There he developed an interest in the ministry which led to his ordination in the Disciples of Christ Church. Paul also met a fellow student and his future wife, Jewell Geist, and they married in 1950.

After several years of preaching in small churches in western Kansas, Paul returned to college to further his education. He received a B.S. in Education degree from Kansas State Teachers college in 1957 and a Master's of Science degree in Education from the University of Kansas in 1964. Paul received a post-graduate degree in Guidance and Counseling from Oklahoma State University in 1965.

Paul was a guidance counselor in Wichita, Kansas for several years before accepting a position as a school psychologist for AEA 11 in the Southeast Polk Community School District near Altoona, Iowa. He later transferred to AEA 15, which included Wayne, Davis and VanBuren counties. After moving to southern Iowa, he became more active in the ministry and served in many local churches including Moulton, Hilltown, Plano, Cincinnati, Leon, Lacona, Lamoni, Melcher, Centerville and Glenwood, Missouri.

Shortly after retirement, Paul was injured in a farm accident in 1992 that left him with one arm. He was always grateful for the support from the local churches during this difficult time. Unable to return to his farming activities, he embarked on several



## Obituary

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short-term missionary projects in Russia, China, Vietnam, India and Guatemala. He later enjoyed speaking about his experiences and raising funds for the missions. All his life Paul loved walking in the woods and fields and he spent many happy hours hunting for arrowheads, mushrooms, and deer. His other hobbies included writing poetry and prose, playing guitar and singing, fishing, organic gardening, and spending time with his family and friends.

Paul was preceded in death by his beloved wife Jewell; his cherished daughter Rebecca; his parents Reuben and Lorah; his brother Charles; his sister Sarah Hodge; and his brother Barry.

He is survived by his sister Mary Stephenson; children Esther, Elisabeth McKeehan (William), Stephen (Gayle), Mark, and John (Lori); his grandchildren Matthew McKeehan (Anita), Amy Devore (Scott), Joshua (Tara), Amy Iblings (Jordan), Molly, Alicia, Brittany, Coleman, and Becky; ten great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Paul was an avid reader and a frequent patron of the Drake Public Library.

Funeral services will be held 3 PM, Saturday, November 24, 2012 at Lange Funeral Home and Crematory in Centerville with Pastor Josh Davenport officiating. A visitation will be held on Saturday at the funeral home from 1-3 PM. A private burial will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established to either the Friends of the Drake Public Library (115 Drake Ave, Centerville, IA 52544) or to a church or charity of choice and may be given to Lange Funeral Home and Crematory in Centerville. Condolences may be shared online at [www.langefh.com](http://www.langefh.com).

### Visitation

November 24, 2012 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Lange Funeral Home 1900 S. 18th St. Centerville, IA (641) 856-2000

### Funeral Service

November 24, 2012 3:00 PM

Lange Funeral Home 1900 S. 18th St. Centerville, IA (641) 856-2000



## Tribute Wall

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**Thomas Funeral Home** posted:

October 21 at 12:18 PM



**Thomas Funeral Home** shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 12:11 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I want to thank all of you for the many sweet things that have been said about father. His life touched many. He was a great friend and father, and will be missed, by many. He took the the 'road less traveled', and had arrived at its end. Posted by Mark Davenport - Bloomfield, IA - Son November 28, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

My sympathies to the family. I remember when Paul came to New Life School to help us with need for a counselor to meet state requirements. The students always looked forward to his coming and his many words of wisdom and challenges that he left with them and us as teachers. I am sure he will have many jewels in his crown! Candance Angerer Morales Posted by Candance Angerer Morales - Des Moines, IA - friend November 27, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Thinking of you and your family, Beth. Praying for you all. God just got a good one! Posted by Sharon Van Cleave - Bloomfield, IA November 27, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

