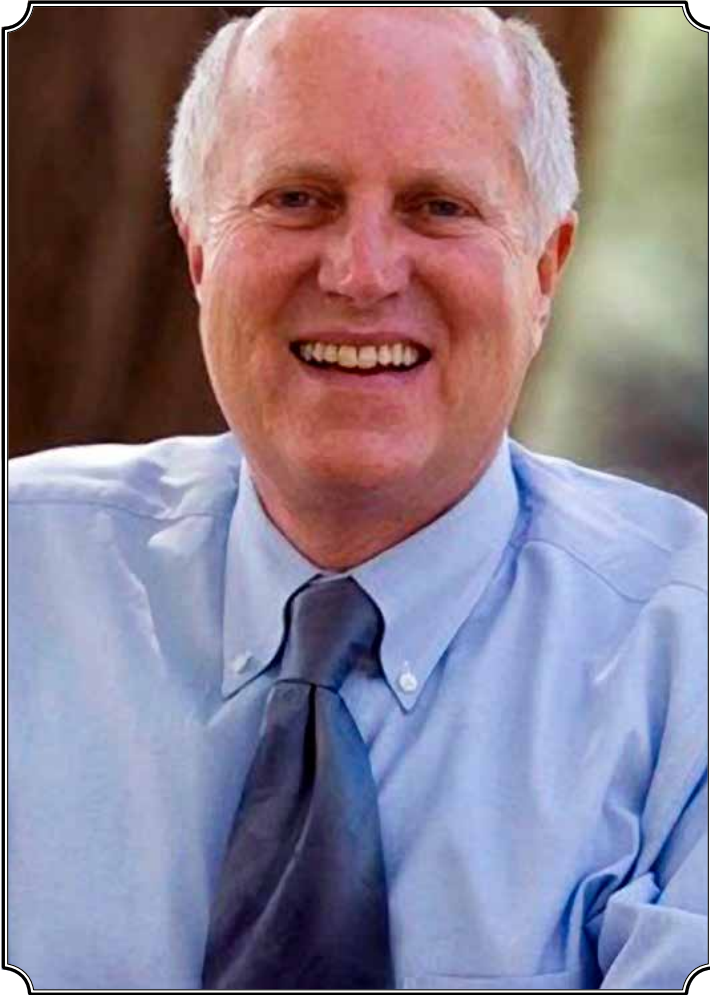


A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
PAUL WITHINGTON GERTZ
AUGUST 11, 1950 – OCTOBER 21, 2017



THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD
OCTOBER 27, 2017
11:00 A.M.
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
680 CALDER
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

**A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
PAUL WITHINGTON GERTZ
AUGUST 11, 1950 – OCTOBER 21, 2017**

Hymn

“It Is Well With My Soul”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled
back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so,
it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Solemn Anthem

I am the Resurrection and I am the Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

The Celebrant says the following Collect, first saying

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Paul. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with those who love Paul in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:22-26, 31-33)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For thou art with me;

Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:16-5:9)

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 488

“Be thou my vision”

Slane

A Reading from the Gospel of John (14:1-6)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place

where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend Dr. Justin Briggie

The Apostles' Creed (*please stand*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen.

For our brother Paul, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am the Resurrection and I am the Life.”

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Paul, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend, comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Celebrant

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Paul, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

The Commendation

<i>Celebrant</i>	Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
<i>People</i>	where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The celebrant continues

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant and people

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Celebrant

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Paul.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of
your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms
of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious
company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Hymn 671

“Amazing Grace!”

New Britain

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Beaumont trial lawyer Paul Withington Gertz exhausted his final appeal on October 21, 2017; he was 67 years old. Paul was a beloved advocate, partner, husband, father, and friend. He will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, leadership, sense of humor, and infectious laugh.

Born in Longview, Texas August 11, 1950, to Harriett and Stanley Gertz, Paul graduated from Pine Tree High School. As a boy, he was the “mascot” for his father’s National Guard Unit. He loved horses and water-skiing on Lake of the Pines with his parents and his sister Susan.

Paul graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1972. In 1973, Paul married Carol Petty and together they had four children: Ryan, Jeanie, Laura, and Andy. Firm believers in the value of education, Paul and Carol put the boys through the University of Texas at Austin and the girls through Texas A&M University.

Paul completed law school at Southern Methodist University in 1975. During his final year, he was granted membership in the Order of the Coif – an exclusive legal scholastic society for graduates at the top of their class. Upon graduation, Paul moved to Beaumont, Texas to work with the prestigious Orgain, Bell, & Tucker Law Firm. As a young lawyer, Paul tried hundreds of cases ranging from property disputes and easements to personal injury and contract disputes. After only five years, he made partner at O,B,&T. One federal judge wrote a kind letter to the managing partner of the firm in the wake of a week long trial describing Paul as a “young John Tucker.”

In 1994, Paul left O,B,&T and partnered with Larry Germer, to begin Germer & Gertz, L.L.P. Across the next decade, the firm grew from four lawyers to over one hundred – in Austin, Beaumont, and Houston. Ten years later, he “retired” to Colorado. But in classic Gertzian fashion, he couldn’t cease being an advocate and, instead, began a new firm in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

This was a fortuitous move, because he met his beloved wife Karen Bush – a Colorado native – through his practice. They married in 2007

and spent the next ten years happily traveling the world together. They loved going on cruises, seeing historical sights, sitting on the beach in Hawaii, and playing golf together. In their down time, they enjoyed watching crime dramas in their matching recliners, with their dogs at their feet. Paul was an adoring step-father to his daughter, Dayle Duran. He and Karen put Dayle through the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

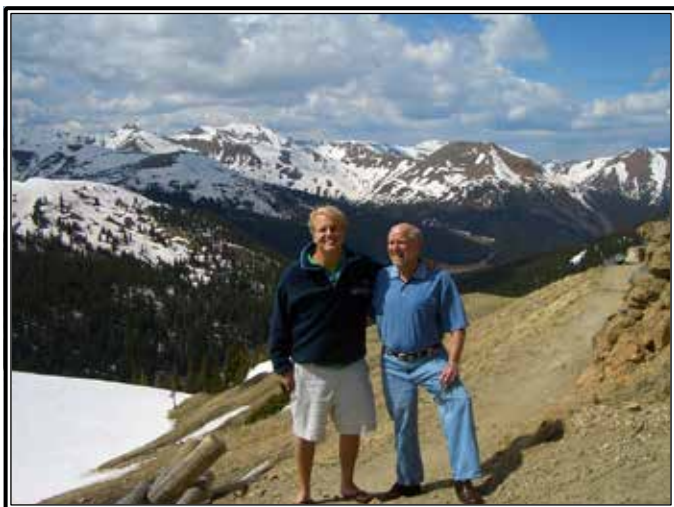
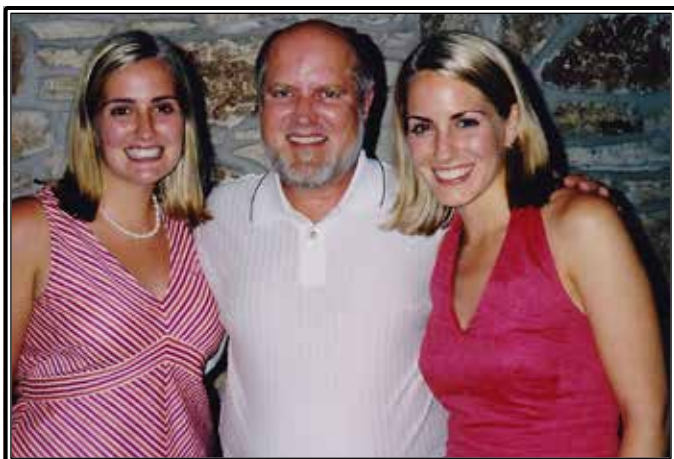
In 2013, Paul convinced Karen to leave their home in the Aspen valley and return to Beaumont so that he could practice law with his sons Ryan and Andy. He spent the past four years running the civil practice of the Gertz Law Firm – coming to work everyday to fight for people who had been injured or wronged – being the capable and compelling advocate he had always been.

