



Col. Paul Edward Gentry, US Army (Ret.)

November 17, 1933 - November 4, 2025

In Loving Memory of Paul Gentry

Paul Gentry, a devoted husband, father, soldier, friend, educator, and man of deep faith, passed away on November 4, 2025, in Huntsville, Texas, at the age of 91. Born on November 17, 1933, in Little Rock, Arkansas, Paul lived a life marked by service, integrity, and steadfast commitment to his family, his country, and his Lord.

Paul's leadership and love for tradition were evident early in life. He served as Combined Band Commander of the Texas Aggie Band from 1954 to 1955, an honor that reflected both his character and his dedication to excellence.

A proud American, Paul served in the United States Army from 1956 until 1982, answering every call of duty with courage and humility. Throughout the Cold War he served in critical assignments, including a tour of duty in West Germany during the tense and defining period when the Berlin Wall was erected. He completed two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal in recognition of his valor and distinguished service. His career reflected the highest traditions of the Army and the enduring spirit of those who stand watch for freedom.

After his military retirement, Paul continued his life of service through education. From 1982 to 2001, he taught at Sam Houston State University, investing in the lives of his students with the same discipline, mentorship, and quiet leadership that characterized his military career. He also gave of himself to his church and community, serving as a deacon at Elkins Lake Baptist

Church, where his faith and gentle strength were a source of encouragement to many. He also served for many years at the Veterans' Museum in Huntsville, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Melba Gentry, and by his parents, Mary and Howard Gentry. He is survived by his beloved wife, Katherine Gentry and her daughter and three sons and their families; his son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Carolyn Gentry; his son and daughter-in-law, Don and Patti Gentry; his brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Barbara Gentry; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews, all of whom were a source of immense pride and joy. To his family, he was a steady hand and a warm heart—husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Above all, Paul loved Jesus. His life bore witness to that love in the way he served others, met hardship with courage, and treated every person with respect and kindness. His legacy will live on in the family he cherished, the students he taught, the soldiers he served alongside, and the community he strengthened through faithful service.

Paul's was a life well-lived, anchored in faith, devoted to family, and distinguished by honor. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered. The family thanks Visiting Angels, Oasis Hospice and Creekside Retirement Community for their loving care, and requests that in lieu of flowers please make a donation to H.E.A.R.T. Veterans' Museum in Huntsville, Texas. Paul will be remembered at a memorial service to be held at Elkins Lake Baptist Church in Huntsville, Texas, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, 2025.

Cemetery Details

Brooke Cemetery

672 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Brooke Cemetery
672 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77320

Memorial Service

NOV 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Elkins Lake Baptist Church
206 SH-19 N
Huntsville, TX 77340

Tribute Wall

HM

“ I joined SHSU faculty in 1999 and for two years enjoyed the fellowship that developed between me and a great fellow Aggie. I remember Paul as a steady and positive influence on me as a new faculty member. Sending deep condolences to all who were close to this true servant of our Creator.

HENRY MADDUX - November 14, 2025 at 12:32 PM

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“ - The Rife Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Col. Paul Edward Gentry, US Army (Ret.).



- The Rife Family - November 07, 2025 at 03:14 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Col. Paul Edward Gentry, US Army (Ret.).



November 05, 2025 at 05:22 PM

TC

“ The Bryan Business Council planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Col. Paul Edward Gentry, US Army (Ret.).

The Bryan Business Council - November 05, 2025 at 05:22 PM

VS

“ Paul and I were colleagues at SHSU from the time I joined the faculty in 1990 until his retirement. He was a good friend, and we enjoyed many rounds of golf together during the 1990s. I know this is a difficult time for Paul's family and friends, but we are comforted that he died in the faith.

Victor Sower - November 05, 2025 at 12:42 PM

MF

“ Lifting up the family and friends of Paul Gentry for comfort and healing from our Lord Jesus Christ.



Marvin Hyvl & Family - November 05, 2025 at 11:39 AM