



Paul Overton Ridings Jr.

June 12, 1948 - March 5, 2026

Paul Overton Ridings Jr. passed away on March 6, 2026, at the age of 77. Paul Ridings Jr. was born on June 12, 1948, in Fort Worth, Texas to Paul O. Ridings and Freddie Ridings. He would go on to become a third-generation journalist and public relations practitioner. Paul Ridings Jr. graduated cum laude with a Bachelors of Arts degree in journalism from Texas Christian University. His grandfather, J. Willard Ridings, founded the journalism and public relations departments at TCU. Afterwards, he worked at TCU as the Assistant Sports Information Director.

Paul Ridings was an officer in the army reserve for 6 years. He ended his military career as a Captain.

He worked as Sports Information Director at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas before transitioning to become the Public Relations Director for the Dallas Tornado Soccer Club. He went on to become the Associate Sports Information Director at SMU for eight years.

On May 3, 1986, he married the love of his life Mary Kathleen Hamm.

In 1989, he became the Sports Information Director at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He worked there for 26 years, retiring in 2016. He was a member of The First Christian Church of Huntsville for 26 years where he served as an Elder.

Paul Ridings Jr. loved nature, exploring the Grand Canyon and many other natural parks in his spare time. He was passionate about sports, continuing to donate his time and efforts to sports journalism even after his retirement.

He is survived by his wife Mary Kathleen Ridings, his son Nathan Joseph Ridings, and his two dogs.

The visitation will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home on March 14th from 4-6PM. There will be a service held on at First Christian Church in Huntsville, Texas at 2PM on March 15th. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations made go to the Rita B. Huff Humane Society in Paul's Memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340
(936) 291-7300
belinda@shmfmh.com

Memorial Celebration

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church Huntsville
1800 Ave R
Huntsville, TX 77340

Tribute Wall

MS

“ I am so thankful to have known Paul during our years at Trinity University. I look forward to spending eternity with him and worshipping our LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.
Mary ,i am sorry for your loss of a godly husband and father to Nathan.
I am sorry i was unaware of his passing.
I now reside in Colorado Springs and still active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the Air Force Academy. May GOD bless and comfort your dear family.

Mike Scott - April 23 at 11:43 PM

LH

“ Norm and I only met PR a couple times when they came back to Illinois to visit Mary's family. He was very kind and caring. Our sincere condolences and love go out to Mary, Nathan and their families. Norm, Lisa, Dawn and Starr

Lisa Helton - March 18 at 11:26 AM

MS

I was honored to be at Trinity University playing football and baseball 1970-73. He was a sweet man and a friend. His work on my behalf helped me to earn All Southland Conference honorable mention my sophomore year 1971 and named to two All American teams my senior year when i led the nation in interceptions. I would love to meet the family and sorry i was unaware of his passing.

Mike Scott
Formerly of Dallas, Tx
Trinity University HOF 1970-1974
Now residing in Colorado Springs area

Mike Scott - April 23 at 11:20 PM

VP

“ Paul was one of the first folks I met when I came to First Christian Church. He was always smiling and very pleasant. Loved our conversations and worshipping with him. I will miss his smiling face 2 pews up from me.

Vicki Pledger - March 15 at 03:37 PM

FS

“ FCC Cappuccino Bible Study planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Overton Ridings Jr..

FCC Cappuccino Bible Study - March 14 at 12:29 PM

GA

“ So sad to hear about the passing of my Dear Neighbor Paul. My deepest condolences to His wife Mary, Nathan and the rest of the family .Paul was a good neighbor who always had a smile and a kind word to offer. He will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in eternal peace. ———Gladys —113 Green Haven.

Gladys Awode - March 13 at 02:56 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Overton Ridings Jr..



March 12 at 06:29 AM

DH

“ Paul was always helpful to me with UIL and other endeavors. A super guy.

Dr. David Henderson - March 11 at 02:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Overton Ridings Jr..

March 10 at 03:34 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Paul Overton Ridings Jr..



March 10 at 03:34 PM

MF

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



Marvin Hyvl & Family - March 10 at 03:00 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paul Overton Ridings Jr..

March 10 at 01:39 PM

JM

“ Mary & Nathan, as well as the rest of Paul's family, my heartbreaks for your loss. Paul was a great guy that I enjoyed working with during our time at Sam. He will truly be missed by many!! My thoughts & prayers are with y'all.

Jan S McPike - March 10 at 12:52 PM



“ PR loved his family so much. He had such a gentle soul. Prayers lifted for Mary and Nathan. The whole Bearkat family is sad about PR's passing!

Russell Burnett - March 10 at 11:56 AM

JH

“ My heart is very sad for Mary, Nathan and the family with the loss of Paul. Paul was a very sweet man who loved his family dearly. My prayers are with the family.

Jo Ann Holleman - March 10 at 10:07 AM

DM

“ The passing of Paul has broken my heart for his family and dear friends. I had the privilege of teaching with his dear Mary for many years on Stewart Campus. Paul loved Nathan and Mary and would often visit our campus bringing lunches and treats to Mary and teachers. He was a kind soul and was compassionate to everyone. I was blessed to know him for many years and will pray for his precious family in the days ahead. The world truly lost a special man 📄❤️🙏

Derril Mitchell - March 10 at 01:57 AM

CC

“ Christopher & Cassandra Cuvelier purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Paul Overton Ridings Jr..



Christopher & Cassandra Cuvelier - March 09 at 05:53 PM

CC

“ Christopher & Cassandra Cuvelier planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Ridings.

Christopher & Cassandra Cuvelier - March 09 at 05:53 PM

BK

“ The SHSU University Archives and I are very sad to heard about the death of Paul. He was always very kind, knowledgeable, and helpful to me. His smiling face always improved my day when he came to visit. I will pray for him tonight and for your family. The University and the world have lost a special man.

Barbara Kievit-Mason SHSU University Archivist and Friend.

Barbara Kievit-Mason - March 09 at 05:39 PM