

# **PAUL BRADFORD BARNETT**

## **1957 to 2020**



**Paul Bradford Barnett, beloved son, brother, “uncle” to many, and friend to all, lost his battle with cancer and Covid on December 25, 2020 at the age of 63. Born in 1957 in Fresno, Paul graduated from Fresno State with a bachelors degree in social work. His enduring friendship with a member of Fresno’s Deaf community inspired him to learn sign language and he became a certified interpreter, leading to a thirty plus year career with the VACC (Valley Advocacy and Communication Center) and then the DHHSC (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center). Paul’s life became one with that of the entire Deaf community of Fresno. A friend, an advocate, a warrior for the Deaf community, he helped so many with their legal, housing, healthcare and interpersonal situations that he became truly loved as the hero he was. There are countless tales, too many to tell, of Paul buzzing around town, (some would say wearing a cape) or working his world-famous Rolodex to rescue his clients, friends in the end, as they fought their battles.**

**But along with standing up for the Deaf, Paul also reflected the deep love that abounds in this very special community within a community. At every celebration, event, fund raiser, birthday, or party, Paul was always a presences with his twinkling-eye smile, joyful energy, and abundant humor.**

**Aside from the work he so passionately pursued, Paul was a gifted writer and artist. He wrote many delightful stories, putting into words the most amazing moments of his life. He had a mind for science fiction and the wonders of the universe, and wrote and self published an incredible novel called Sergio’s Clock.**

**He was a very kind, gentle, selfless, generous and witty soul who always put others first, always was there to help, and will be mourned and missed for a very long time.**

**Paul is survived by his brothers David Barnett and Craig Barnett, his niece Sarah Blaine, his step mother Peggy Barnett, and his very special life partner Armando Rivera.**

**A memorial service and celebration of Paul’s life will be held at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center when it is safe to gather together again.**