



Paul Norman Rector

November 9, 1940 - March 21, 2026

We are saddened to announce the passing of Paul Norman Rector, who passed away peacefully on March 21, 2026, at the age of 85, with his family by his side.

Paul was born on November 9, 1940, in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. He graduated from Woodlawn High School in 1958, where he was actively involved in 4-H, basketball, the Web Town neighborhood baseball team, and was a proud member of FFA.

Following high school, Paul pursued his passion for barbering by attending barber college in Decatur, Illinois. He earned his barber certification in Belleville, Illinois, and later achieved his Master Barber License in Chicago, Illinois. In 1961, Paul purchased the Walnut Hill barbershop, where he faithfully served his community for nearly 60 years. His shop was more than just a place for haircuts—it was a gathering spot for local farmers and friends, and even served as a small general store, offering everything from chainsaws and car oil to sodas and candy.

In 1962, Paul married the love of his life, Linda Brookman. Together they built a home and life in Kell, Illinois, where they raised their five children and created a legacy of love and family.

Paul was deeply committed to his community and the land. He was an active member of the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District for many years and was honored in 2018 with the Conservation Farm Family Award. His dedication to conservation included establishing field buffers to provide

habitat for quail. Paul also served as a Trustee of Raccoon Township Board for 30 years.

A man of strong faith, Paul was a devoted member of Temple Baptist Church in Centralia, where he was ordained in 1966, and faithfully served as a deacon for many years. He later became a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, where he continued his service as a deacon until health issues led him to step back in his later years.

Paul is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Linda Rector of Kell, Illinois; his five children, Dinah Owen and husband Darrell of Kell, Illinois, Cris Rector of Centralia, Illinois, Rich Rector and wife Gwen of Bloomington, Illinois, Shelia Byrd and husband Tim of Evansville, Indiana, and Andy Rector and wife Karla of Centralia, Illinois. He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren, Justin Owen, Matt and Haley Owen, Courtney Owen, Mackenzie Rector, Reid Rector, Ashley Byrd, Nathan Byrd, Maggie Byrd, Braden Rector, Drake Rector, and Jaxon Rector; six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Jo Alice Walker of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and Shirley Huff of Elkhart, Illinois; and many nieces and nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Minnie Rector; his brothers, Wilford Rector and Donald Rector; sisters, Wilma Larson, Thelma Rector, Roberta Gaskins, Carol Maller, and Mary Kay Sumner; and grandson, Stephen Bradford.

Paul found great joy in spending time with friends and family, camping, and attending gospel singings. He was widely known for his dedication to farming and his deep love for his work as a barber—a profession he dearly missed after his retirement. His family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the nurses Chloe, Mary, and Laura, in the ICU at St. Mary's Hospital in Centralia, Illinois, for their help and support while caring for Paul. He will be remembered for his unwavering faith, strong work ethic, and the love he had for his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services for Mr. Rector will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, March 30, 2026, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, with Rev. Jerry

Montgomery and Rev. Jason Webb officiating. Burial will follow at Zion Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be held Sunday, March 29, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at Osborn Funeral Home in Dix. Memorial gifts may be made to Zion Grove Cemetery, or to the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Building Fund, and will be accepted at the service, or by mail to the Osborn Funeral Home, P.O. Box 130, Dix, Illinois 62830. Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com, or on the Osborn Funeral Home Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

Zion Grove Cemetery

Kell, IL 62853

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Osborn Funeral Home
322 North Main Street
Dix, IL 62830
(618) 266-7231
office@osbornfuneral.com
<https://www.osbornfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
19479 IL-37
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Norman Rector.*



March 29 at 04:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul Norman Rector.*



March 28 at 06:37 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Norman Rector.*



March 27 at 09:39 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Norman Rector.*

March 27 at 09:39 AM

GT

“ Great Crossing Girls Lacrosse Team purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



Great Crossing Girls Lacrosse Team - March 27 at 08:49 AM

GT

“ Great Crossing Girls Lacrosse Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Norman Rector.

Great Crossing Girls Lacrosse Team - March 27 at 08:49 AM

GA

“ Greg & Stacy Aldridge purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



Greg & Stacy Aldridge - March 26 at 07:00 PM

GA

“ Greg & Stacy Aldridge planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Norman Rector.

Greg & Stacy Aldridge - March 26 at 07:00 PM

SF

“ Susan, Allison & Casey Owen & Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



Susan, Allison & Casey Owen & Family - March 26 at 02:55 PM

BF

“ Byrd Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



Byrd Family - March 26 at 01:10 PM

BF

“ Byrd Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Norman Rector.

Byrd Family - March 26 at 01:10 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



March 25 at 07:40 PM

BT

“ Barry & Jone Allen, Shanna & Tiffany purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



Barry & Jone Allen, Shanna & Tiffany - March 25 at 01:39 PM



“ 40 files added to the album Life Tributes



Osborn Funeral Home - March 25 at 11:18 AM

RW

“ Always enjoyed talking with Paul at the barber shop, or when I delivered propane to him. He was a good man! May he rest in peace! condolences to his family.

Rick Wethington - March 24 at 08:45 PM

WD

“ With love Todd and Debbie purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



With love Todd and Debbie - March 24 at 11:45 AM

WD

“ With love Todd and Debbie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Norman Rector.

With love Todd and Debbie - March 24 at 11:45 AM

WM

“ William and Deronda Medlin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Paul Norman Rector.



William and Deronda Medlin - March 23 at 11:11 PM

WM

“ William and Deronda Medlin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Norman Rector.

William and Deronda Medlin - March 23 at 11:11 PM