



## Paul K. Kottke

January 26, 1925 - March 1, 2011

Paul K. Kottke, 86, of Fond du Lac, died Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at home. He was born on January 26, 1925, in Fond du Lac, a son of Daniel T. and Elsa L. Goetsch Kottke. Paul attended St. Peter's Lutheran Grade School and graduated from Winnebago Lutheran Academy in 1942. Paul began United States Army Air Force training in May of 1943, at Shepherd Field in Wichita Falls, Texas. He did his solo flight at Victory Field, Vernon, Texas, basic training at Enid Air Field in Oklahoma, and graduated as Second Lt. from Altus Army Air Field in Oklahoma on August 4, 1944. He later graduated as a B-24 bomber pilot while at Liberal Army Air Field, Liberal, Kansas. He entered the Air Transport Command ferrying bombers to Scotland and was an instructor for B-29 flight engineers. After being discharged in November of 1945, he remained in the Reserves until he retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1985. He enrolled at Ripon College and was a member of Omega Sigma Chi Fraternity. He graduated in June of 1949 (one year credit for military service) with a B.A. in economics and mathematics. On August 21, 1948, he married Audrey Meta Kielsmeier at St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Gail and Alan. Paul worked at Vulcan Manufacturing Company (drafting and estimating) from June of 1949 to June of 1953, when he resumed his studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, graduating with a B.S. in civil engineering in June of 1956. He returned to Vulcan as an estimator. Upon prior owner's death on New Year's Day, 1970, Paul became a co-owner of the company until he became sole

owner in 1984. Paul retired in February of 1991 after 42 years. After retiring, he worked part-time with Badger State Auto Auction, Woods Floral & Gifts, and Bergstrom Dealership. Paul was a charter member of Luther Memorial Church, where he served as an usher, president, school board chairman, choir member, and served on building committees for the local congregation and synod. He was a member of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club since February 4, 1958; the Kilowatt Club since January of 1970; Oakridge Conservation Club, serving also as their president; and South Hills County Club for over 31 years. Paul enjoyed attending American Institute of Steel Construction conventions, and he was also president of Central Fabricators Association for a number of years. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing bridge, hunting, sailing, golfing, skiing, snowmobiling, and bowling. Paul was an avid Packer and Badger fan and enjoyed reading. He is survived by two children: Gail (Daniel) Schaefer of Madison, and Alan (Annette) Kottke of Fond du Lac; five grandchildren: Jeremy and Mary Schaefer, and Bryan, Lauren, and Emma Kottke; and two sisters-in-law: Mrs. David Kottke-Lem (Janet), and Mrs. Daniel Kottke (Joanne). He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Audrey on March 19, 2006; and two brothers: David M. and Daniel G. Kottke. A memorial victory service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at Luther Memorial Church, 134 21st Street, Fond du Lac, with Rev. Neal Radichel officiating. Cremation will take place with burial in Rienzi Cemetery. The family will greet friends and relatives from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2011, at Mach Funeral Chapel & Crematory, 31 E. Division Street, Fond du Lac, and on Saturday at church from 10:30 a.m. until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Luther Memorial Church.

# Tribute Wall

RF

“ Dear Gail and Alan,  
Your loss is your father's gain. Thanks be to God who has given him the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.  
We thank the Lord for Paul's steadfast faith and his stalwart confession.

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Rev. Daniel Fleischer - March 06, 2011 at 04:06 PM

RM

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Rev. Daniel Fleischer of St. Paul, MN - March 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Dear Gail and Alan and families:  
I pray that God our heavenly Father give you comfort in knowing that your Dad is home with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! II Tim 4:2-8, esp v 8. Henceforh there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.  
Paul and Audry hosted me during one of the Delegate Conferences held there. I remember them as young vibrant servants of their loving God serving Him well! It isn't every morning that fresh fruit is served with breakfast.  
Paul has joined the Church Triumphant, reunited in the grandest of all "Family Reunions" at the Heavenly Banquet Table! Oh the joy for him.

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Bruce Templeton - March 04, 2011 at 07:14 PM

FR

“ Sorry to hear about Uncle Paul passing. My deepest sympathy to Gail and Allen and the rest of your family. Wish I could be there, but I will be thinking of you both and all the great memories I have of visiting your family on the lake.  
Fritz

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**Fritz Reinman** - March 04, 2011 at 11:55 AM

FW

“ Sorry to hear about Uncle Paul passing. My deepest sympathy to Gail and Allen and the rest of your family. Wish I could be there, but I will be thinking of you both and all the great memories I have of visiting your family on the lake.Fritz

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**Fritz Reinman of Maple Valley, WA** - March 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BW

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**Bruce Templeton of Fitchburg, WI** - March 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ My sincerest condolences to your family. I will always remember and cherish the memories I have of our conversations over at Schaub's and your awesome sense of humor. As a member of the "Greatest Generation" you had my utmost respect. I am certain you will reunite with your past friends and family in heaven and of course, when you get a minute, you will "build one" and relax. Thanks for the memories and your friendship. Rick Gomoll & Family.

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**Rick Gomoll** - March 03, 2011 at 10:52 PM

PK

“ We wish to express our sympathies to your family -- we know that times such as this are both sorrowful and yet full of rejoicing. May God be with you in your sorrow -- and remind you of His promises! "Because I live, you shall live also!"

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**Pastor Paul and Collette Krause** - March 03, 2011 at 08:39 PM

CS

“ My deepest sympathies to the family of Paul. Paul was a wonderful man that took a true interest in everyone he met. I met Paul when I started deer hunting 25 years ago at the age of 12. I enjoyed many successful deer hunts with Paul as well as many fond memories, including riding shotgun with Paul heading up north on an annual basis for many years. He was kind hearted, energetic, and always a joy to be around. God Bless you Paul, you will be sadly missed.  
Chad

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**Chad Steenberg** - March 03, 2011 at 05:14 PM

BR

“ Paul K. Kottke

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**Bernice Rademann** - March 03, 2011 at 02:36 PM

MP

“My wife Anne and I offer our condolences to the family and other friends for our loss of Paul. We will deeply miss our Dear Friend and Neighbor. We appreciated Paul for his direct, outspoken and thoughtful character and will miss his being with us at our evening lakeside gatherings. We will think of him often while watching the beautiful sunsets. “Give Audrey our best and enjoy your place with the angels.”

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**Mike and Anne Paradies** - March 03, 2011 at 09:12 AM

CW

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**Chad Steenberg of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin** - March 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PW

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**Pastor Paul and Collette Krause of Markesan, WI** - March 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

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**Rick Gomoll of Kohler, WI** - March 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM