



## Paul Douglas Gray

March 22, 1959 - April 20, 2020

Paul Douglas Gray was the fourth of four children born to Haskell and Esmelin Gray in New York City, on March 22, 1959. He fell asleep in death, April 20, 2020.

Paul loved New York, where he grew up, was educated and lived his entire life. He was the consummate “Native New Yorker”.

In his early adulthood Paul was employed in various positions. However, it was his kindness and love of people, particularly children, that ultimately led to his position as a Therapeutic Foster Parent; caring for youth with special needs for many years. He remained steadfast in his commitment to care for them, despite the questions raised as to why? His patient, calm, behavioral approach with them was admirable. Those he fostered were treated as his own: with love, discipline and respect. He was the father they never had. Devon, who he cared for, for several years and developed an extra special affection for, can attest to that.

Paul was easy going and charming. He lit up a room with his smile, laughter, quick-witted humor, and lively nature. He loved his biological family, as well as the extended family he “adopted” during his life. He was a doting father to his children and those he embraced as his own. Paul meant the world to many. He was a peacemaker, gifted with a huge heart. It enabled him to be a loving

godfather, trusted friend, caring uncle, supportive brother and insightful mentor. To know him, was to LOVE him!

Paul was an avid sports fan. You could often find him watching sporting events and listening intently to sports commentators. He loved all genres of music, travel, good food, the arts, technology, and had a special eye for decorating. He took great pride in the family property he managed. It allowed him to productively channel his love of architecture and design. His keen eye for elegance was evident in the details he insisted be incorporated into the apartments. Invariably, they were the “details” tenants especially valued.

All those who loved Paul, will sorely miss his sound advice, compassion for others, helping hand, and listening ear. The memory of the sound of his laughter will warm the hearts of the lives he touched. He is gone too soon!

He leaves to mourn his untimely loss, his children Jazmine and Donivan, brothers Haskell and Herman, sister Cathy, sister-in-law Celeste, favorite niece Hadassah, as well as a host of other relatives, loved ones and cherished friends.

# Tribute Wall

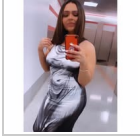
AP

“ Paul and Annetta Paula.. oh the jokes we had from our name sake. Mr. Gray, as I affectionately called you..I don't know where to start.. you knew my secrets, and I knew yours. We worked together, played together, loved together, and cried together. You helped me bury my father, and I was there to help you lay your mom to rest. We were the best together. But God called you.. He needs his most precious angels in heaven with him. Thank you for being there for me.. you made it to my grad school graduation, but never got to walk me down the aisle.. we were a complicated pair, but we understood one another know matter what others thought. I still watch the birthday video you made for me with everyone from VNS to my high school friends. Thanks you for our friendship, lovingly as you would always say to me... Forever my lady.. Annetta Paula.



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**Annetta Paula** - May 28, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ It has taken me so long to write this because I am still in so much shock. You have watched me grow for 16 years and have been there through every milestone in my life. Not having you here feels so unreal. We would always battle for my mothers attention, both having loved her deeply. The difference was your love meant so much more to her. As a child, loving your parent is easy, but having found a rare man like you, who respected, loved, and treated her like a princess is everything to any woman. You have made my mother so happy, but now you have hurt her so deeply. I am grateful for all you have done for me and my family. Thank you for loving my mother. Thank you for being an amazing step father. Thank you for your kind, patient, and youthful soul. I hope heaven is as beautiful as others make it out to be and that you are at peace. You and my mothers love was so playful, raw, and beautiful. Your journey with her is not over.



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**Missy Precious** - May 22, 2020 at 01:36 AM

JR

“ I am so heart broken that you have left us. You were always so kind to me and treated me like family. I've known you for years, thanks to my best friend Marisol I had the privilege to meet you . Connie has always been a mother to me so I know just how deep her love for you was. I am grateful to have gotten the chance to meet you. The love you and Connie for each other was beautiful and inspired me to find a love just like that. I am hurting for her and your family.