We deeply feel the loss of your Dad. He was a dear friend and we will always value his friendship. He truly was a man 'according to GOD's heart'. I just read in the paper that his funeral service was Saturday. If only we would have known.... We will never forget the love both of your parents showed us when we first moved to hilltown. May GOD enfold you in His love and mercy Posted by Ingrid and Larry Freeborn - Centerville, IA - friend November 27, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

May the Lord give you and your family courage and strength to keep you going through this tough time. Posted by Annette holmes - Chicago, IL - Coworker of John Davenport November 26, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To Paul's Family, I wish to send you my deepest sympathy in the loss of Paul. We worked together for many years, and I have many fond memories of those times. Our AEA team worked hard to advocate for children and were recognized by the AEA Board as a group who were able to problem-solve for the benefit of each student. Paul worked hard when he worked and played hard when he played. We had numerous end-of-the-year picnics, and I especially enjoyed visiting his farm. I've told Beth this story -- I always thought our oldest child had ADHD with all of the associated problems. Paul really liked this child and kept reassuring me that these same behaviors would serve her well as an independent, assertive, and productive adult. He was right, and I think of his advice often. Paul was a very interesting person because of his many hobbies, concerns, and curiosities. I am sorry I was not able to attend the visitation or funeral. I am recovering from back surgery and probably will have to have more sometime soon. May you find comfort in the support of family and friends, Terry Rezai  
Posted by Terry Rezai - Bloomfield, IA - AEA Colleague November 26, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

I have many memories of a fantastic man with love for God, his family, friends, and those who were in need. We taught together in the Southeast Polk School District. WE started the day with in-depth conversations about whatever was on our minds. He was an amazing listener and always had a kind answer. His faith was the bedrock for his philosophies. There was plenty of room for humor. Invited to dinner was a real treat as we dined on muskrat and coon. Paul thought it was a joke for me to eat such exotic food. He was a treasure. The world has lost a incredible human being who always made time for others. Paul...thanks for the memories and the unconditional love!! Mona Posted by Mona Butters - West Des Moines, IA - friend November 24, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

To the family of Paul Davenport, My thoughts and prayers are with you this afternoon as you gather to say goodbye to your father, grandfather, or brother. I taught school for many years at Davis County when Paul served the district as school psychologist. Paul was truly a caring, compassionate educator, qualities that I am sure carried over to other aspects of his life. Paul and I sometimes joked that we had a mutual admiration society because we shared many of the same interests and most of all the acceptance of individual differences in our roles mentoring children. Only in recent years have I come to be friends with Paul and Jewel's daughter, Beth, whose friendship I also cherish. Sincerely, Judy Combs Posted by Judy Combs - Bloomfield, IA - colleague in education November 24, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Delight in your eternal peace and regained health Uncle Paul. Relish in all your renewed relationship's; say hi to my dad... see ya Love, Iris Posted by Iris B. Davenport - Lewes, DE - niece November 24, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Paul was more than a co-worker. He was a friend. He was a wise man who's counsel I cherish to this day. He will be missed. His memory will live on through friends and his loving family. My thoughts and prayers are with the family today and may God bless all of you who knew him.Til we meet again, brother Paul, peace be with you. Ernie Dicks Posted by Ernie Dicks - Ottumwa, IA - coworker and friend November 24, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

A great man of faith. Paul's perseverance and commitment to Christ is an inspiration to all who knew him. We keep his family and loved ones in our prayers at this time. May God comfort you in this time. Posted by Reg Higginbottom - Moulton, IA - Friend November 24, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

So sorry to read about Paul's passing in the Ottumwa Courier. I worked with Paul at Southern Prairie AEA 15. He was a kind, thoughtful and caring man. One spring weekend many many years ago he invited a bunch of us mushroom hunting on a farm somewhere near the Iowa-Missouri border. Coming from northern Minnesota it was my first experience hunting (and eating) mushrooms and I got an idea of why people were so fond of hunting them. After his retirement I ran into Paul a few times over the years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Posted by Dick Wright - Albia, IA - Friend November 23, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Josh, We as a group want you and the family to know that we are thinking of you all. We will be making a memorial gift in the amount of \$40.00 in the name of Paul Davenport to the Drake Public Library in Centerville, Ia. Steve fell free to offer the Library Board advise on anything you think Paul may have wanted added or improved at the library. Terry Posted by Terry Johnson - Spencer, IA - co-workers friends November 23, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

