

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DECEASED’S NAME:** | | Paul Leon Selonke | | **KNOWN AS:** | Paul |
| **DATE:** | 140820 | **TIME** | 1400 extended (2pm) | **PLACE:** | Bournemouth Crematorium |
| **FUNERAL DIRECTOR:** | | Bob Bowater | | **SWAN CEREMONIES** | Jonathan Martin, accompanied by Maike Helmers |
| **VISIT ATTENDEES:** | | Beate Selonke (wife) Freddy (frederick) Selonke | | | |
| **E-MAIL ADDRESSES/ PHONE NUMBERS:** | | Beate 0753 908 0436 [bselonke@btinternet.com](mailto:bselonke@btinternet.com)  Freddy [fselonke@yahoo.com](mailto:fselonke@yahoo.com) | | | |

**RESOURCES,**

Candle to be lit in memory of those who have predeceased Paul, especially his father Leon (SWAN)

Asperges

Webcast, Family, Head and Wheble, Local Authority

**Draft Order of Service**

**Music In,**  2nd Movement from Mozart’s clarinet concerto in A

**Welcome,**

Beata, Freddy

Mum, Florence, family and friends in the USA, Germany elsewhere in the world

**Information**

When I met Beata and Freddy they were kind enough to introduce me to some of Paul’s friends. Though seemingly reserved it was clear that when Paul became embedded amongst his buddies he was highly thought of. Gentle, and a gentleman, Paul always looked for opportunities to do those he had come to care for a good turn. If he could help you he would. Spotting a practical task that you hadn’t yet done, he would count it a privilege to produce the part, and fix the problem. This was just one of the ways he looked after his friends, demonstrating his care and love for them.

Amongst the group of 8-12 guys with whom Paul enjoyed spending time, and with whose families Paul and Beate came to enjoy spending time, Paul, or Pauly carved out his own role, designing the annual and extensive pub crawl, and inviting all of his buddies and their partners to take a seat on his lap, when he embraced the role of Father Christmas each year up till last.

Retaining his American accent to the end, or speaking Cannuck (for Wisconsin is just across the border) he retained his sense of identity with his birthplace, looking forward immensely to High School Reunions, and to catching up with friends and family.

Life as a GI had taken him to Berlin, where his taste in beer gravitated towards Weissbeer, in all its incarnations, green or red. He enjoyed the openness of German society and valued taking his English buddies into Berlin, always disappearing at some part of the evening to find himself a kaybab. Life was good with Pauley say his friends. He was unassuming, incredibly loyal to those he called friend, going with his mates wherever they took him, even kayaking when he hated water, and did not swim, but since he friends wanted to go he went to, and revelled in the moment, even if he was floating in the water.

In life he was a little bit like that, you caught sight of him bobbing on the surface, but did not unless you stopped long enough and he came to trust you, experience his intensity of character. Deeply thoughtful and reflective it took him time to vocalise his thoughts, his doubts, his convictions, but amongst those closest to him friends or family he found the confidence to do just that, and their lives were truly enriched as his was by your affection and love. In a moment I will light a candle. It is in memory of Paul, yes, but also of his father Leon, and all those who have been part of his life who have predeceased him. At the end of the ceremony the candle will be extinguished a sign that a life is ended, but the candles here remain alight a sign that by the grace of God love triumphs, and the legacy of Paul’s love lives with you forever.

**Introduction**

Candle lit, dad Leon, and others who have predeceased Paul

**Blessing (Asperges, and Holy Water)**

Merciful Father, by your Son’s suffering, death, and rising from the dead, we are freed from death and promised a share in your divine life.. We ask you now to bless this coffin. Receive the soul of our departed brother Paul who is laid in this humble bed as in a cradle, safe in your care until the day of resurrection, when we will all be reunited in the vision of your glory who are Father, Son, and Spirit, one God forever and ever

**Opening Prayer**

Eternal rest grant unto Paul, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon him and all the departed

.

May they rest in peace, and rise in Glory. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer (Catholic)**

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.

**A Brief Remembrance of Paul’s Life**

Paul's Vita

Paul was born on the 24.10.1961 in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, USA, to Florence and Leon Selonke. He has an older brother called Philip and a younger sister called Ellen. He and his family lived near Hawkins, Wisconsin on a farm. His parents were running a dairy farm, round about 40 cows, which required all their attention - milking, feeding, growing crops to produce silage, taking care of the cows, looking after the machinery, the house and barns. He lived a very work intense childhood and youth. He wasn't privileged to go to all sorts of sport clubs or cinemas or friend's houses. He grew up in an age when demanding physical work was normal for children - helping at the harvest, getting up early to help milking before going to school and after school. Paul mentioned a few times that he wished he could have gone to a baseball or football club. In his spare time as a child and teenager he loved to read, listen to the radio and especially as a teenager started to get into pop music.

After his high school diploma he joined the army. He could have gone to college but wanted to see the world a bit first. His father had served in the army and during the Korean war so he had an idea what to expect. After the first 2 years as a private in the States he was sent overseas and as much as hoped for Italy it became Germany, Berlin. He was working at the motor pole being very keen on cars, trucks, engines in general.

In May 1984 we met through mutual friends at a party and started to date till he had to return home in September 1985. During the following month we both realized that we wanted to stay together, I had started my studies for veterinary medicine in Sept 1984 and couldn't just go to the States. But Paul was very keen to return to Berlin. He knew he could work as a civilian for the American forces. He had really fallen for Berlin, the much more versatile life style, the new German friends he had met. We moved together in May 1986 and lived in our first, 1 bed room flat in the center of West Berlin for approx 10 years.

I started working in the early 1990's as a vet in the UK while Paul was still working for the forces in Berlin. We had regular times apart, testing our relationship. In 1993 we decided to get married. We married in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. We eventually left Berlin / our flat in 1998. I was working in Banstead, Surrey at the time and we decided to buy our first house in Surbiton with the view to start a family. Our son Frederick was born in July 1999 and a good year later we moved to Bournemouth to move into our own practice premises.

Bournemouth became our real second home after Berlin - a perfect size, full of interesting, intelligent, fun loving people and beautiful country side and beaches. I was working full time while Paul was looking after our beautiful young son. He was challenged with cooking healthy meals, building kilometers of brio train tracks and teaching the alphabet, taking Freddy to school, to the scouts, to piano lessons, to fencing, to swimming. On weekends he would fix the house, do the accounts or help me with emergency calls ( he became quite a good veterinary technician !). In the 2010's he was mainly a dad and I was a working mum but we settled down and both made wonderful new friendships, both with their very own dynamics. The veterinary practice was running successfully, we worked hard but also enjoyed plenty of good holidays, often with friends together, wonderful trips to Austria, Florida, Nevada, California, Henley, Italy to name a few.

Paul was very popular among his friends due to his generosity to help, to listen, to be there and to be a bit mad at times ( in a fun way). He was a very good host though often needed a bit of persuasion to agree to a party. He loved music and dancing to it. He sometimes did very mad things when challenged by friends or beer ( lets not mention pools and phones...). He took a while to really trust people, was initially shy and skeptical but 150 % of a friend when he liked someone. In Feb 2019 we retired after selling the practices. At that stage Paul found life not always so easy, was more weary of the political changes in the UK, found work and dealing with people stressful and started to be more withdrawn and isolated himself. With hind side I think that were the first signs of his horrible disease which surfaced in November 2019. The horrific diagnosis didn't leave much hope but for a little while he was fighting his faith. Since May we knew that treatment had failed, luckily Paul knew very little of his decline, he gently slipped into dreams, long sleep and unawareness. He carried a gentle smile on his face after he left, he really looked in peace.

**Bible Reading, John 14:1-6**

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Hymn, The Lord is my Shepherd (Crimond),** to be sung by a soloist or choir

**Tribute, Beate Selonke**

Dear Family, Friends, dearest Frederick

My last speech at our silver wedding anniversary two years ago described how lucky Paul and I have been in life. How we managed to form a pretty well-balanced partnership – He the cautious, careful, doubtful, content introvert - I the enthusiastic, risk taking, trusting, restless extrovert. The balance allowed us to make decisions which led to a comfortable, happy and fulfilled life. It included hard work, stressful and sometimes unhappy times but overall we did well.

Paul was different! Paul was doubtful, he would take a long time to adjust to a new situation, to new people, to new places. He was not the spontaneous, positive embracing type but carefully observing, suspicious and lingering till **he** decided **if he** was happy with something or someone. Once he liked someone, he would give everything, was not holding back, would open his heart, wasn’t ashamed to show tears or do very stupid things, sometimes over and over again…. Vailes pool!!! We all loved him for his mad moments, his crazy dancing, his smile and twinkly eyes.

He was very faithful, honest, sensitive, caring, intelligent, funny but sometimes stubborn, grumpy, moaning. His much loved Volvo came with a number plate which read : MOAN – such a perfect match!

-2-

He was a complex personality – so full of doubt about himself! He often could not see that he was just a wonderful man who touched so many by simply being generous with warmth, love, kindness, taking a real interest in his friends. He was anything but superficial but looked at himself sometimes very superficially and felt insecure, did not feel he was good enough for me or his friends. He never took anything for granted, had a very fine instinct for fairness and was a good listener especially to tearful ladies…. Lisa, Nina to name some.

In so many ways he was simply a beautiful human being!

The last 8 month were undoubtedly the hardest time of my life. The sudden, terminal diagnoses, the limitation of time, the break down of normality, the gradual loss of communication, the often uncontrollable anger, fear, pain and sadness.

