

Paul Douglas Thompson passed away on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center. Born and raised in Cumberland, Wisconsin, Paul graduated from Cumberland High School and went on to enlist in the United States Navy shortly after. During his time in the Navy, Paul proudly served as a Gunner's Mate 3rd Class, overseeing the preparation and distribution of firearms to Marines aboard his ship. His ship, at its peak, held over 6,000 personnel and played an instrumental role in training young pilots who would later serve in Vietnam. His service to his country was one of the many highlights of his life, and he always spoke with pride about his time in the military.

After completing his military service, Paul pursued a career that aligned with his passion for cooking. Over the years, his love for cooking grew rapidly. His culinary artistry and dedication to his craft took him in many different directions. He had the honor to help cook and cater for three South Dakota governors, including Governor George Mickelson. Paul managed several country clubs in South Dakota and Wisconsin, and at one point even had his own catering company, Mr. Barbecue. Paul's love for cooking wasn't just a profession—it was his calling. And friends, family, and fans knew it.

Outside of the kitchen, Paul had a deep passion for golf. He spent many happy hours on the green with friends and colleagues, always striving to perfect his game. Paul was a member of the Clown Golf Association, a group of friends that, for many, many years, got together for golfing different courses and outings around the State of SD. The friendships he built were priceless to him.

He was also a dedicated Green Bay Packers fan (this is an understatement) and could often be found watching games, cheering them on with the same enthusiasm he brought to everything in life. Paul enjoyed westerns, music, and cherished every moment spent with family and friends. His personality was warm and inviting—he had a unique ability to make everyone around him feel welcome. Whether sharing a story, cracking a joke, or offering a listening ear, Paul's infectious humor and kind heart left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Doug and Doris Thompson; and brother-in-law, Tom Mysicka.

Survived by: brother, Roger Thompson (wife Chris); and his sisters, Carol Rohl (husband Ken), and Pam Mysicka; daughters, Ginger Tiefs (husband Scott), and Stacie Turner (husband Josh), four grandchildren, and many extended family members and friends who loved him dearly.

Paul shared a very special bond with Manda and Marc Sheaffer and their two children, Chloe and John, who lovingly called him Papa.

Paul's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. His warmth, humor, and passion for life will never be forgotten. Paul will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In Memory Of **Paul D. Thompson**

April 10, 1948 † February 19, 2025

Memorial Service

10:30 AM

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Baltic Lutheran Church

Baltic, South Dakota

Rev. Randall Questad, Officiating

Ellen Aadland, Organist

Congregational Hymn

“Eternal Father Strong to Save”

“Jesus Loves Me”

Soloists

Jennifer Bomesberger

“Amazing Grace”

Rev. Randall Questad

“The Lord’s Prayer”

Manda Kokales-Sheaffer

“Silent Night”

Honorary Pallbearers

Roger Thompson

Smokey Bents

Fran Capra

Terry Kohler

Marc Sheaffer

Interment

South Dakota State

Veterans Cemetery

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Military Honors

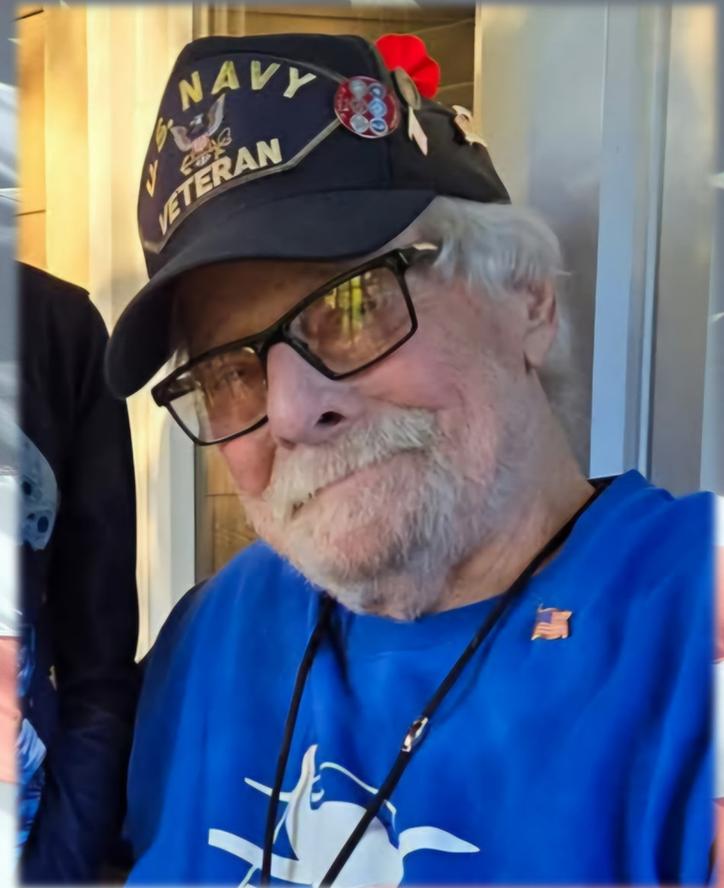
United States Navy





*“Godspeed, my friends!!”
~Paul*

The family of Paul Thompson thanks you for your presence and support. They invite you to refreshments and fellowship in the church basement following the memorial service.



A Life Remembered

Paul Douglas Thompson

April 10, 1948 † February 19, 2025