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**Jamie Rodriguez** - May 22, 2020 at 01:06 AM

HA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Hadassah - May 16, 2020 at 08:14 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Frances Cruz - May 16, 2020 at 09:57 AM

DT

“ Paul was a great person with a good heart. I am so grateful that he was a part of my life for so many years. I'm still in disbelief.

*My first encounter with Paul was when I called the Gray residence to speak to his sister. It seemed like just yesterday. We talked for an extended period of time before he gave her the phone. After that I always spent time talking to Paul when I called. We had so many conversations about what was happening in Detroit and some of the experiences I had while visiting New York. Paul you always made me laugh and feel comfortable. You treated me like family.*

*I love you Paul and I'm going to miss you.*

*Deborah Turner*

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**Deborah Turner** - May 16, 2020 at 12:25 AM



“ My dear Paul how I'm going to miss u... my heart is shadow knowing I can't Call u. No more phone calls. No more laughter, bday, holidays calls. U tough me how to be a friend n a better parent to my girls. I'm crying knowing I won't be able to hear your voice. U the only man that knows giselita. Your mouth like goat water!!! U will always be the best part of me n I will forever be your baby. I will forever miss u n love u. My sincere condolences to your family n friends. Paul was one of a kind. Loving, sincere n a true friend. Sleep peacefully my dear friend. Love u always 🙏🙏🙏

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**Giset Salem** - May 12, 2020 at 04:55 PM

GS

“ My dear Paul my heart is shadow knowing I loss my best friend. No more talks n laughter!!! No more bday, holidays n just talk about about everything. U always been my rock n the only man who truly knows giselita. U show me how to be a friend an a better parent to my girls. U tough me how to calm my temper n mouth n u know that was hard for me. I cry knowing that I can't hear your voice That I can't Call u anymore. Wat I'm going to do without u? U will always be a part of me n I will be forever be your baby!!! I will hold on To your smile n laughter. N your knowledge. Your mouth like goat water. Sleep peacefully my good friend 🙏🙏🙏🙏

giset salem - May 12, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Paul Douglas Gray.



May 12, 2020 at 06:27 AM

KB

“ I purposely waited until now to try to gain some kind of semblance to my thoughts and feelings and transcribe them to writtem form... I still really cant do it. I am still in a state of disbelief that my childhood ace boom coon is gone. As we grew older we had talks anout our mortality and he said things to me that were typical Paul I dismissed them because I could never fathom a reality of my best friend not being here. We experienced the multitude of circumstamces that childhood, adolescent, teen, young adult and finally MEN go through...together. I will never forget you my friend I love you and each day is now a bit darker. Kyle Brinson

Kyle Brinson - May 08, 2020 at 09:17 PM

ES

“ Paul and I grew up together. We attended the same schools from elementary to high school. Although I had known him since elementary school, we did not become really good friends until after graduation from high school. He was my protector and my friend. He was always smiling and had a good heart. I remember his Eddie Murphy like laugh. The last I saw him was OTD in 2008. Until then, I had not seen him for 10 - 15 years, but when I saw him it was like no time had passed.

*My condolences to his family!*

*Ellen Douglas Smith*



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**Ellen Douglas Smith** - May 08, 2020 at 03:23 PM

NS

“ To my Daddy Paul...you were loved and always be missed. I thank you and appreciate you being in my life and being another father figure. You can never have enough people to love you, support you, and be by your side. It takes a village to raise a child and you will forever be in my village. Love Nehi 🥰❤️



Nefertede Sterling - May 06, 2020 at 03:53 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



Larry Drayton - May 06, 2020 at 02:31 PM

JJ

“ *Mr. Paul grew up in the neighborhood in the the 60's. All of us went to the same school because of our district. We had to go to either P.S. 41 or P.S 21. From there we went to JHS 113 on Barnes ave. The school Name is now changed.*

