

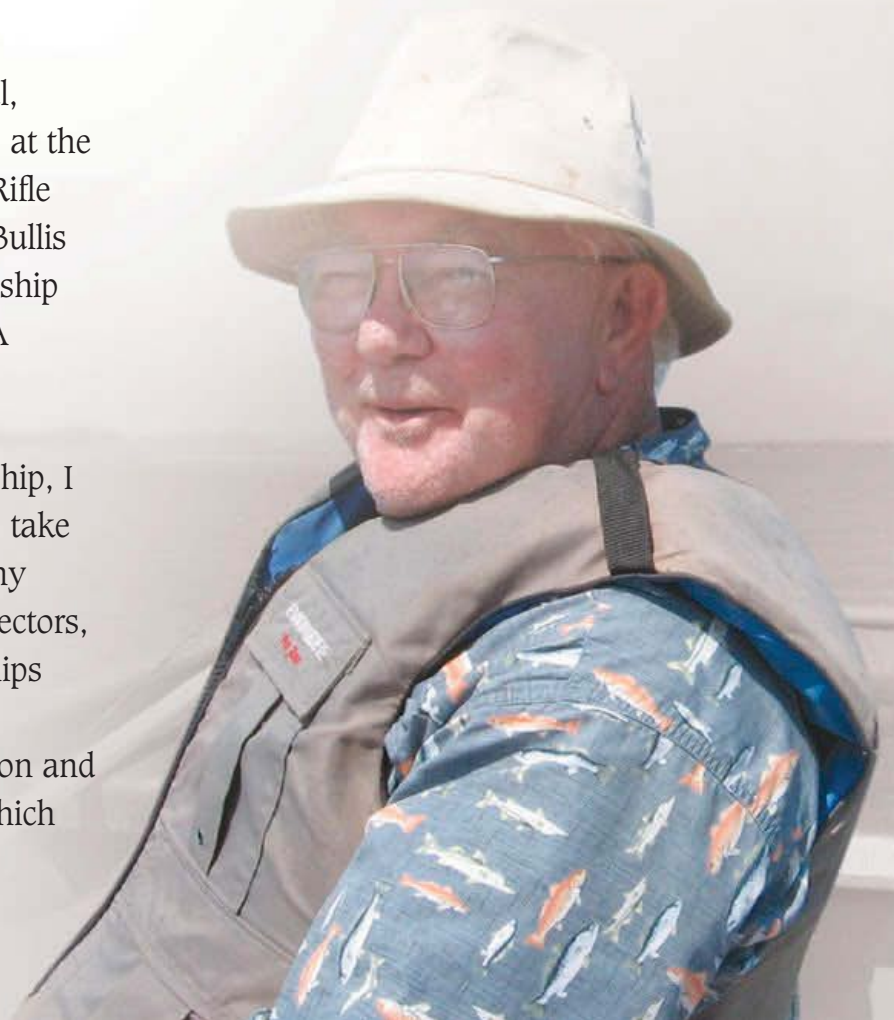
A Debt of Gratitude

Remembering TSRA Past-President Paul Bartlett (1926-2015),
A Great Friend and Conservationist

By Ordie R. 'Reggie' Jones

I do not recall exactly when I met Paul, probably mid or late seventies. I was at the TSRA State Highpower and Service Rifle Championships being held at Camp Bullis where Paul ran the service rifle championship for several years. We also served as TSRA Highpower Rifle Directors together.

When it was my turn to take over the directorship of the service rifle championship, I did not realize how difficult it would be to take on the matches that Paul had run for many years. Over the years, Paul, and other directors, had built the two TSRA Rifle Championships into the top state matches in the Nation. Needless to say, it took a lot of organization and preparation to get ready for the match, which Paul had down to a 'T.'



Through these experiences I learned that Paul was a great politician and organizer. He would hold matches at the Greenwood Gun Club at Lake Jackson and invite the Army Marksmanship Unit at Benning to send teams to compete. He did the same with USAR and NG teams. They attended because after the matches, he would take them fishing in the bays on the Texas Coast.

This was how I really got acquainted with Paul. He invited me to go catch redfish. We did this once or twice a year for the next 30 years.

In 1999 I went fishing in Sitka, Alaska, with Paul and Dr. David Graham from Houston. It was a most memorable trip. Another memorable fishing trip was literally on 9/11/2001. We were completely unaware of the tragedy unfolding in New York; we were having a great day catching redfish and black drum.

Paul was a prime mover in getting the recreational fishing industry reignited on the Texas Coast. By the 1970s, commercial fishing combined with freezing weather had decimated redfish and sea-trout fishing in Texas' bays and estuaries. Paul was instrumental in getting cooperation with industry (especially Dow Chemical), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and sport fishing organizations to build fish hatcheries on the coast and to rebuild recreational fishing. He was an organizing member and may have been president of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association that got much of this work going.

Paul had some powerful friends and when necessary to facilitate a project, he would call on them for help. Some names that I remember are a Mr. Bass, who was on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission, Congressman Ron Paul from Lake Jackson, and James A. Baker who was President Reagan's Chief of Staff and later U.S. Treasury Secretary.

I know that Paul helped out several military veterans who were having trouble with the VA by calling his influential friends. If I recall correctly, President George H.W. Bush was also in that circle of friends.

Paul was an excellent officer and president for TSRA, first serving as treasurer, then vice president, and he was elected president in 1991, serving for two years. As a past-president, he continued to be a member of the TSRA board of directors until his death. He was also very active in supporting and working with the TSRA Highpower Rifle Teams attending the national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

My admiration for Paul as a person, who sacrificed for many years to take care of his wife after she was stricken with Alzheimer's disease, is boundless.

I will memorialize Paul Carroll Bartlett as a best friend, a strong promoter of Second Amendment rights, an independent thinker who came up with original ideas and had the leadership and capabilities to bring the ideas to fruition, a conservationist, and a person that finished what he started. Firearm owners and fishermen in Texas owe him a great debt of gratitude. May he rest in peace.



Ordie R. 'Reggie' Jones is TSRA Past-President 1998-1999.

Paul's Friends Remember

I knew Paul very well and used to shoot in his matches at the Greenwood Gun Club. Paul was the backbone of his club and the mentor to many new shooters. I say he was the backbone of the club because he was able to negotiate deals with Dow Chemical Co., the owner of land adjacent to the club, and he was able to expand the club's range to a full 600 yards!

He was also a person that could go to the Capitol in Austin and see Gov. George W. Bush and have personal conversations with him. He was the area wide contact with the DCM to obtain firearms and ammunition especially for the junior shooters of the area.

Paul, in his later years, was not very active in TSRA because he had the obligation of staying home and taking care of his wife, Elizabeth, who had Alzheimer's. I am very sorry to hear he has passed away and he will be missed by the many shooters he mentored in his lifetime.

— John Anderson, Past President, 1980-1981

I first met Paul in 1987 when we both served as TSRA directors. He was truly a gentle, soft spoken man who provided guidance to me anytime I asked and sometimes when I didn't. He was a credit to our sport and our association. He will be missed.

— Ralph Talbot, Past President, TSRA

Paul Bartlett was actually the reason I joined the TSRA and became involved in High Power Rifle shooting competition. Paul encouraged me to participate, first at the local club level, then the state level and ultimately at the national level at Camp Perry. It was through Paul's mentoring that I became a life member of TSRA, a TSRA Match Director, and then a TSRA officer.

Paul always helped anyone he could with encouragement, equipment, contacts, and support. He helped adults and juniors alike to participate and learn. I am honored to have been one of Paul's friends. He will be missed by me and many others.

— Arnold Granger, Past President, TSRA