



## Paul Michael Galestro

June 10, 1958 - February 8, 2021

Paul Michael Galestro passed away on February 8, 2021 peacefully in his sleep at home in North Port, FL. He was born on June 10, 1958 in Canarsie Brooklyn, NY. Paul, aka Rastus Kain – The Unknown Bluesman – with his gifted songwriting as he shines with his slide playing on his 1966 Gibson Firebird.

Paul and his wife April would travel together across the country to Blues Festivals and other shows to pursue his career. Paul also toured Germany with James Peterson and even played in St. Croix. In his early years he played with the Dust Bunnies & The Blynders and the Mercy Road. Paul had shared the stage with numerous musicians like Tab Benoit, Paul Nelson of Johnny Winter, Derek Trucks and Kat Riggins to name a few.

Paul is survived by his wife and soulmate of 20 years April Galestro, his wonderful sister JoAnn Rich (who turned him on to Johnny Winter when there kids), daughter Angela Galestro (who is following in his footsteps in music along with her husband Jonathan Smith).

Paul will be loved and missed by all who enjoyed his music. He will always be remembered. RIP – Bluesman.

# Previous Events

## **A Celebration of Life**

MAR 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Incarnation Catholic Church  
2901 Bee Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34239

# Tribute Wall



“ *Louann Minton lit a candle in memory of Paul Galestro*



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**Louann Minton** - April 21 at 09:21 PM



“ *Paul Michael Galestro*

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October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Paul Michael Galestro*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *My husband, Jim, & I met Paul when he played Blues downtown Sarasota with Mercy Road. He was in his 20's & so gifted; we went every Wed. nite to hear them. It was in a little Deli. We always bought his records & looked forward to seeing him. The later, we saw him at the 5 O'clock Club. We met his parents one nite (we were his parents age) & later met little April, Paul's darling. My sons loved to see him & also cherished him.*  
*Jim and Iris Thirtle*

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**Iris Thirtle** - March 14, 2022 at 02:01 PM

RO

“ I have Googled Paul off and on over the years and never found much on him. Today I found what I hoped I wouldn't, Paul passed earlier this year. I briefly played drums for The Blyders at the 'Tween Waters Inn and the 5-O and probably some other places as well. He was one of the most gifted players I've ever performed with in my 56 years playing with other musicians.  
Profound sympathy and condolences to all who loved and survive him. RIP Paul

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Ron - May 16, 2021 at 01:32 PM

TO

“ I'm utterly shocked and deeply saddened to learn of my old friend, Paul passing. We went to elementary school, Jr and Senior High School together in Franklin Square, NY. He was so much fun to be around, with a sense of humor filled with much wit and creativity that was beyond compare. He was a kind, thoughtful, generous and deeply gentle insightful soul. In 3rd grade he drew pictures of guitars, cut them out and played air guitar on them. Of course, we all thought this was hilarious and we all laughed, so did Paul (who did this repeatedly)...but there was a tinge of seriousness about Paul and his relationship to this paper guitar. It was no surprise that as we grew older, his seriousness grew into a love of guitars. He would speak incessantly about various types of guitars and his love of the Les Paul to which he swore had nothing to do with his namesake. He always had a way to put a smile on anyone's face within listening distance. There are so many wonderful stories, that Im now replaying in my head of his creative and fun personality. As life roller coaster typically rolls out, ....people move in different directions and loose touch, years fly by. Just recently, my husband and I wanted to surprise visit him in FL at one of the places he was playing at. Upon my search for his playing location, I arrived here...instead. Im at a loss for words. While Ive never met his family in Florida, Id like to extend my deepest sympathy for his wife and daughter. What a great loss on so many levels. My heart hurts. May God grant you strength and help you find peace. Much love to all of you.... An old friend of Paul's....Toni Esposito O'Hanlon/New York.



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Toni O'Hanon - April 01, 2021 at 12:49 PM



Joanne  
Posillico

*How sad, as I'm reading this about Paul's passing 😞 He and I were friends in high school and shared a common love of music. I played an acoustic guitar and Paul was always strumming a guitar even when he was just hanging out with no instrument in hand. I remember his fondness of Jimi Hendrix, and was certain one day he would be as great a player. After high school and we all went separate ways I lost touch with Paul. I pray he is at peace and serenading all our heavenly angels.*

*My condolences to his family, friends and band mates.*

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**Joanne Posillico** - November 27, 2021 at 07:36 PM

KC

*I was best friends with his sister Joann in high school. She and I would listen to CSNY after school at their house!*

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**Kim McCafferty Colletti** - January 03, 2022 at 12:40 PM

BA

“ *Barbara lit a candle in memory of Paul  
Michael Galestro*



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**Barbara** - February 27, 2021 at 02:22 AM

MS

“ We have known Paul for decades. We had the privilege of being there when he married his soul mate April. I have had the opportunity to play music with him often. Even enjoyed an amazing night with a multi Emmy winning composer sitting in with the two of us. I last saw Paul about a month and a half ago. Along with April we talked about our history and talked about the future. I can't believe he's gone. Life will go on, but will not quite be the same. That voice, those guitar skills, wow. We love you brother, until we meet again!

Mike Savage - February 18, 2021 at 10:31 PM



“ Rastus was such an awesome player. We loved seeing him every time he played here at The Alley in Sanford, FL. Very soulful and creative. Always a wonderful night of music laughs, and fun when he was in town. So happy we were able to have him in our lives. Rest In Peace My Brother.

Ihannibal Barca - February 18, 2021 at 08:43 PM



“ Karl Sheehan lit a candle in memory of Paul Michael Galestro



Karl Sheehan - February 18, 2021 at 05:06 PM



“ It was always Great to play music with Brother Paul, all the way back to the late 70's when we met at the Beach Lounge. My most sincere condolences to April and the Galestro family. You made so many people smile and forget about their troubles for a little while, you lived the dream Brother and became one hell of Blues Man along the way, R.I.P. Old friend.. Bodie V.



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**Bodie Valdez** - February 17, 2021 at 03:31 AM



“ Being an old blues singer me and Paul hit it off from the moment we met. I used to love when he would play the Honky Tonk on a Sunday afternoon. Some of the best times of my life. Another great,lost to soon RIP brother.

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**Mitchell Green** - February 16, 2021 at 03:36 PM



“ Paul was my favorite slide player from the moment I heard him somewhere around 1990. I was fairly new to Sarasota and new to the music scene but grew up just outside of Chicago as a fan of the blues. I got to know Paul over the next few years and when my wedding was pending, Paul offered his band for the reception as a wedding gift. I never stopped enjoying his passionate guitar skills. He was a very talented man and will be missed by many. My sincere condolences to April who helped make every show possible and to his sister Joann as well as daughter Angela and the rest of the family.

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**Sue Sotolongo** - February 16, 2021 at 07:42 AM

MS

“ *Marjorie Sheehan lit a candle in memory of Paul Michael Galestro*



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**Marjorie Sheehan** - February 15, 2021 at 04:10 PM

GG

“ *Gary Guzzardo lit a candle in memory of Paul Michael Galestro*



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**Gary Guzzardo** - February 15, 2021 at 04:07 PM

 Jack Mulder

“ *I remember one night Paul had a gig at my place, The Classic Wax and another club a few miles away. He would play a set and then rush to the other place for a set and back and forth throughout the night. Somehow double booked, but didn't want to disappoint so pulled it off LOL. I remember his private concerts after the bar closed for Melba and I...such a treat. I had a big cube van with a lift gate and moved Paul from one home to another and then he performed that night at my place. Paul was very instrumental in making The Classic Wax such a success. I have soo many memories and couldn't begin to list them all, but all and Paulie will be remembered fondly. I love you man...look for me when I get there*

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**Jack Mulder** - February 15, 2021 at 03:24 PM

CH

*Paul was one of the most talented musician/songwriters I met while covering music for the Herald. I first heard him at a Sarasota Blues Club jam and was enormously impressed with his slide playing. Whenever he'd see me come into the club he was playing, he'd do my favorite of his originals, "Somebody's Baby." Sure will miss hearing him and his new songs; something tells me he had a lot more left to write. Maybe next time. Really sorry to lose such a talented musician and such a genuinely nice, nice guy. R.I.P. my friend.*

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**Charmaine** - February 15, 2021 at 09:10 PM

AG

“ *Happy Valentine's Day my love  
We will have Chinese food on this day for last 20 years and you will  
always be my fortune cookie. I love you 🥰💕*

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**April Galestro** - February 14, 2021 at 08:32 AM

AG

“ *I ❤️ You*



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**April Galestro** - February 13, 2021 at 05:07 PM

AG

“ *I will never forget the first time you gave me a hug on September 2,  
2000 at Calico Jack's in Englewood. For the last 20 years you would  
give me a hug on September 2 like you did when we first met. I'm  
going to miss you giving me a hug on that day. ❤️🥰*

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**April Galestro** - February 13, 2021 at 04:56 PM

AG

“ April Galestro lit a candle in memory of Paul Michael Galestro



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April Galestro - February 13, 2021 at 04:37 PM

AG

“ I ❤️ You

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April Galestro - February 13, 2021 at 04:31 PM