*July was Old timers day and he often would attend that. He was a good person always smiling. I have never seen a mean face on him.*

*Many of our friends we grew up with are sadden over the lost, yet we have good memories always in our heart. We grew up in a neighborhood where color was not an issue. Blacks were the minority because the area was all Italian yet we play and was in each others home.*

*Football was game the guys played in the street. Growing up the neighborhood raised the children.*

*Paul will be missed, but his smile and memories of him will last forever.*

*Jomel*

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jj - May 04, 2020 at 06:25 PM

AS

“ Mr Gray was always smiling as he talked about the boys behaviour in his care. He never seemed stress even on days when he was called to go the boys school because they were acting out. Mr Gray was cool with Ms Shea from Cardinal Mccloskey Community Services and he will truly be missed. 🙏😞 My condolences to the Gray family during your time of loss. Connie be strong and be encouraged in the Lord. Take it one day at a time. Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding, acknowledge the Lord and he will direct your path.



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**Annebell Shea** - May 04, 2020 at 05:29 PM

HA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Hadassah** - May 04, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ I joined the crew after moving to the neighborhood in while still in high school. Although I did not go back to kindergarten with most of the guys, there are 5 people I consider my closest friends for life, Marty, Eric, Paul, Patrick and Leslie. Paul was always the gentle giant in the group. Socially aware, empathetic, funny, unassuming and most of all, Genuine!. There are few times that I've cried in my life, and this is one of them. I will miss Bro! See you down the road,

*Arthur Hutchinson III*

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**Arthur Hutchinson III** - May 04, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ My condolences to The Gray family. I am sorry for your loss. My heart and prayers go out to your family. It was a pleasure to have known Paul for many years. Rest in peace Paul, you will be missed.

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**Angela Alexander** - May 04, 2020 at 01:46 AM



“ My condolences to the Gray family.

*Paul your smile, laughter, hugs and advice will be missed, but you will forever stay in my heart.*



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**Sharla** - May 02, 2020 at 07:51 PM

MC

“ *May God comfort the Gray family in there time of grief Paul rest in peace Family stay strong love u all cookie*

Marietta Fleming cookie - May 02, 2020 at 07:14 PM

TA

“ *My condolences to the family. May he R.I.P*

Takeisha - May 02, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Douglas Gray.*



May 01, 2020 at 12:41 PM

PB

“ *Patricia Boswell*  
*My heart felt condolences to the Gray family, Paul was my dearest and BEST FRIEND, He was one of the BEST and caring GOD parent in the world to my granddaughter Zoe, I am going to miss making him his Jamacian foods keeping him in good memories of his mom, I know one thing MY FRIEND would not want to be on any machine to stay alive, so MY FRIEND we miss you a looooooot no one to watch out for me anymore when I ride up on the block and it's still early in the morning, but MY MEMORIES OF YOU MY FRIEND, FOR 30 YEARS HAVE BEEN SOME OF MY BEST, RIP MY FRIEND, I WILL ALWAYS KEEP MY NAME YOU GAVE ME, PATTY DUKE,* 🥺🥺🥺🥺🥺🥺💙💙💙💙

Patricia Boswell - April 30, 2020 at 07:11 PM

DB

“ Whenever Paul comes to mind, I remember how we played with our miniature army men in the grass in my backyard setting up a battlefield. What was always so funny to us was how long it took to find the little green men in the green grass when we done. Rest In Peace My Childhood Friend. I will forever have those memories.

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**Douglas Berridge** - April 30, 2020 at 06:39 PM

MG

My condolences to the Grey family Paul you will be miss by a lot of people and especially your sister Cathy she talks about you every night that we work together.Paul Rest In Peace.

