

Paul Anthony West: Actor, Writer, Artist

1970 was a very good year. On Aug. 27, Paul Anthony West was born to the union of Norman and LaVerne (Nickerson) West. They later divorced in 1972.

Paul attended Vernon Elementary, Harriet Tubman Middle School and U.S. Grant High School. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Theater in 1995, from Portland State University.

His early career included employment at Multnomah County, TriMet and the Stoel Rives law firm. But Paul was at his best when his creative side was engaged. Highly intelligent, gifted and talented, Paul was a musician, actor, author and playwright. His play, "The Pews," was produced in 2005 and enjoyed a successful run at the IFCC. His acting resume included memorable roles in "Purlie Victorious," "The Crucible" and "The Meeting."

At the time of his passing, Paul was a



Paul Anthony West

Master's student in Education at PSU. He also was self employed as a photographer and videographer through his Event Capture imprint.

In addition to "The Pews," his literary works include "Mucho Dinero," "The Necessity Room" and "The Underhood" (collaboration with Von Porter).

Outgoing, gregarious, with an eternal smile, Paul had a diverse and bountiful array of friends, some friendships spanning more than three decades.

On Wednesday, Aug. 23, Paul ascended to Heaven.

Cherishing his memory forever :

His mother LaVerne Thompson, stepfather Sam Thompson, Sisters: Veronica (John), Carliss, Brother: Lonzo, Uncles: Robert (Linda), Ralph (Kawana), Ronald, Aunts: Paula, Doris (Carl), Nephews: Johnason and John Alexander, a host of cousins, relatives and wonderful friends.

Robert Julius Brooks Sr. 1928 —2012

Robert Julius Brooks Sr. was born in Mark, Texas on March 15, 1928 to Stewart Sr. and Annie Brooks. He graduated from Jack Yates High school in 1948. He later served in the Korean War and was honorably discharged from the army on Feb. 9, 1953. He then pursued a life in Stockton, Ca., with his family. Down the line, he relocated his family to Portland, Or., where he later retired from John Deere. He was fortunate enough to be retired longer than he worked. Throughout his life Robert was a hard-



Robert Julius Brooks Sr.

working man that valued his family and enjoyed life.

Eleven of Robert's siblings preceded him in death. He leaves behind one sister, India McKinney of Houston, Texas. He also leaves behind his four children: Cassandra Renee Showcraft, Robert Brooks Jr., Indrig Joyce Elam and Harvey Brooks, grandchildren Antonio, Robert III, Indrig, Harry Jr., Monique, Joyce, Domonique, Torianna and Journey, great grandchildren, nieces,

nephews, cousins and friends.

A Paint-by-Numbers Portrait of a Changing Nation

By Calvin Woodward and Christopher S. Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — We're heavier in pounds and hotter by degrees than Americans of old. We're starting to snub our noses at distant suburbs after generations of burbs in our blood. Our roads and bridges are kind of a mess. There are many more poor, and that's almost sure to get worse.

The oddly American obsession with picking up and moving on — "this spectacle of so many lucky men restless in the midst of abundance," as Alexis de Tocqueville noted nearly 200 years ago — has given way to the un-American activity of going nowhere. But check back tomorrow.

Such swirling changes are not fodder for a State of the Union speech, but they are

part of the state of the union nonetheless, as the Republican National Convention convenes and the Democratic convention follows it a week later. The country that President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are vying to lead for the next four years is not quite the same as the one four years ago, not nearly the same as the one further back in time.

WHERE WE LIVE

Like much else, where we live is shaped by how — or whether — we make a living. But larger forces than that seem to be at work in determining Americans' chosen places.

U.S. cities and closely surrounding areas are experiencing more growth than farther-off suburbs for the first time in at least 20 years. The cost and bother of commuting are part of the reason. The average commuter spends over 30

hours stuck in traffic per year, says the Texas Transportation Institute, up from 14 hours in 1982. That's the time spent going nowhere or at a crawl.

As well, city life is becoming the choice of more young and old people, as the attractions and convenience rival the long-held American dream of affordable home ownership, which usually means farther out.

Meantime, the historic migration of Southern blacks to the North has reversed, with black populations rising in Southern cities and suburbs, especially among the more affluent.

But the overarching recent development in where we live is that we aren't moving much at all.

Mobility is the lowest it's been in the 60 years it has been tracked by the Census Bureau, with only 11.6 per-

cent of the nation's population moving in the past year. That's just over half the level in 1951, the biggest year for Americans on the move, 21.2 percent. More adult children are living with parents because of economic hardship, fewer older people are able to retire to sunny climes and the housing bust further contributed to locking the restless in place.

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