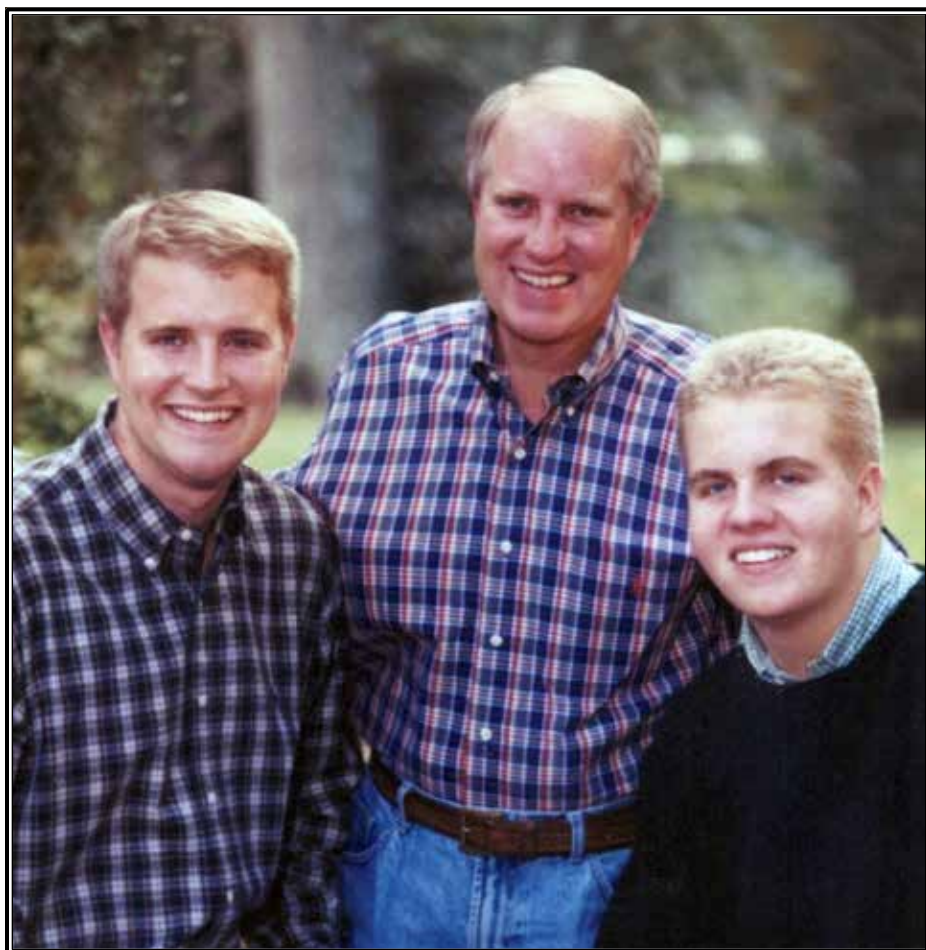
Paul loved history. He loved Abraham Lincoln. His favorite books were history books and crime novels. He loved to play golf with Karen, enjoyed painting, and working in his shop making furniture or molding items out of clay.

His children's memories include family trips all over the country, and nearly every year, each kid went on a trip with Dad by themselves. Paul took Andy camping in Alaska and Montana. He brought Ryan to San Francisco, and took him fishing and camping in Minnesota. Laura remembers a special trip to San Francisco. He took Jeanie to New York City and Washington, D.C.. While Laura and Jeanie were in college, he took them on a trip to Puerto Rico. Paul took Dayle to Mexico and Hawaii where they snorkeled and swam with sea turtles.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents Stanley Withington Gertz and Harriett Hill Gertz. He is survived by his loving wife Karen Bush Gertz and their daughter Dayle Duran, his sister Susan Gertz Harris, his children Ryan Withington and Stephanie Gertz, Vivek and Jeanie Gertz Mathew, Tony and Laura Gertz Hernandez, Andrew Paul and Catherine Gertz, his 15 grandchildren: Amelia, Caroline, Max, Julianna, Noah, Andrew, Matthew, Kalyani, Sam, Hannah, Eleanor, Charlie, Leena, Dorothy, and Benjamin.



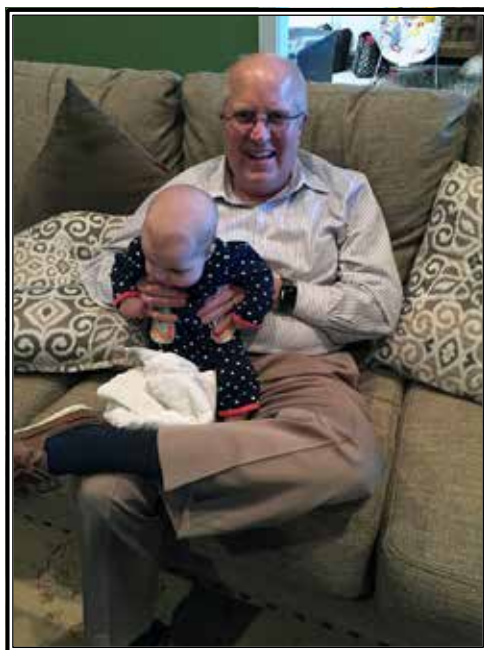




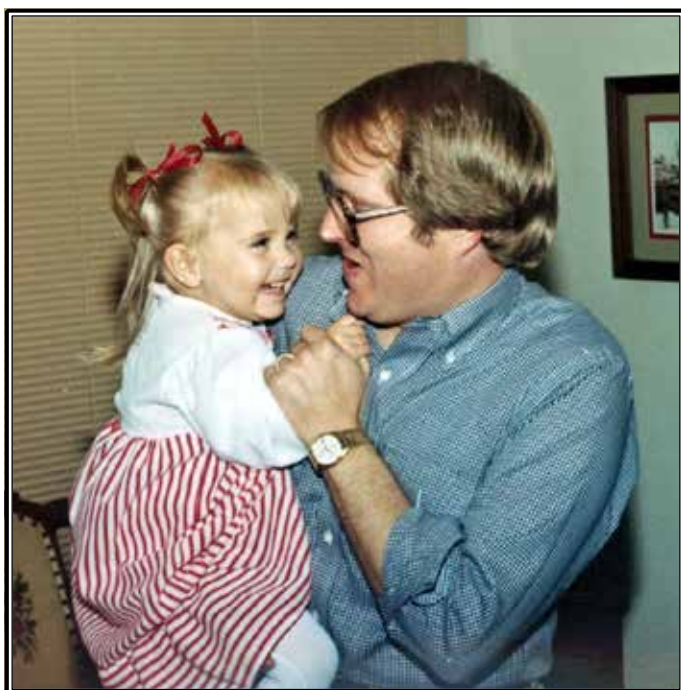


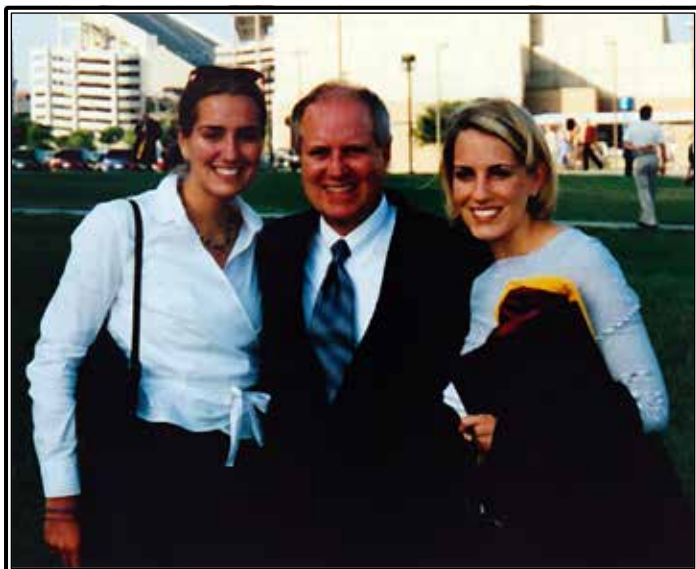












Pallbearers

Ryan Gertz
Andrew Gertz
Tony Hernandez
Vivek Mathew

Honorary Pallbearers

Jim Mehaffy
Joshua Allen

Memorial Contributions

Paul Withington Gertz Foundation
2630 Liberty
Beaumont, Texas 77702

All are invited to a reception to follow at:

*Broussard Centre
1775 Calder Street
Beaumont, Texas*



Please sign Mr. Gertz's guest book and share your memories at
www.broussards1889.com