



Paul Lewis Janke

January 13, 1947 - May 9, 2025

Singer/songwriter and social justice advocate Paul Lewis Janke died on May 9, 2025, in a nursing facility in Ashland, Oregon. A longtime resident of Siskiyou County, California, he was 78 years old.

Paul was born in Burbank, California, on January 13, 1947, to Dolores and Eldon Janke. He served in the Marine Corps in Morocco and Viet Nam and attended College of the Siskiyous. He is survived by his wife Jacalyn, sister, Lynn, sons Eric and Jesse, daughter Jada, stepdaughter Jessica, grandchildren Sawyer, June, Anya, Tess, and Bell, and great grandchildren Silas, Remy, and Jazz.

In high school, Paul got his first guitar and discovered a talent for music and performance. A charismatic entertainer, he played in the popular Siskiyou band, Kidder Creek. His ease on stage led to acting in community theater and his sense of humor found a home in stand-up and sketch comedy with Siskiyou Performing Art Center's "Wild" variety shows. From quiet coffeehouse gigs to busking the streets in Ireland, Paul lived a life in music. He leaves his CD "Nothing Left but Love" as his legacy.

Paul's vocation for social justice began while working at juvenile facilities and observing the injustices minors faced in the court system. With a friend, he researched and organized CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and served as its executive director in Siskiyou County, appearing in court and fighting for the special needs of every minor in their charge. As a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor, he spent some of his happiest years working in

the Boy's House at the Lithia Program in Ashland. As a CDAC IV, he also served the Karuk Tribe.

Whether designing and building recumbent bicycles in the garage, kayaking Lake Siskiyou, cooking up Mulligatawny soup for his food cart Fandango, or singing and playing on the back porch, Paul lived with joy and passion. His music, laughter, and good advice will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and the community who loved him.

A Celebration of Life for Paul Lewis Janke will be held in the autumn at Greenhorn Park. The family requests that any donations be made in his name to CASA, Yreka, California.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:27 PM

DV

“ *I met Paul when he was living and working in New Orleans. I was so lucky to have known such a sweet loving man. Was so sad to just see the notice of his passing this year. God bless him and his family.*

Diane Villarrubia - December 07, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ PAUL WAS MY SUD COUNSELOR HE WAS AN AMAZING PERSON ALWAYS CARING COMPASSIONATE LISTENER AND WOULD ALWAYS GO OUT OF HIS WAY IF I NEEDED ANYTHING IN THE LEAST HE WOULD DIRECT ME TO SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP ME GET I NEVER FELT PRESSURED OR JUDGED BY HIM AND AND COULD TALK OPENLY TO HIM IF I STARTED TO CRY HE ALWAYS HAD A BOX OF TISSUES HANDY I WAS SAD TO SEE HIM RETIRE WITH THE KARUK TRIBE. HE WAS DEFINITELY AN ASSET TO THE PEOPLE AT SUD A GENTLE PUSH IN HELPING ME IN MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND HELPED ME IN UNDERSTANDING MYSELF ALONGSIDE MY SUD's READING THIS OBITUARY I REALIZED I DIDNT KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM AND THE THINGS HE HAS DONE. ILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM BY THE WAY HE ALWAYS COULD EXPLAIN SOMETHING IN WAY THATS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND AND MORE HE WILL BE MISSED. IM LUCKY AND BLESSED TO HAVE KNOWN HIM! THANK YOU! OH IF ANYONE CAN TELL ME WHERE I CAN GET A COPY OF HIS CD PLEASE LET ME KNOW MUCH LOVE PAUL, SCHULDZIE BAILEY 5305985458- for CD Info



schuldzie Bailey - November 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Paul was a very special person. He was always kind and open hearted. I got to know his love of music and was very talented. He was a patient of mine for many years and I will miss his big heart.



Naomi Caspe - September 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ *Kathleen O'Neill lit a candle in memory of Paul Lewis Janke*



Kathleen O'Neill - August 29, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Paul Lewis Janke - June 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *Paul was a beacon of warmth and comfort to me in my mind when I needed happy memories to get me through my day, or darkest hours. I remember Paul as the deep voice, witty humored and deeply talented man that I couldn't imagine my childhood without. His home was a place of peace and harmony, and his heart was full of love and support. I miss him so dearly, and I'll never forget him as he was to me.*

Alexander Hawkins - June 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Paul has helped me through some bad times. He will always be a father figure to me. I miss you alot*



Damon whittle - June 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM



“ *To a great man.*

Vickie Cegoy Kennedy - June 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM