



# Paul Joseph Hebert

APR 1, 1933 - MAY 15, 2024



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# Paul Joseph Hebert

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**P**aul Joseph Hebert, 91, a native of Louisiana and long-time resident of Miami, Florida, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, in Lakeland, Florida.

Paul was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 1, 1933, the youngest of eight children, to Edith and Albert Hebert. He went to high school at St. Aloysius High School, earned his undergraduate degree at Loyola University, and his graduate degree in Meteorology at Florida State University. Upon graduating from Florida State in 1959, Paul worked as an aviation forecaster for the Weather Bureau in New Orleans, where he met Margaret Fisher, whom he married in 1963.

In 1966, Paul and Margaret moved to Miami, Florida, where they would go on to raise five children. The move to Miami was initiated when the National Hurricane Center (NHC) hired Paul to work in the hurricane forecast unit. Soon afterwards he accepted a newly created position at the NHC, titled Hurricane Specialist, along with two other renowned meteorologists, Dr. Neil Frank and John Hope. Over the next 32 years, Paul was promoted to the roles of Deputy Director of the NHC, Meteorologist-In-Charge, and head of National Weather Service operations in Florida. He remained with the NWS until his retirement in 1998.

On July 6, 1998, Paul's last day of duty after 40 years with the National Weather Service, then Miami-Dade mayor Alex Penelas proclaimed the date Paul J. Hebert Day, as he was awarded the keys to the city for his 32 years of outstanding service to the citizens of Miami-Dade County. Paul also worked in the field of lightning research when he was not involved in hurricane season and general weather forecasting. He is credited with having two distinct regions of the tropical Atlantic Ocean named for him, called Hebert Boxes, which are predictors of hurricanes striking the South Florida region. After retiring from the Weather Service, Paul worked as a weather consultant for Florida Power & Light on hurricanes and freezes from 1998 to 2008.

Paul is survived by Margaret, his wife of over 60 years; his five children - Mary (Anthony), John, Margaret, Paul (Eden), and Stephen (Kiyoe); his grandchildren - Jeffrey (Leah), Andrew (Ana), and



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Ian (Hannah); and great grandchildren - Lacey, Gavin, Melody, and Jasen. He is also survived by many admiring nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Albert Hebert; brothers Albert, James, and Charles; and sisters Edith, Marie, Estelle, and Ruth.

A long-time member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in South Miami, Paul was a man of great faith and served as a Eucharistic minister at Sunday Mass for many years. He enjoyed league bowling with his coworkers and was an avid golfer in his younger years. He was fond of mentioning, from time to time, that he once won a Volkswagen Beetle in a hole-in-one contest in New Orleans. Weather may have been his passion since childhood, but he was primarily a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Covenant House Florida or Tunnel to Towers Foundation.



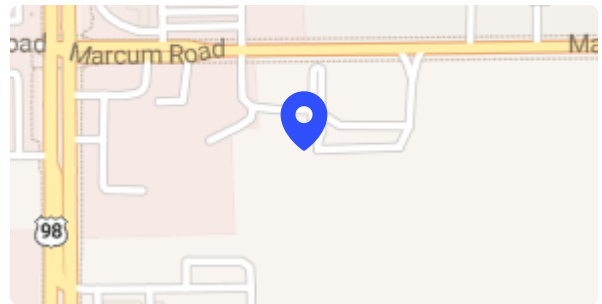
# Events

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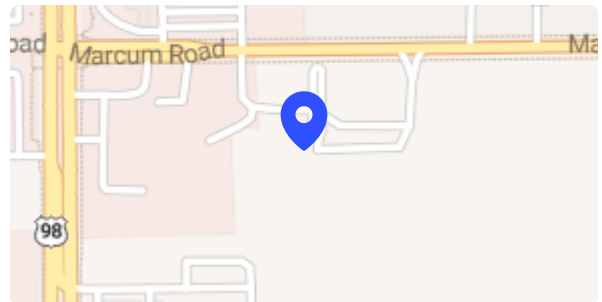
## Visitation

- Tuesday**, May 21, 2024
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- St. Anthony's Catholic Church**  
820 Marcum Road, Lakeland FL



