



## William ` Paul Sherer

November 21, 1958 - May 1, 2019

William Paul Sherer "Paul" was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on November 21, 1958 and died in Houston, Texas on May 1, 2019.

Paul was a 1977 graduate of Deshler High School in Tuscumbia, Alabama. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in 1981. After graduation, Paul began his career in Huntsville Alabama and in 1982 moved his family to California's Silicon Valley. He worked for many years in network and computer technology. Paul earned numerous patents on inventions that made significant contributions in the way that technology is used today. He made key contributions that helped make networks of computers and file servers perform better. Paul designed a standard interface that is currently used in Microsoft Windows and his designs and inventions in the area of video-on-demand contributed to a faster and more affordable video-streaming service.

In 1981, Paul married Kaye Bailey of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Paul and Kaye moved to Sunnyvale, California where they enjoyed gardening and caring for tropical fish. Paul's gardening interests included growing roses. Orange Tropicana, red and white Double Delight, and red Mr. Lincoln roses were among his favorites. Paul and Kaye welcomed their daughter, Allison Rose, to the family in 1996. As a family, they enjoyed spending time in Monterey, California and in Hawaii. There they enjoyed snorkeling and spending time on the beautiful island of Maui.

Paul was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Howell Sherer. He is survived by Kaye Bailey Sherer, his daughter Allison Sherer, mother Gladys Call Sherer, brother Wayne Sherer, his wife Yvonne and their children David and Cristina, and brother Mark Sherer, his wife Connie and their children Jonathan and Mallory.

A memorial service for Paul will be held at First Baptist Church of Tuscumbia on May 18, 2019 at 1:00 in the afternoon. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

# Cemetery

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**Oakwood Cemetery,**  
**Tuscumbia**  
913 Joe Wheeler  
Tuscumbia, AL, 35674

# Events

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**MAY 18 Memorial Service** 01:00PM

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First Baptist Church of Tuscumbia  
203 North Dickson Street, Tuscumbia, AL, US,  
35674

# Comments

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“ Brilliant! That is the word that stands out whenever people share with me about Paul. You could not miss his breadth and depth of knowledge and experience, and I could go on and on to share about his deep insights, novel approaches to algorithms and implementations, the countless brainstorming sessions we had at Arby's (he always ordered the same roast beef sandwich) in the early days of Calypso and Arroyo, engaging in so many stimulating topics and experiences, and creative ideas even after Paul left Cisco for new adventures. But I want to highlight Paul's personable side. Paul cared deeply for his family and would share about them often. Though I only met them a few times, it is as if I knew Kaye and Allison better because of Paul's sharing and caring of them. My family was fortunate to experience his personable side the first time I met Paul. While we were contemplating a move away from the east coast, Paul flew the entire family out to California in the summer of 2002 and took time to personally show us the area, and engaging us, kids included, in a variety of topics. My family still fondly remembers Paul in this way and the meal we shared.

I learned many things from Paul. One of his key insights that I follow to this day is this: "There are those that strive for a single optimal solution to a problem, yet I believe there are many ways to solve a problem but the art is in finding the right solution for the problem that fits the environment."

It has been my great privilege to have known Paul as a guide and friend.

Jozef Chou, San Francisco Bay Area

**Jozef Chou** - May 18, 2019 at 12:07 AM

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“ Paul is honestly one of the most brilliant people I have every worked with. Ten years ago, I had the distinct pleasure to work with Paul very closely at Cisco when implementing a proprietary TCP/IP stack for carrying constant bitrate video. This work was a foundational piece in providing a national infrastructure for Comcast's video-on-demand, as well as foundations for a long product lineage.

According to Paul, many people balked at the idea that TCP would actually work for the use-case, to which Paul accepted this as a challenge to prove them wrong. Paul's implementation was so elegant and efficient that our product performance was roughly three to four times more efficient than competitors. This allowed us to win the business at Comcast, and quite frankly contributed to other competitors going out of business.

To this day, Paul's TCP/IP stack (among other core technologies) is still running at some of the largest service providers in the world, likely processing billions of network packets a day.

All of this was done while Paul was struggling with health issues. I can only imagine how much more brilliant and innovative he would have been without struggling with chronic pain and other health issues.

Some of my fond memories of Paul include:

- Paul's use of the phrase "In the fullness of times, ..." when referring to software and solutions that "just work" - always the optimist.
- Those times when Paul's southern accent would sneak into the conversation
- Chasing the "uber" software bug with him, at which point there would be no other bugs to find
- Dinner at Piatti's in Danville.

Ryan Okelberry, Provo, UT

Ryan - May 15, 2019 at 11:32 PM

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“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of William` Paul Sherer.



May 13, 2019 at 12:12 PM