

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH -- Paul M. Prill Jr., 67, died peacefully Jan. 7 at Summa Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls due to complications of Multiple Sclerosis.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Patricia (Pilarski) Prill; his daughter Tracey Slife, of Tulsa, Okla., her husband James Slife and their children Abigail and Alexander; his son Eric Prill, of Topeka, Kan., and his wife Robin Prill; his mother Grace Prill, of Hudson. He was also close to his extended family, including brother-in law Jack Pilarski, of Rochester, N.Y., his wife Paula and their son Ian, of New York, N.Y.; and sister in-law Mary Ellen Nagrocki, of Farmington Hills, Mich., her husband Rick and their son Tim.

Born in Detroit, Mich., Prill graduated from Thurston High School (Redford, Mich.) in 1960, where he met his future wife, whom he married in 1965. An Army Reservist, Prill had an early career in broadcasting production, but moved into Advertising, working for Chrysler and American Motors Corporation. From 1978 through 1995, he moved to the automotive aftermarket industry, leading Advertising campaigns for Valvoline, Goodyear, BFGoodrich Tires, General Tire and Firestone for a variety of agencies in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Akron. Prill was active in civic, scholastic and professional organizations, serving as chapter president of area Kiwanis groups, the Akron Chapter of the American Marketing Association and the Hudson High School music association when his children were students. He was also a group leader in MS Support Groups specifically catered for men.

Prill's true passion was motorsports, and he was an active member of Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) since 1968. Prill competed in many cars throughout his sports car racing career, most notably a highly modified 1962 Lotus Super Seven from 1972 to 1994. As with all of the other volunteer organizations in which he participated, he took leadership roles, serving as the Regional Executive of both the Detroit and Cincinnati Regions. After retiring from driving in 1994, he continued to serve as car owner and chief advisor of the Lotus for son Eric.

Prill was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1993. At his request, some of his organ tissue was donated to the Cleveland Clinic's Mellen Center for continued research of the disease.

The family extends its thanks and heartfelt gratitude to Paul's caregivers, Alina, Carol and Patti.

A viewing is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church at 47 Aurora Street, Hudson, OH 44236, followed by a memorial celebration at noon and a reception. Cards may be sent to the church or Prill home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Paul Prill's name (www.nationalmssociety.org) or 1-800-FIGHT MS.

Eric Prill

1-800-FIGHT-MS/Hoosier Tire/Jesse Prather Mtspts/Prather Racing
#7 Lotus Super Seven