



Paul S. Massa

September 2, 1961 - September 18, 2021

Paul S. Massa, 60, long time resident of Sarasota, Florida passed away unexpectedly this past weekend.

Paul was born on September 2, 1961 in North Massapequa, New York to Nicholas and Rose Massa (Rose, now deceased). He was the youngest sibling to Diane and Alan Massa (Alan, now deceased). He was a much loved, outgoing, and active child growing up.

Paul became an elementary school teacher in New York in 1987 where he taught 5th grade math in Woodward Parkway Elementary School in Farmingdale. He then followed his dreams by moving to Sarasota, FL to continue his teaching career. He became a Tuttle Turtle at Tuttle Elementary School working various grades for 25+ years until he retired last year.

Paul was passionate about teaching, reading, cooking, entertaining, and of course anything Disney related. He loved traveling, Mel Brooks and James Bonds movies, and music. He adored most of all his family and the friends who became family. He was a loving father to Emily and Luke and a caring grandfather to his beautiful granddaughter Eka, age 4. Overall, he was a caring and passionate person to all.

Services will be held Saturday, September 25th, 2021 from 2pm-5pm at Toale

Brothers Funeral Home, 6903 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL, 34231.

In lieu of flowers, family will be requesting donations to an education program, further details to follow.

<https://osp.osmsinc.com/SarasotaFL/BVModules/CategoryTemplates/Detail%20List%20with%20Properties/Category.aspx?categoryid=GC312>

Previous Events

Service

SEP **25.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Gulf Gate Chapel

6903 S. Tamiami Tr.

Sarasota, FL 34231

(941) 955-4171

info@toalebrothers.com

<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

XR

“ Aww I feel so bad I'm in fifth grade I wasn't in your class but I was next door and my friends posted it all over Snapchat so that's how I found out Rest In Peace 🕊️



Xia Rodriguez - May 18, 2022 at 10:53 PM

“ *In Memory of Paul*

Michelle Li

The Massa and Osterfeld families were close friends. Our parents first met in the early 1950s as neighbors in N. Massapequa, New York. Rose and Rhoda initially shared mainly the challenges of being young mothers and wives. My father, Walter, designed the Massa's house in Dix Hills. Nick taught me how to swim. He was a second father figure who even helped my mother break the news of my father's death to my siblings and me (when I was six). For years, our families frequently ate Chinese dinners together on Sundays at Kuang Ming's. Our families traveled together, including multiple times to Puerto Rico.

When I was a little girl, my mother used to tell me anecdotes about me as a baby and toddler. However, one story focused on why I was conceived, and it had to do with Paul. My mother was satisfied with having two children, Diana and Adam, until Rose got pregnant with her third after Diane and Alan. Rhoda thought, "That's not fair. If Rose is going to have three children, so am I." In short, I owe my existence to Paul's.

As babies, Paul and I negotiated space in the same playpen and later attended each other's birthday parties. Had there not been so much emphasis on separating boys and girls along with gendered play in the sixties and early seventies, Paul and I probably would have continued to play together since we were so close in age. As it turned out, Paul gravitated to my brother, Adam. The boys—Alan, Adam, and Paul—became buddies. If we all sat at a separate children's table in a restaurant, the boys would experiment with changing the color of a glass of water by putting anything available in it: ketchup, mustard, salt, sugar, whatever was on the table. Likely, that idea was more Alan's than Paul's, or maybe even Adam's, but Paul participated.

I remember, for what seemed the longest time (maybe weeks or months), Paul would come to our house very early Saturday mornings. Often, my mother would still be sleeping. Knowing that we were in the playroom downstairs watching t.v., Paul would come to the back door leading to that room and softly knock. He would

watch cartoons and eat breakfast with us. Rumor had it that he would then go home and eat another breakfast. That made sense because Rose likely cooked eggs or pancakes or something, whereas we tended to eat cereal and milk.

When I was still in college, Paul and I met in Boston after years of not seeing each other. He cooked the best spaghetti dinner I ever ate. I wondered about possible romance, but I think we felt more like cousins and old friends. When we met in Florida in 1999, it was with our spouses, daughters, and mothers.

The years passed by too quickly. One day we were young children on the playroom floor, with our toys and entire lives before us. The next, we were aging adults embarking on the shadowy side of that mountain we call life, heading downward. Still, I imagined Paul would be here for many more years, even decades. My heart is aching. I want to extend my deepest love and condolences, especially to Paul's family but also to his friends and anyone else whose life he touched. We lost a kind, loving soul too soon.

Michelle Osterfeld Li - September 25, 2021 at 05:33 PM

NU

“ *My Condolences to Mr.Paul Massas family he was a great teacher and loving person he will greatly be missed 🙏🙏🙏*

Nora Ucles - September 25, 2021 at 05:02 PM

MB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Paul's friendship was a blessing, and I am left with so many happy memories of times at Tuttle and Disney with him and the family.*

~Melissa Barber

Melissa Barber - September 25, 2021 at 01:26 PM

JH

“ I actually met Paul back in 1992 when I interned at EEB Elementary. We reconnected when I began working at Tuttle. After years of working together, we became teammates. Always the nicest, kindest, most giving guy. He enjoyed working with the students and helping them learn. Paul will definitely be missed. My sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Emily, Luke and Eka.

JoAnn Covington Harris - September 25, 2021 at 12:53 PM

MK

“ Paul was a dear friend to both of us. He was a caring, loving, compassionate man who loved his family above else. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints on your heart." No matter where we are, his friendship will always be beside us. Some people may forget what you said, Paul, but no one will forget all the good things you did for others and how you made them feel.

May you rest in peace, our dear friend.

*With love forever,
Marcy and Michael Kennelly*

Marcy and Michael Kennelly - September 25, 2021 at 10:57 AM

 Jason Hollis

Perfectly said Marcy. Paul was such a giving person and cared for everyone. Paul always spoke of you to me and I know he loved you dearly. Everyone knows who his best friend was...RIP Paul.

Jason Hollis - September 26, 2021 at 07:35 AM



“ *Before Paul taught @ Tuttle Elementary School he also taught @ Bay Haven School of Basics Plus. We were colleagues @ both schools. I am in shock about his death. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. PRAYERS for all touched by his life!!!!!!*

Susy Scholl - September 25, 2021 at 08:03 AM