The angels rejoice that Paul has joined them!! What a blessing that Paul is free and looking at the throne and seeing the face of Jesus!! He worked so hard in this life trying to teach others about what he is seeing now and how we all can be there together someday. A brother we will all miss greatly, but, he has left behind a great legacy in the children and people he has brought to the Lord. God be with you all. Posted by Steve Kozal - Ozark, MO - friend November 23, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

Our sincere sympathy to the entire family of Mr Davenport. Posted by Mark and Julie Nemmers - Spencer, IA November 23, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Paul will be greatly missed by his friends and family but I feel sure that he has been looking forward to meeting his savior and loved ones in heaven for a long time. A true man of God. Richard and Marilyn Gorden Posted by Richard and Marilyn Gorden - Plano, IA - Friend November 22, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Will miss you big shot but so happy you are free from the physical ailment. Say hey to Grandma, Becky and your mom and dad. From, John and Little Shot (Brittany) Posted by John and Brittany Davenport - coatsville, MO - son and granddaughter November 22, 2012

January 4 at 7:00 PM



## Media

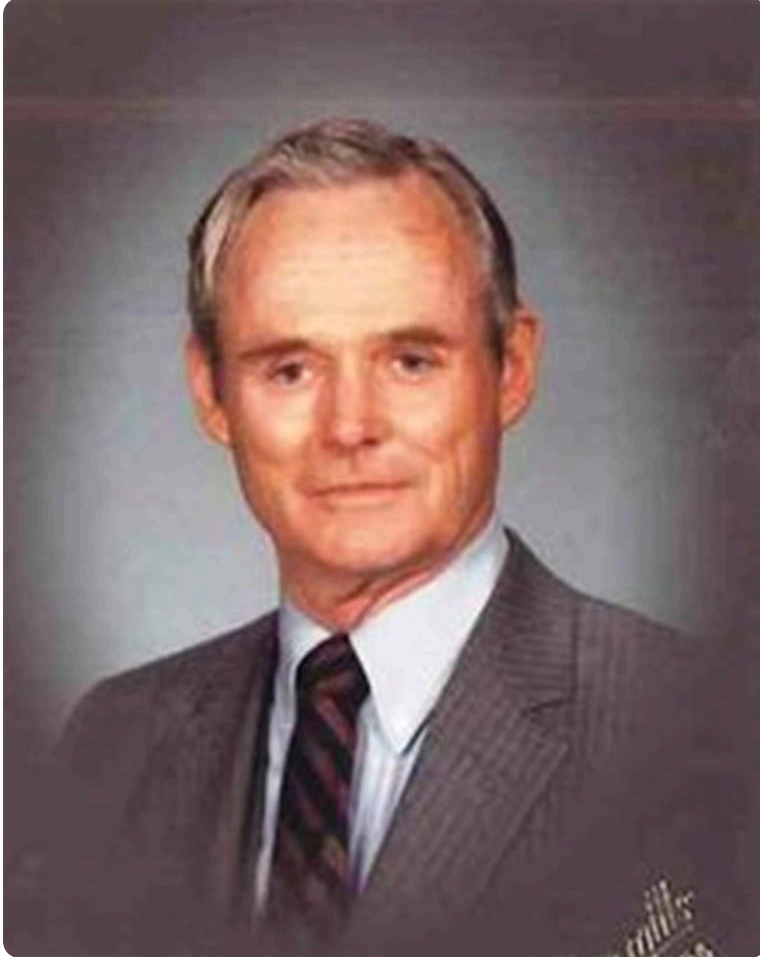
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**Thomas Funeral Home** shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 12:11 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Paul by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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