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**Merlene Graham** - May 02, 2020 at 04:32 PM

SF

“ Dearest Paul, you were a gentle glow in my life. Always a smile and kind word, even when we disagreed. I miss you more than you will ever know. You were one of the quiet greats that strode this earth and your essence and presence will be missed. Stride to the light my quiet warrior.  
Always love you,  
Cousin Sandra Ferguson

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**Sandra Ferguson** - April 30, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ Paul was my brother, my friend, my confidant. He was quick-witted, was a doting father to his children, a brother, an uncle, a god father, a cousin, a father figure and mentor to many. To know Paul was to love Paul. His style, his charm, his sense of humor, his conversation and great listening skills, his advice, his patience, his helping hand, his shoulder to lean on (and cry on), his love of the arts, love of sports, love of travel, love of good food, love of decorating, love of fine audio and visual equipment, love of music - especially Jazz, classical and Lite FM (106.7 Delilah). Two songs he played in the car every day are Nina Simone: *I Wish I Knew*, and Sergio Mendes: *Mas Que Nada* (remix). The greatest love of all, however, is love of family. Paul was family-oriented and family meant everything...I mean EVERYTHING. Family included the family you're born into and the family you choose. I am a family member Paul chose. In Paul, you had a friend/family member for life. We knew the advice each other would give and we knew the types of things each other liked. We often could finish each other's sentences. We dined together, traveled together, enjoyed researching before making purchases, enjoyed watching crime dramas, documentaries, and home makeover shows, enjoyed theater, encouraged each other, celebrated each others victories, and comforted each other. Paul was not just family to me but he was an integral part of my family. Paul often told me my mom must have had a sixth sense because we've been friends since we met in March 1982 at the bank. I know Paul has left a lasting impression on so many people and will be sorely missed. I miss him terribly but I'm so grateful to have so many fond memories of Paul to comfort me and help me cope with this heartache.

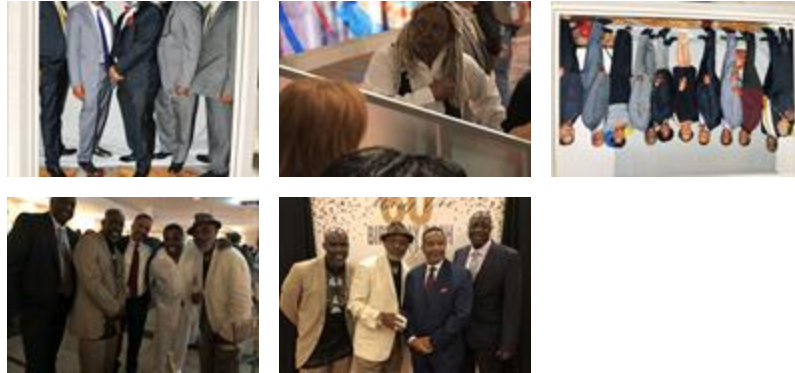


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Frances Cruz - April 30, 2020 at 01:25 PM

MC

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Martin Culler - April 30, 2020 at 05:04 AM

MC

“ I known Paul since kindergarten. He is one of my best friends. We've talked and hung out every weekly. My heart and soul are broken. I going to miss the breakfasts, lunch and dinners. The jokes and life managing talks. My life is change forever. My brother is gone and he will be missed. Rest In Peace my brother.

Martin Culler - April 30, 2020 at 04:51 AM

GL

“ From childhood to manhood we walked side by side. Through it all we had each other's back. My dear brother, friend and comrade I MISS YOU. Our last convo we acknowledged our brotherly love. 🤝. Deepest, heartfelt condolences to all who had the pleasure of experiencing this beloved brother. Truly one of a kind.



Gerard Patrick Lavergne - April 29, 2020 at 05:29 PM

CR

“ I am so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. My deepest condolences to the Gray family and friends. May his eternal soul RIP.

*From Carleene Richardson and family.*



Carleene Richardson - April 29, 2020 at 12:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Michelle Stuart - April 29, 2020 at 08:22 AM

MC

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Martin Culler - April 29, 2020 at 06:49 AM

LB

“ *My Dearest Paul, where do I begin! You were my first true friend that quickly became family! You ARE the most generous, kind hearted, gentle soul! I miss your laughter & your sense of humor! Thank you for being a great God father to my Zoe, she misses you so much already! Your death has devastated me, wish I could have one more talk with you. My family & I love & miss you so much! Rest well in the arms of God! Until we meet again!*

Lesa Boswell - April 28, 2020 at 10:13 PM

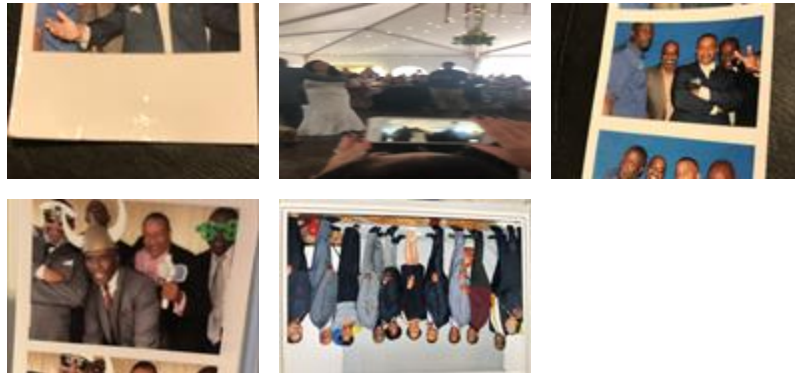
IB

“ *To the Gray family and friends I am sorry for your loss. Paul fought courageously down to the end. The photos of Paul shows a man who was loved and enjoyed life to the full. May your memories of him fill your hearts as mourn his passing.*

Ingrid Bowen - April 28, 2020 at 08:45 PM

MC

“ *8 files added to the tribute wall*



Martin Culler - April 28, 2020 at 11:56 AM

HA

“



Hadassah - April 28, 2020 at 09:16 AM

HA

“



Hadassah - April 28, 2020 at 09:03 AM

MS

“

*1 file added to the tribute wall*



Michelle Stuart - April 28, 2020 at 08:23 AM



*To my dear cousin who always had the best smile and the biggest heart. You are sorely missed. RIP Paul*

Michelle Stuart - April 29, 2020 at 05:47 PM

HA

“ 3 files added to the album Memories



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Hadassah - April 27, 2020 at 08:31 PM

LP

“ Yesterday, it seemed that we would always be together, today it is a memory. My heart is broken and I wonder if my journey in life will ever be the same without my childhood friend, PAUL D GRAY. Lord, it seems like yesterday we had so much hope for tomorrow. Surely, I can catalogue all the pictures, good times, laughter, silly jokes only we understood, but they now live in yesterday. I pray that God received Paul in his embrace, but my selfishness, can only think of yesterday. I know Paul can never pass this way again, I take comfort, in knowing my last words to Paul, were “I LOVE YOU MAN”. It scares me, because the fellas never really talk that way, it was always tacit. Paul Gray, you were truly a gift to the Poux family. I LOVE YOU MAN. RIP.

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leslie poux - April 27, 2020 at 07:33 PM

MP

“ My heart & spirit is greatly sadden by the passing of my baby brother Paul Gray. Even tho we we’re birthed from the same mother. I’ve known Paul & Gray Family sense 1964. I’ve seen Paul grow up. To be a exceptional man. Kind,funny,helpful & All-Around Great Guy. His sudden passing brings me to a all time low. But on the other hand Paul’s at peace,no more suffering. Not fair at all. Finding great difficulties coming to terms with fact. That I’ll no longer be able to stop by the house. And engage with great conversation & breaking bread with my brother again. Rest In Paradise my friend. You are 1 of many I’ll look up when I get to the other side. Peace & Love passed up to heaven. Your Big Bro Mike P. 😭

Michael Petersen - April 27, 2020 at 06:55 PM

HF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



Hadassah Francis - April 27, 2020 at 01:26 PM

HF

“ 3 files added to the album Memories



Hadassah Francis - April 27, 2020 at 01:07 PM