

## Paul Backus

July 7, 1932 - June 27, 2016

Paul Backus, Age 83, June 27, 2016. He was born July 7, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan to the late Emin and Eva (nee Elias) Backus. He was the first Firefighter hired in Sterling Township. He retired as a Captain after 32 years with the Sterling Heights Fire Department. He was an avid hunter (bow and rifle) and golfer. He had a wonderful collection of wood ducks. He enjoyed his cabin up north, getting together with his family. and was also an active member at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Beloved husband of Gail. Loving father of Lynn M. (Mark) Michilli, Paul J., and Tina M. Backus. Dear grandfather of Alicia, Garret and Tristan Michilli and Shane Roediger. Dear brother of Josephine DeGeorge, Eva Gilbert, Peter (Gail) Backus, and Margaret (Mickey) Schwarzkoff. Family will receive friends at Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd.,(3 Blocks East of VanDyke), Utica, Thursday from 1:00 until 9:00 p.m.with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. Friday in state at 9:30 a.m. until time of his Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Rd., Utica. Burial St. Lawrence Cemetery. Memorials appreciated to St. Lawrence Catholic Church OR Michigan Fire Fighters Association. Please share a memory with his family at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

## St. Lawrence Cemetery

Auburn Road  
Utica, MI 48317

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 30.** 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Fire Department Pass \* Review

**JUN 30.** 6:00 PM (ET)

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8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
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## Prayer Service

JUN 30. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
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<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Funeral Mass

JUL 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
44633 Utica Road  
Utica, MI 48317

## In State

JUL 1. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
44633 Utica Road  
Utica, MI 48317

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ I served in the military with Paul 1952-54. We attended reunions many times after this. You couldn't find a more likable person than him. Very easy to get to know. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Rod Alexander

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**Rod Alexander** - August 09, 2016 at 03:49 PM

MT

“ My condolences to the family. Recall pleasant memories you shared with your loved one.  
May it comfort you to know that God is near to those that are broken at heart.-Psalms 34:18

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**Ms. Tuffy** - June 30, 2016 at 05:41 PM

MB

“ Uncle Paul will always be remembered for his love for his wife, achildren and grandchildren. He was devoted to his brothers and sisters. He will be sorely missed by our whole family.

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**Margaret Bosek** - June 30, 2016 at 09:47 AM

PT

“ Uncle Paul my Godfather will be missed. A true person who devoted his life to family, friends and public service. He helped me appreciate the love of the outdoors and was a genuine Michigan sportsman gifted with the love of nature. I will always admire him and he will always be in my heart.

Love,  
Nephew Paul Thomas

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**Paul Thomas** - June 30, 2016 at 09:28 AM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Backus.*



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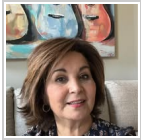
June 30, 2016 at 08:39 AM



“ *Uncle Paul will truly be missed. He was a gracious and humble man with a love for life. May the Lord surround his wife, children & grandchildren with comfort during this difficult time.*

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**Therese Ercolani** - June 30, 2016 at 07:44 AM



“ *My dad was an easy going man who loved life , his family and all his extended family more than anything , he was always there to help out anyone who needed it and always gave great advice , He would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it , he loved the outdoors and always believed in keeping fit . He loved to hunt ,play cards , golf and travel , but the most important thing to him was always all of his family He will be greatly missed hear on earth but we know we will all be together again*

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**Lynn Michilli** - June 29, 2016 at 02:47 PM

AL

“ I have known Paul all my life. one of things I remember was him showing me how tough a beavers lodge was. He explained how the beavers buit the dam and flooded some of his property. He went and stood on the dam showed me how well built it was. I know he was annoyed with the beavers but you could tell he was impressed with their work. Paul was my uncle and he was a role model and a surrogate father at times. I will forever be thankful for how he looked after me and so many others. To all who knew him i convey my sincerest condolences.

*Alan Le Blanc*

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**alan leblanc** - June 29, 2016 at 01:33 PM

RS

“ My condolences to the Backus family. My thoughts and prayers are with Tina and her family. I recently experienced a loss, my mother, so I know what the family must be going through. In these times, we can count on our heavenly Father to help us get through these times and know that our loved ones are in a far better place.

*Randy Schlueter (co-worker of Tina's)*

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**Randy Schlueter** - June 29, 2016 at 01:25 PM