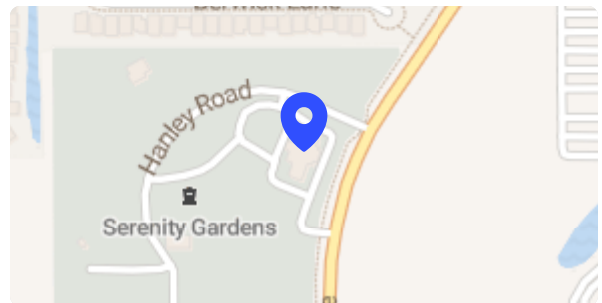
## Mass of the Ressurrection

- Tuesday**, May 21, 2024
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET
- St. Anthony's Catholic Church**  
820 Marcum Road, Lakeland FL



## Cemetery Details

- Serenity Gardens**  
3350 Mall Hill Drive, Lakeland FL 33810





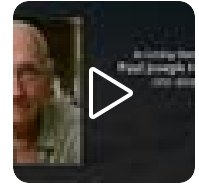
# Tribute Wall

**Paul Joseph Hebert**

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**Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes** shared a **Video**.



May 18 at 4:28 AM



**Bernard Esposito** November 16 at 1:11 AM

Sorry to hear the passing of Paul. He was a good man and a good MIC. He is now watching down at us during this hurricane season.



**James Lushine** posted:

What a genius meteorologist. Created the hebert-poteat subtropical technique and so much more. We worked together for 25+ years, bowled, golfed and talked weather. Always be indented to you.

August 3 at 1:56 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Hebert family.



May 20 at 8:15 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Ira Brenner** posted:

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Paul Hebert. One struggles with being able to find the right words that would even begin to truly comfort those that have been affected by a great loss such as that of Paul Hebert. Whether it be family, friends or acquaintances, the loss of this wonderful, brilliant and humble man leaves much sadness and a huge void. And I will add that this is true also for all those hearts and lives that Paul touched during his life's journey. My friendship with Paul began when a young me was transferred from the highly non-tropical Phoenix Arizona Weather Office to the Weather Service Forecast Office/National Hurricane Center in Miami. It did not take long to see that Paul was a man with extraordinary meteorological knowledge and skills, and I could not learn enough from him. Those were the days when computer generated weather forecasts and satellite imagery, especially for tropical storms and hurricanes were rather slow and basic, and certainly primitive by today's standards. But Paul could look at very limited available data and combine that with the vast "database" in his head from his meteorological experience, and know what will happen. He became my mentor and friend. We were honored to have him attend our wedding. Back in the early days of home computers, Paul admittedly said that learning how to use a computer was a challenge for him. So he often preferred to continue to do his meteorology the old fashioned way – hand drawn charts, data plotting, and analysis – rather than use a computer. Paul finally gave in and bought a home computer. I remember one time soon after that purchase, he told me he was having a problem with the coffee cup holder on his new home PC being stuck. Not being sure what he was referring to, I followed him home after work to take a look at it. Turns out it was the CD tray on his PC that was stuck and would not slide open! When I was the Meteorologist in Charge of the Tampa/Ruskin Florida Weather Forecast Office, Paul was my supervising Area Manager, and helped me in so many ways with his kindness, advice, and encouragement. As my retirement approached, Paul groomed me and paved the way for me to be his successor as the meteorologist at Florida Power and Light - a position Paul held for many years following his retirement from the National Weather Service. He could have chosen any one of the hundreds of capable meteorologists he knew, but he chose me and I will never forget that. We all go through life the best we can, but few do it in a way that leaves an indelible mark on so many others like Paul Hebert did. In my eyes, he was a giant in his profession, his family, and as my mentor and friend. The pain and anguish of this loss is heartbreaking. And additionally for me, hurricane seasons from now on will not ever be the same without my being able to ask Paul Hebert what he thinks will happen. We can all take comfort in knowing that Paul will carry great merit with him for all his countless acts of love, kindness, and encouragement, and for all the acts of love, kindness, and encouragement that he inspired in so many others. Ira and Pamela Brenner

May 17 at 8:31 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the Hebert family.



May 17 at 8:31 AM



## Media

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May 18 at 4:28 AM



**Bernard Esposito** November 16 at 1:11 AM

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# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Paul by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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