

Paul Schlough Nomination Letter

This is the story of my husband Paul Schlough, a really *GOOD GUY*. A man that is generous, faithful, kind and strong. I would like to nominate him for the Brooks Becker Good Guy Award.

To be honest, I fell in love with Paul 35 years ago because he was cute! After 29 years of marriage, I believe he has earned the honor to be a really *good guy* and follow in the footsteps of his childhood friend Brooks for so many reasons!

To start with, Paul is a very proud father. We have been blessed with two wonderful children; Emily is 25 and Kevin, 21. When Emily and Kevin were small, we spent most of our weekends camping and just playing in the neighborhood parks. I worked evenings so Paul spent many nights feeding the kid's dinner, giving them baths, reading them bed time stories and tenderly tucking them into bed. He baked cookies, carved pumpkins, tossed the ball and played with their toys. Church on Sunday mornings was a routine. He even volunteered to be a religion teacher a time or two. Paul doesn't need to speak to them about his faith, he is private that way, but they can see that he lives as an example of Christ's kindness, compassion and love.

When our kids began playing organized sports, Paul coached every chance he could. And he was a good coach. While he loved coaching Emily's softball and basketball teams, I think he'd say that coaching Kevin's football team was his favorite. It started in 4th grade for them, and lasted through 8th grade. For those 5 years parents respected Paul's coaching style and the players listened to his advice and soaked up his desire to do their best. Paul was a patient coach that gave every player equal opportunity and support. And, Paul was a winning coach. He has many first place trophies in his garage to support that claim!

Paul is a great neighbor and friend. He is a skilled carpenter and mechanic. It amazes me how he can fix or make anything. And so for that reason, he is often called upon to lend a hand! Paul makes himself available whenever someone calls. It is important to him to be a good friend that way. He never takes short cuts or looks for the easy way to complete a task. My dad's favorite saying about Paul is, "If you ask Paul what time it is, he'll build you a watch". I have never heard him say a cross word about a friend, he never judges.

Paul is the best brother! On our wedding anniversary in 2008, Paul's sister Patty was in a terrible auto accident. Paul was so devoted to Patty's care. For 10 days after the accident Patty was in a coma and Paul visited her daily. It was very hard for him to leave her. He would come home from work, and head to the hospital to spend his evenings with her and to kiss her goodnight. When she was moved to a group home, Paul would visit her every Wednesday night. They had so much fun together! Friday after work, Paul would pick her up and would bring her to our home for the weekends. When Patty

started to go to church with us, Paul would lead Patty to communion. She would walk behind him with her hand on his shoulder. Slowly they would approach the minister, always being the last one to sit down in their pew. He continues to guide Patty to recovery by offering her encouragement and opportunities. I think that in God's plan, Patty and Paul have become best friends, rekindling their childhood relationship. They tease each other terribly and drive me crazy!

In January 2009, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. As my treatment plan became clear to us, Paul was a tower of strength. My prayers were for tolerance to the chemo drugs, because I knew that Paul would do everything in his power to take care of me, and continue to care for Patty. I believe God answered my prayers because Paul is such a good man.

Paul is also a very devoted son. He picks his mom up for church most Sunday mornings. On a February afternoon Mom and Patty came home with us after church for lunch. After lunch we decided to play cards. Because of Patty's TBI she was having a hard time remembering how to play from one move to the next; Harriet was a little confused because she has never played the game, and I was recovering from surgery and very slow. I remember looking at him and thinking, *this man is so amazing*. Most men would run from this situation, but there he sat so patiently encouraging Patty and Harriet to give it their best try. He takes such good care of the people he loves. I am also grateful to Paul for the wonderful way he takes care of my parents. They know that they can depend on their son-in-law for help at any time.

During my cancer treatments, I received an e-mail picture of an old man and woman playfully dancing on a dock near some water. I have that picture set as my wall-paper on my computer screen. I imagine it is Paul and I, in our 80's dancing on a pier in San Diego! That picture has been my strength through my treatments. It is my prayer that God continue to bless us with good health so that one day Paul and I can take that dance. I love him with all my heart because he is an amazing dad, a kind neighbor and faithful son and brother and a really GOOD GUY! Please consider Paul Schlough as a nominee for the Brooks Becker Good Guy Award.