



## Mr. Paul J. Rocheleau

November 27, 1942 - April 7, 2025

On April 7, 2025, Paul succumbed to the ravages of Alzheimer's and dementia following a courageous ten-year battle. He was the love of my life. I am heartbroken.

Born in New York City on November 27, 1942, he was the son of the late Tancrede and Cecile Rocheleau.

After completing his education in the city, he enlisted in the Air Force, serving thirteen months in Korea. While there, he purchased his first professional camera and began photographing the Korean people. Little did he know at that time that this would be his lifelong vocation.

Upon his return to the United States, he worked for a brief time at General Electric until he decided to further his education, graduating from Berkshire Community College and then UMASS.

During his years as a professional photographer, he worked at the Berkshire Eagle. Paul had a studio on South Street, specializing in weddings, various local events, Country Curtain catalogs, and Chesterwood. He taught photography at BCC and UMASS, and traveled the United States photographing over thirty book titles for the important New York City book publishers. He was very proud of the book entitled, "The One Room Schoolhouse" which he not only just photographed, but also authored, as well

as the book "The Berkshires".

Paul is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elaine, his son Joseph, and his daughter, Jennifer, as well as two grandchildren, Joseph and Audrey.

A special thank you to the nurses on 2 East at BMC, and to HospiceCare in the Berkshires for their compassionate care.

#### Funeral Notice

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Per his request, there will be no formal funeral services for Paul. Donations in his name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, or the Berkshire Humane Society in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St, Pittsfield MA 01201.

# Tribute Wall

BJ

“ I am so sorry to hear the passing of my friend Paul. We grew up together in New York City, went to school together, and we were in the Boy Scouts as young boys my prayers and condolences to his wife, Elaine and his children. We had a lot of fun together in our early Boyhood years. Those memories will last a lifetime BOB JOHANSSON, CHAPIN, South Carolina.

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**Bob Johansson** - July 18, 2025 at 09:37 PM

PI

“ I first met Paul as the new Director of Chesterwood in 1971. He was recommended by my predecessor as not only a crack photographer but a good guy. I called him to take stock photos of the landmark buildings and grounds and found that his persona and photographic skills far surpassed my colleague's endorsement. That was the first of 30 years of shoots. Paul's artistry beautifully captured Daniel Chester French's aesthetic as expressed in his powerful sculpture and the design of his estate and garden. It was a distinct honor to know and work with Paul and I will miss him. Fortunately, the catalogue of his magnificent images is his artistic legacy and he will always be with us. We mourn Paul's loss and pray for strength and peace for your family. Paul Ivory

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**Paul Ivory** - April 22, 2025 at 05:33 PM

BM

“ Dear Elaine, so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. I hope you are comforted by the love you shared and the extent to which you cared for him with your undying affection. You are in our hearts and prayers, Barb & Chris May

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**Barbara j May** - April 21, 2025 at 09:09 AM

JE

“ Hi Elaine, I'm so saddened to hear of Paul's passing . I had the pleasure of taking two photography courses from Paul in the 70s, and even accompanied him on one of his field trips to the Museum of Modern Photography in NYC. Paul was talented, had a keen eye, but most important ... he was a fine teacher. Paul taught through praise and through example. He was skilled at making a pretty complex subject logical and understood.

*I especially respect your journey through Alzheimers together. It is a disease with a cruelty all it's own and my heart goes out to you and to your family. With the loss of Paul the world is a lesser place.*

*With sadness, Jon Elliott*

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**Jon Elliott** - April 12, 2025 at 09:14 PM

JT

“ I am heartbroken to hear about Paul, who was one of my dearest friends for so many years and who taught me how to see. My love and sympathy to Elaine and the kids.

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**JUNE SPRIGG TOOLEY** - April 12, 2025 at 10:25 AM