Your life suddenly runs passed you; you remember so many episodes from your early years and question if you did take the right path. You analyse and review your relationship and your life ….. why now ? To protect yourself ? And you realize what you did not do together as a family or couple, you regret wasted time.

-3-

I found immense reassurance when talking to our closest friends and reflecting with them our life. The look from the outside and an honest opinion can give you so much peace of mind!

Nobody will be free of fundamental questions and worries when you come to this final chapter in your partnership and current life. Even worse when communication with your partner is disrupted by illness or tainted by fear, depression and anger.

I think the only reason Freddy and I managed to cope was due to the amazing, unbelievable support we had. The outburst of love, care and kindness felt like a warm blanket covering us from a cold, harsh hand trying to grab our throats and hearts. I only had very few moments of panic or fear of isolation. The 3 of us experienced a constant flow of calls, letters, texts, parcels, flowers from all over the world to ensure we were ok, not drowning in grief, sharing incredibly special memories with Paul, trying to be positive and praying for a miracle. Litres of gin and wine, tons of tissues, very patient ears and kind advice was given. Paul was flooded with beer, had a lavish turkey dinner and delicious cakes.

-4-

Grief is an incredible complex emotion which really ambushed and kidnapped me for a while and is still present. I think of myself as a controlled, practical, tough, pragmatic person – I have seen so many heart-breaking moments in my professional life. But nothing prepared me for this drastic change in our life, the eminent breakdown of this firm, fused, deep union of 36 years. But life will carry on.

Life is a river and our partnership flowed into a beautiful, deep lake filled with everything you could wish for and plentiful for one lifetime. The river will take Freddy and me now to new shores, hopefully free of turbulence for a long while, just a gentle flow. I know all our amazing friends we meet in the last 36 years and which were always OUR friends will continue to be our friends and keep our memories of Paul alive.

**Music for Reflection,** Dusty Springfield, If You go away

**Prose,** Freddy Selonke , tbc (there may also be a personal tribute that Freddy wishes to include ..**possibly page 3 only**)

Jonathan to read selection from George Carlin

essage by George Carlin

Jaehan Koh

December 2,2A09

This is a brilliant ntessage that worth reading by GEORGE CARLIN, a comedian of the 1970's and 1980's in the United States. He was born in the analog age and died in 2008 but his words remain precious in the digital

age.

A WONDERFUL MESSAGE BY GEORGE CARLIN

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, yet more

problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've

conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait.

We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies

than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep proflts and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing

in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit "delete." Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not

going to be around forever.

Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember to say, "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes

from deep inside ofyou.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that per- son will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the mo- ments that take our breath awav.

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

l. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height.

Let the doctor worry about them. That is why you pay him/her.

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

.3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's work-

shop." And the devil's nanre is Alzheimer's.

4. Enjoy the simple things,

5. Laugh ofiben, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Flndure, grieve, and move on. The only person who

is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself w-ith what you love, whether it's family, pets, keep- sakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve

it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. f)on't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, to the next county, to a

foreigr country, but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments

that take our breath away.

**Words of Farewell, Commendation and Committal**

**Music Out,** American Pie, Don McLean

**Notes**

* **A printed order of service is requested for those attending from Head and Wheble**
* **A webcast is requested which may be of value to family and friends in the USA, Germany and elsewhere in the world**
* **All music to be played in full.**
* **Jonathan to wear suit, clerical shirt and collar. Designation for the Order of Service is the Revd Canon Jonathan Martin of Swift Ceremonies.**
* **A mass has been said for Paul at his mother’s church in Wisconsin.**
* **The reception is to be held at a neighbour’s home. Those attending have been advised**
* **Numbers attending have been advised to Head and Wheble.**
* **A printed order of service is requested.**
* **A decision is to be made as to whether the catafalque is to be lowered.**
* **Flowers are to be placed on the coffin.**
* **A photograph is to be placed in front of the coffin.**
* **You are very kindly going to provide me with the names of some of Paul’s friends and their contact details.**
* **Please make any changes you would like and feel able to contact me at any time.**
* **Jonathan Martin 07525 006042**

**Notes**

**Paul Leon Selonke was born Oct, 24, 1961, to Leon and Florence Selonke. He passed away at his home in Bournsmouth, Great Britain on Thursday, July 16,2020.**

**Paul graduated from the Flambeau School in 1980. He enlisted in the Army, spending two years in the States and then the last two years in Berlin, Germany, where he met his future wife, Beate Friedl.**

**Paul and Beate were married in 1993 in England. Beate, being a veterinarian, they purchased the veterinarian business in Bournsmouth, England.**

**They have one son, Frederick Philip, born in 1999. In 2019, Paul and Beate sold their business and retired.**

**Paul is survived by his wife, Beate; son, Frederick; Paul's mother, Florence; brother, Philip; sister, Ellen (James) Hoyt; niece, Jennifer, and aunts and cousins. He is also survived by Beat's parents Edvard and Gisla Friedl of Berlin, Germany.**