



## Paul Russell Hairston

November 8, 1958 - January 27, 2020

Paul Russell Hairston, 61 of Fayetteville, AR passed away peacefully on Monday January 27, 2020 at Willard Walker Hospice in Fayetteville. He was born November 8, 1958 in Orange, TX to Russell and Judith (Batchelor) Hairston.

Paul graduated from Baylor in 1983 and came to Fayetteville to pursue a masters degree in Geology at the University of Arkansas. He was an inspector for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and a member of Central United Methodist Church. Paul was a genuine, kind soul. He enjoyed woodworking: making cutting boards and lawn chairs. He could quote all of 'The Hunt for Red October' and 'Top Gun'. Paul enjoyed meeting friends at West Mountain and his weekly Sunday night 'Garage Gang' gathering with his neighborhood guys. He was an excellent cook and always ready to feed anyone walking in the door. He was a craft beer connoisseur, even making his own brew.

Paul loved keeping people informed. His favorite app was the Weather Channel so we always knew when there was a tornado warning. He kept up to date with the detainees on Washington County Sheriff's website, just in case he knows anyone. He always knew what plane was flying overhead or when the international space station was passing by. Paul was the neighborhood watchdog and party planner. He directed traffic during numerous Root Rocket runs and made sure the runners were safe. He loved the Pink Flamingo parties in front of his house and always enjoyed people coming together to eat and laugh. He took care of everyone, even the firefighters who came to entertain the neighborhood children.

Paul is survived by his wife, Nancy Hairston, two daughters, Hannah Hairston (Shawn) of Conway, AR, Hallie Hairston of Fayetteville, AR; his parents Russell and Judith Hairston of Nacogdoches, TX; his sister Julie Pigneri (Phil) of Tauranga, New Zealand; and one brother Thad Hairston (Loryn) of Waco, TX.

A memorial service will be held 10 AM, Saturday, February 1st at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville with Dr. Steven K. Pulliam officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Fayetteville Public Library.

To sign the online guest book please visit [www.nelsonberna.com](http://www.nelsonberna.com)

# Events

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**FEB**   **Memorial Service**                      10:00AM

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Central United Methodist Church  
6 W Dickson St, Fayetteville, AR, US, 72701

# Comments

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“ Nancy, so sorry for your loss. Kathy Spigarelli

Kathy Spigarelli - February 05 at 02:20 PM

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“ Jamie & Jay Huneycutt lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



Jamie & Jay Huneycutt - January 31 at 04:48 PM

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“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 31 at 02:08 PM

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“ Nancy,  
I am so sorry for your loss! My heart breaks for you and your girls. You are in my prayers.  
Sherri Watson

Sherri Watson - January 30 at 10:47 PM

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“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 30 at 04:47 PM

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“ Russell and Judy, we are so sad for your loss of a son. We pray for your comfort in Christ.  
Flamen and Margie Ball  
Nacogdoches

**FLAMEN BALL** - January 30 at 04:04 PM



“ We appreciate your kind words regarding our son, Paul. He was quiet studious, thoughtful of others, but enjoyed being alone to read or work in his shop on weekends.

**Russell & Judith Hairston** - February 03 at 11:28 PM



“ Paul and I were co-workers at DEQ, although most of our interactions were on the phone or email. Whenever Paul came to the NLR office, he would always stop by and say hello. He was always a very kind, positive person to be around. His passing breaks my heart. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

**Rhonda Moore** - January 30 at 02:42 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words in remembrance of our son, Paul. It is wonderful to know these traits of PAUL. We had great family times with PAUL, Julie, Thad. Parents of PAUL, Judy & Russ

**Russell & Judith Hairston** - February 03 at 11:10 PM



“ Rhonda Moore lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



**Rhonda Moore** - January 30 at 02:35 PM

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“ Bill & Carla, Erin & Carrie, Ryan and families purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



**Bill & Carla, Erin & Carrie, Ryan and families** - January 30 at 01:48 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with Russell and Judy and their entire family at this time. Paul is resting in peace. Love Rose Guilbeau, Nacogdoches, TX

**Rose Guilbeau** - January 30 at 10:15 AM

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“ Benjamin Boorman lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



**Benjamin Boorman** - January 29 at 07:28 PM

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“ A few times each year I had the pleasure of interacting professionally with Paul. After the meetings ended, we would share meals and discuss common interests, of which many overlapped. Paul was one of the most genial, contented, and kind colleagues whom I've had the privilege of knowing. He will be sorely missed.

**Benjamin Boorman** - January 29 at 07:27 PM

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“ My office is next to Paul's in the Fayetteville office. Other than my own fiancée, Paul was the person I saw and talked to the most. I will absolutely verify everyone's statements about his kindness. His friendliness and generosity was well beyond the average. You would have to pull teeth to get the guy to say something negative about anything. Although despite his demeanor, you could eventually figure out his opinions on matters.

Paul and I shared a similar passion--geology. Oddly enough, we shared the same professors here at U of A even though I graduated a couple of decades after Paul. Soon after I joined ADEQ I also started teaching geology 101 in the evenings at the local community college. The next morning after every class Paul would ask me how it went. I'd ask his advice about what I might cover in my curriculum and spent many hours discussing AR geology. Many students have succumbed to his suggested wrong- answers on my multiple choice questions. He himself though is a literal piece of the local geological history with some of his previous work in the region. Sometimes it felt like I was talking to one of our old professors. It's a little empty coming back by his office the morning, but I'm very glad to have learned from him and been his friend.

**Travis** - January 29 at 06:20 PM

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“ I did not know Paul well because I didn't work in the Fayetteville field office but as I visited the office more and more I always enjoyed our conversations and Paul's positive attitude which was a great joy. After reading his obituary I can see he was the same caring person everywhere he went. I know he will be greatly missed by those that worked with him, his family, and his friends. God bless him and his family.

**Jason** - January 29 at 02:23 PM

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“ If wealth was a measure of kindness, Paul was a one-percenter.

**Alex** - January 29 at 02:08 PM

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“ Team ErectAstep purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



**Team ErectAstep** - January 29 at 11:33 AM

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“ To have helped raise two diligent, tenacious and thoughtful young ladies as Hannah and Hallie, Paul obviously was a wonderful father. His legacy through them will continue. Please let that be comforting now and for years to come. My thoughts are with all three of you! Geniece

Geniece Yates - January 29 at 11:30 AM

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“ Lavender Dreams was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 29 at 11:27 AM

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“ We are so sorry for your loss. We will be praying for your family.  
With deepest sympathy,  
Gene and Cheryl Long

cheryl long - January 29 at 11:25 AM

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“ Phillip and Marilyn Stafford purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



Phillip and Marilyn Stafford - January 29 at 11:02 AM

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“ Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 29 at 09:43 AM

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“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 28 at 09:39 PM

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“ Marsha S Marshall lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



**Marsha S Marshall** - January 28 at 08:00 PM

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“ Very sorry for your loss  
Paul was a very good guy

**OC Newton** - January 28 at 07:58 PM

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“ My most fond memory of Paul and family was when all the Batchelor grandkids would be at grandpa and grandma's house. We were alwaYs outsider in the woods or if grandpa had bought us fireworks we would be outside trying to blow up anything and everything. We would even put match tips in grandpa's pipe and wait for him to light up and jump putting of his chair. Those were such fun times with all the cousins. You will be missed Paul. See u again one day. Love you Debra Batchelor Rangel.

**Debra Batchelor Rangel** - January 28 at 07:48 PM

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“ Russel and Judy, I am hurting with you - so many memories of us talking about our children. Paul was only a month older than Mark, so we compared notes about our kids many times. I pray for peace for you both in the remembrance of the joy you have in knowing what a fine son he was and the humor and kindness he portrayed during his life. He looked so much like you, Russell. Your loss is your mom and dad's gain, along with many others we have loved. I'm sure they are rejoicing to have him

there. God is there with you during this time of mourning.

**Linda V Fincher** - January 28 at 07:26 PM

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“ I only got to interact with Paul a couple of times each year when we had inspector meetings in Little Rock. Always such a great guy, great at his job and great with everyone. You could tell by his beer selection that he really did enjoy the finer things in life. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Gary Bortz, Little Rock

**Gary Bortz** - January 28 at 04:44 PM

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“ Never more the soft soul to rise a glass a joke a smile or moment with. I know he will be missed, It is those we miss that are love. Nancy, Hannah, Hallie, my depest sympathies and thought for your lose.

**Spencer Tirey** - January 28 at 04:08 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Paul at DEQ. I recall his pleasant demeanor and smile. I appreciated his diligence and his responsiveness to the task at hand. Every workplace needs those folks who brighten the days of those they encounter. Paul was that kind of sunny person. He will be missed.

**Stuart Spencer** - January 28 at 03:52 PM

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“ Heinz Braun lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



**Heinz Braun** - January 28 at 10:44 AM

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“ To say Paul was a kind and gentle man is an understatement. Paul has worked with me for 11 years and I never witnessed him even complain about anything. He would do anything for everybody and his absence will leave a huge hole that will never be able to be filled. My thoughts and prayers are with his family whom he talked about often when we had the occasion to share a meal or just talk.

**Heinz Braun** - January 28 at 10:44 AM

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“ Nancy, Hannah, and Hallie I have struggled to look for the right words that would help you during this great loss but nothing is enough when you have lost someone so special. Just know that our love and prayers are with you all. Barb and Roger Ludwig

**Barbara Ludwig** - January 27 at 10:08 PM



“ Nancy sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

**Millie Turner** - January 28 at 09:30 PM

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“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 27 at 09:10 PM

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“ Paul will be so very missed by so many. He was a loving and giving person, and a very special man. We were privileged to be his friends. Our hearts go out to his family and they are in our prayers.

Mike and Eileen McGarry

**Mike and Eileen** - January 27 at 07:08 PM

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“ Paul was my next door neighbor and a true gentleman. Paul would look after our home anytime we were out of town and when I would try to thank him he always said oh no it's my pleasure. Paul was a very likeable and kind soul and was like a taller younger brother to me. We will miss him

it has been quite a shock to all of us who loved him , he was so young and it happened so fast. God Bless Paul and his family . Bill and Mary Lee Kennedy

**Bill & Mary Lee Kennedy** - January 27 at 07:08 PM

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“ White Sympathy Standing Baskets was purchased for the family of Paul Russell Hairston.



January 27 at 06:54 PM

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“ Nancy, Hannah and Hallie  
Ann and I share in your loss. He was a good friend and we loved him. He will be greatly missed.  
He will always be remembered for his humor, loving life attitude. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers

Rick and Ann

**Rick and Ann Stroud** - January 27 at 06:12 PM

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“ KAREN Rogers sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



**KAREN Rogers** - January 27 at 05:51 PM

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“ KAREN Rogers lit a candle in memory of Paul Russell Hairston



KAREN Rogers - January 27 at 05:50 PM

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“ Paul you taught me that the glass is always full. I love you.  
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KAREN Rogers - January 27 at 05:47 PM