



## Paul B. Belanga

October 22, 1936 - October 18, 2017

Paul Bryan Belanga, 80, of Alexandria, died Wednesday, October 18th after a three-month struggle with pancreatic cancer. Paul passed away while listening to prayer and surrounded by his wife of 43 years, Solveig (Balleby), and his 3 children, Natalie, Sean, and Kevin.

Paul was born the youngest of 4 on October 22, 1936 in Creswell, NC. Growing up on a farm in rural North Carolina, Paul proved capable of greater things. He excelled as a student and athlete and eventually realized his dream of attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, from which he graduated in 1959. He went on to a distinguished career in public service and retired from both the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Always curious and adventurous, Paul traveled extensively with his wife, Solveig, and for a time worked in Rome, Italy.

Paul was a giving person who volunteered in many capacities once he retired. He was an active member of Saint George's Episcopal Church where he served on the Outreach Committee and supported the HOST Program to help feed the homeless. Paul spent many hours working with Samaritan Ministries and visiting with the elderly and infirm. He served as President of the Association of Former International Civil Servants for over a decade. Paul was an ardent Democrat who contributed his time to various campaigns and the smooth functioning of the electoral process. An avid conversationalist with a sincere interest in the ideas and perspectives of others, he especially loved talking politics and world affairs. Paul enjoyed all things Tar Heels, Redskins, and Nationals. Paul was also a proud amateur genealogist and enjoyed continuing his sister Evelyn's, efforts to trace the Belanga lineage.

Paul is survived by his wife, Solveig; sister, Norma; 3 children, Natalie, Sean, and Kevin; daughters-in law, Alisha and Yumi; and 11 grandchildren, Jehane, Gabrielle, Tyler, Jeremy, Christine, Sophia, Dominic, Sonya, Evelyn, Maeve and Alessia. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Evelyn Sindelar and Frances Mitchell.

A funeral service will be held at Saint George's Episcopal Church, 915 North Oakland Street Arlington, VA 22203 on Saturday, October 21st at 9:00AM. Jefferson Funeral Chapel will be handling all arrangements. Donations in Paul's memory can be made to the UN Refugee Agency ([www.unrefugees.org](http://www.unrefugees.org)).

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories of Paul

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28 at 09:47 AM

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“ "My Deepest Condolences go out to the Belanga family, I hope you find comfort in these words, "He will swallow up death forever,.....And will wipe away the tears from all faces. Isaiah 25:8. We want to trust in Jehovah God's, promise of the resurrection hope. jw.org

November 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Before I met Paul, I worked with Solveig and taught their son Kevin when I first arrived in Italy as a teacher at the Notre Dame International School. Shortly afterwards, I had the pleasure of getting to know Paul. Two years later when I went to work at FAO, I continued my association with their family, through work, occasional dinners, house sitting and lighthearted chance encounters. . After they left Rome, I had a daily reminder of the Belanga family driving around in their car, which they had sold to me. Some families come to mind more quickly when reminiscing, and the Belanga family is one. My deepest condolences to Paul's family.

October 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Paul was one of Glenn's and my dearest friends. He and Solveig were so kind and generous to us when we first moved to Rome, helping us get settled and carting us around. Over time, we spent wonderful weekends with them in the countryside and in places like Florence and Naples. When we returned to the States we continued to get together even though we were on the opposite sides of the country. Dear Paul, we will never forget our good times together. Dear Solveig, we do hope we can see you again.

October 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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Care and Compassion Spray - October 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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**Country Basket Blooms** - October 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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Thinking about you. 🙏  
From Denmark. Deldo, Steven and family

**Candle of Memories** - October 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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**Roses and Moonlight Bouquet** - October 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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**Fall Fantasia** - October 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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**America the Beautiful** - October 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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I met Paul in April 1992, in Rome, Italy when I began work at the UN Food and Agriculture Agency (FAO) where Paul worked. I was impressed with his professionalism, out-going personality and his great sense of humor. At the first of many "Thursday American Lunches" I met Paul and about 20 others. Over the next four years we had many lunches together. Paul became the best man-friend I have ever had. I could talk to him like a brother-tell him anything private or business. I trusted him. My wife and I met his wonderful wife Solveig (Solie). Together we had many wonderful travels, dinners, shows, etc. in Rome and all the years after here in the US. All were so full of joy for life. I could write a book about our exciting adventures and times of laughing ourselves silly. Paul is in Heaven with our Lord Jesus, and I know we will see him again. I can hardly wait to start the good times again.

October 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Paul Belanga

October 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Memories of Paul

October 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM