



Mr. Paul Alta Raack

December 15, 1969 - December 20, 2023

Paul Alta Raack, born on December 15, 1969, in Garland, Texas, left this world to dance in the presence of his Savior on December 20, 2023, at 3:19 pm at Christus Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview, Texas, after a brief and sudden fight with multiple illnesses at the age of 54.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Edward Raack (December 2020) and Alta Faye (Taylor) Raack (January 2005). He is survived by his devoted wife, Jennifer Deann Raack, 54, residing in their home in Henderson, Texas. The couple met at the age of 14 years old at Richland Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas and began dating at the age of 16. They married on July 29, 1989, and created a life filled with love, laughter, and unwavering support for one another through multiple trials and celebrations.

Paul's legacy extends through his children: Frank Alden Smith of Abilene, Texas, Age 32, who although not his child by birth, was assuredly a beloved son from the moment they met, Paul Adam Raack, 32, and his wife Miriam Abigail Raack, 33, along with their two children, Liliana June Raack and Grace Olivia Raack of Henderson, Texas. Joshua Raack, 29, of Houston, Texas, Jarod Raack, 22, of College Station, Texas, and Samantha Raack, 18, of College Station, Texas. Paul is also survived by a multitude of children at First Baptist of Henderson, Texas (and the surrounding community) who considered him to be an extended father figure in their lives.

As the youngest of five siblings, Paul is survived by Robert Raack and his wife Diane of Monroe, Ohio, Kevin Raack and his wife Tele of Reno, Nevada, Michelle Henry and her husband Mark of Garland, Texas, and Eric Raack and his wife Lecy of Houston, Texas. Together, they form a close-knit family that Paul cherished deeply.

Paul dedicated his life to a higher calling, serving as the greatest Children's Pastor in the world when he started as interim children's pastor at Murphy Road Baptist Church in 2005. He was officially hired for the position in 2006 after great success in his ministry—even through a tragic car accident in that same year that almost took his life. He moved on to serve at Eastridge Baptist Church in Red Oak, Texas in 2012, and then to his beloved First Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas, in 2019 where he fell in love with the entire community and planned to retire. His passion for nurturing young hearts and souls left an indelible mark on countless lives. His ability to connect with children and inspire them to embrace faith in Christ will be remembered and incalculably appreciated by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. His years in ministry have been a blessing not only to his family, but to all the other families of the children whose lives he changed in incredibly positive ways. He always found unique ways to grab the attention of his young audiences and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them in ways that were fun, exciting, and understandable. He poured his very heart and soul into his ministry, and his family knows full well how many loved and cherished him as they themselves did.

In addition to his professional achievements, Paul was a loving husband, father, brother, and friend. Those who knew him will recall his infectious laughter, his compassionate spirit, his egregiously corny jokes, his passion for seeing children find Faith, his love of the song "Making Melodies in My Heart," and his ability to uplift those around him. You may also remember his love for

all things Minion (Despicable Me), a love that is currently displayed in his front yard Christmas decorations and his church office. Paul's warmth and kindness extended beyond the church walls, making him a pillar of strength in his family and his community. As we celebrate Paul's life, let us remember the joy he brought to the world and the lives he touched.

His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him, and his memory will continue to inspire love, compassion, and great faith and obedience. He would want you all to know that this is not goodbye, but see you later. Repent, be saved, trust in the Lord always, and be reunited with him in glorious celebration on that wonderful day.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to make donations to the Children's Building Fund of First Baptist Church at 207 W. Main St., Henderson, TX 75652. Paul greatly desired to see this section of the church finished with the completion of the Third Floor. While he leaves behind enormous boots to fill, he would want whoever follows in his footsteps to be set up for the greatest success possible in continuing his incredible ministry.

A celebration of the life of Mr. Paul Alta Raack, 54, of Henderson, will be held at 2:00PM on Saturday, December 30, 2023, at First Baptist Church with Dr. David Higgs and Rev. Don Edmiston officiating, under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home. Please wear bright and fun clothing, as Paul would have hated for his celebration to be drab and dark colored.

The family will receive friends following the service in the mall area of the church.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
207 West Main
Henderson, TX 75652

Visitation

DEC 30. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
207 West Main
Henderson, TX 75652

Tribute Wall

PD

“ *I remember you as a toddler, was recently thinking about you and your siblings. Godspeed.* ”

Philip Dunn - February 06, 2024 at 02:43 PM

TF

“ *the family lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack* ”



the loftis family - February 01, 2024 at 11:50 AM

CA

“ *My heart is broken for your loss and rejoicing that you are home with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am so thankful for your life. Jennifer and family we send you our love and are praying for the Lord to grant you everything you need to get through this. With love from the Andreescu family.* ”

Carol Andreescu - December 30, 2023 at 01:43 PM

TF

“ *The Family lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack* ”



The Lingle Family - December 30, 2023 at 09:16 AM

TF

“ *Mr. Paul will forever live in our hearts. We will forever be grateful to him for helping lead our son to Jesus. Our son met Mr. Paul at the young age of 4 when he attended his first ever VBS. From that moment on, Mr. Paul continued to be a shining light in our son’s life through VBS, children’s church, and youth camp. We love you Raack family and will forever be a part of us. Praying for peace and comfort.*

The Lingle Family - December 30, 2023 at 09:15 AM

KW

“ *Kevin Samantha Wright lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Kevin & Samantha Wright - December 30, 2023 at 12:59 AM

SA

“ *Steve Sheila Alford lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Steve and Sheila Alford - December 29, 2023 at 11:35 PM

TF

“ *The Family lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



The Hart Family - December 29, 2023 at 03:00 PM

HA

“ Truly will miss his bubbly personality and his smile. He truly loved everyone



HART - December 29, 2023 at 02:58 PM

SD

“ Sheritina DeVille lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Sheritina DeVille - December 28, 2023 at 03:21 PM

SS

“ My mom and stepdad attended church with Paul and his family in Red Oak. When my son was in 3rd grade he attended camp with Paul. This was my son's first experience with camp. Paul would pray the children to sleep every night of camp. My son and daughter still talk about the song "Happy" and the "Titan theme song" that he would often play for the children. He made such a great impact on so many children. He will be great missed.

Stephanie Stephens - December 26, 2023 at 08:57 PM

CF

“ Paul's oldest son, Adam, fell in love with and married our daughter, Miriam, in 2014. We fell in love with the entire Raack family when they drove to Kansas one week prior to the wedding to help with preparations. And help they did! It was a joy to be with the entire clan, with Paul in the lead of the Fun Train. What a great man of God, a spiritual leader of many, who isn't looking back. We're just coming to join you, Brother! God has new work for you now. Can't wait to see you again!

Carol Franz - December 25, 2023 at 03:44 PM

FS

“ Fred Leslie Spell lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Fred and Leslie Spell - December 24, 2023 at 11:20 PM

SC

“ I remember Mr Paul from when we first started attending Murphy Rd. He was wonderful with the kids and my daughter loved him. I am very sorry for this sudden loss of such an impactful man. Staci Crim

Staci Crim - December 24, 2023 at 06:36 PM

BM

“ When our Jennifer (Jenn) married Paul, he became one of our kids (you marry one of ours then you are ours too!!) At the time they married he still had his Mother Faye Raack that he loved so much, but sadly he lost her in Jan. 2005. I wanted to tell him then I would be his mom, but I didn't at the time it didn't seem to be the right time. Throughout the years after that he began to call me mom too!! Blessed my heart so much. His great love for God, my daughter and all of his children and everybody else's children too made me so proud to call him my son too! To say he will be missed is an understatement. Merry Christmas in Heaven Paul... WOW!! you get to celebrate with Jesus ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ your other Mom.



Brenda Gayle Massey - December 24, 2023 at 10:05 AM

JE

“ Joni Ewing lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Joni Ewing - December 23, 2023 at 06:22 PM

MG

“ Mark Nancy Gibson sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Mark & Nancy Gibson - December 23, 2023 at 05:31 PM

GW

“ Gary Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Gary Wilkerson - December 23, 2023 at 04:34 PM

DA

“ Donna Aaron lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Donna J Aaron - December 23, 2023 at 03:16 PM

GH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family of Paul. Jennifer, I am especially thinking of you at this time. Please accept my condolences.

Gina Henderson - December 23, 2023 at 01:34 PM



“ Sorry for your loss,

MelissaMcNew



Melissa McNew - December 23, 2023 at 12:09 PM

BM

“ *Barbara meader lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Barbara meader - December 23, 2023 at 11:32 AM

KM

“ *Paul was an incredible man that always put God first in his life. We had the privilege of getting to know him after his horrible car wreck many years ago. He had been through a major surgery and was weak as a kitten and showed up at our daughters funeral. That's the caring loving person he was. We are heartbroken for Jennifer and all his family and many friends.*



Jennifer your strong faith will get you through this horrible grief one day at a time. Paul is having his best Christmas ever with his lord and savior.

Karen May - December 23, 2023 at 11:09 AM

JB

“ *Julie Beck lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Julie Beck - December 23, 2023 at 10:58 AM

WP

“ We will miss this wonderful man, a true example of what a servant of Christ looks like! We were honored to be under his leadership in the FBC children’s area.

Wendell and Anne Pool - December 23, 2023 at 10:49 AM

CM

“ Charles Amy Griffin Moore lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



Charles & Amy Griffin Moore - December 22, 2023 at 08:38 PM

DS

“ Our deepest sympathies are for the family and friends of Paul Raack. Nothing but good words ever described Paul and much praise for his work with the children of our church were always voiced.



Doyle and Margaret Sumrall - December 22, 2023 at 07:59 PM

JT

“ John Taylor lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack



John Taylor - December 22, 2023 at 04:18 PM



“ *Ron Audas lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Ron Audas - December 22, 2023 at 03:29 PM



“ *Linda lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Linda - December 22, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Having gone through what you are right now, we are wrapping our arms around you so tight. May his memory make you smile and laugh with joy and love. Sending love from the Zahrndt family.*

Julie Zahrndt - December 22, 2023 at 02:56 PM



“ *Prayers for family. I am so sorry but we know he is in a better place*

Beth H Pope - December 22, 2023 at 09:53 AM

JB

“ *Jane Brightwell lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Jane Brightwell - December 22, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *Barbara J Jolley lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Barbara J Jolley - December 22, 2023 at 08:27 AM

GG

“ *Gary Sharon Griffin lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Gary and Sharon Griffin - December 22, 2023 at 08:20 AM

BP

“ *Benny Payne lit a candle in memory of Paul Alta Raack*



Benny Payne - December 21, 2023 at 10:09 PM