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## Paul Bourgeois - January 3, 2016

Cohoes Paul Bourgeois, - Paul A. Bourgeois, 85, passed away on January 3, 2016, after a lifetime of dedicated service to his community, his church, and his family. He was the son of the late Alcide and Alma (Beaudoin) Bourgeois; and loving husband of Monica Amyot Bourgeois, his companion on life's journey, who he has now rejoined in his Heavenly Father's home.

Born in Troy, NY, Paul spent nearly all of his years as a resident of Cohoes, NY. He was accomplished in many ways, as an educator, public servant, and an athlete.

A graduate of Catholic Central High School in Troy, Paul attended the University of Illinois at Normal, and held degrees from The New York State College for Teachers - Albany, and Union College where he studied under a federal grant promoting education in math and sciences.

Passionate about teaching and mentoring, Paul spent 38 years as a math teacher at Columbia High School in East Greenbush where he was recognized twice as Teacher of the Year. He also tutored countless students, and was involved in incorporating computers into the curriculum in New York State.

Public service was fundamental to his life. He was one of the founders of the Cohoes Citizens party that scored a major political upset in 1963, helped transform the city over the next dozen years, and was proud to be a key official when Cohoes received national recognition as an All American City in 1967. Elected to the Albany County Legislature, he served four terms, and then served on the Cohoes Common Council.

### Paul Bourgeois



### Contact Us

105 Vliet Blvd.  
Cohoes, NY 12047  
518-237-7666



### Associations

Proud member of:



He was instrumental in establishing the Surplus Food program to help the poor and hungry in Albany County. Through the years, he worked on the Economic Development Commission to help create good jobs, worked on the Cohoes Charter Revision Commission, helped bring major projects to Cohoes, such as the Senior Housing and the Community Center, and helped with the restoration of the Cohoes Music Hall and creation of the Bike Path.

He served on the Cohoes Library Board, was Treasurer of the Albany area Franco-American Society, was very active in the Catholic Family Movement, and was involved in numerous other social service activities.

Paul's love for sports, particularly baseball and basketball, was lifelong. He was a high school basketball and baseball star, inducted into Catholic Central's Hall of Fame. He was named to the US All Star Baseball Team in 1948, and played at Yankee Stadium and the Old Giants Stadium, the Polo Grounds. Signed by the Chicago Cubs, he played three years of professional baseball in their Minor League system in Baton Rouge, LA. He spent many years mentoring and coaching Columbia High School's Baseball team and many seasons coaching youth leagues in Cohoes.

Paul was deeply dedicated to the Catholic Church. Active in several churches throughout the years, particularly the former St. Joseph's Church, Cohoes and St. Rita's/Sacred Heart, Cohoes, he served as a lector, a Eucharistic Minister, and in many other capacities.

Paul derived great joy from his family: his brothers, George (Joan) Bourgeois of Satellite Beach, FL, and Bernard Bourgeois (Gizele) of Salem, NY; his children Tom (Emi) Bourgeois of Mendham NJ, David (Liz) Bourgeois of Summerville and Theresa Bourgeois, Cohoes; and his grandchildren Eric, Renee, and Monique Bourgeois, whom he loved dearly, as they so loved their "Pepere,"; and numerous other relatives. He was blessed with special friends including Fr. Ed Cantwell, the McGraws, Gregos, Laphams, Rodgers, and so many others whose lives he touched and was touched by.

A special "Thank You" to our sister, Theresa who took such good care of Paul in his later years and to all of those special people who assisted in his care as they too brought him great joy. Funeral from the Fitzgerald Funeral Home, Ltd., 105 Vliet Blvd., Cohoes, Thursday morning January 7, 2016 at 9:15. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at St Mary's Crescent Catholic Church, Waterford with Bishop Emeritus of the Roman Catholic Diocese, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, officiating. Burial will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Waterford.

Relatives and friends may call at the Fitzgerald Funeral Home, Ltd, 105 Vliet Blvd Cohoes, on Wednesday January 6th 2016 from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers (he was allergic) contributions can be made to either Catholic



#### **RIZZO'S HOUSE OF FLOWERS**

**233 Remsen St  
Cohoes, NY 12047  
518-237-0105**

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