

“Doro” Paul, son of Mate Martinis and Ivka Zuanich, was born August 9, 1927. He was raised in the Martinis family home, now commonly referred to as the “Paloc”, in the village of Komiza. By the mid 30’s Ivka and Mate’s family outgrew the Paloc and moved into a larger home in the village that belonged to Doro Paul’s grandmother. This home has also stayed in the Martinis family and is now referred to as “Nona Kuća”.

At 13 years old Doro Paul attended a famous school in Mostar called Gimnazija Mostar. Located in Sarajevo, it was known as the most prestigious school in all of Yugoslavia. The school’s alumni include the historian Vladimir Ćorovic, the philosopher Dimitrije Mitrinović, and the writer Predrag Matvejević.

In 1941 Yugoslavia entered World War II and Doro Paul had to leave his schooling to return to Komiza. The conditions in Komiza during World War II were extremely difficult, but the women and children of the village were given the opportunity to flee to a refugee camp in Egypt. Teta Katica, Mate’s older sister, wanted to spare Doro Paul from the hardships of the war. She gave Doro Paul a dress to wear, smeared ash on his face, and instructed him to walk with difficulty hunched over a cane. To Teta Katica’s relief Doro Paul was accepted as an old woman and able to board the ship headed to the refugee camp in Egypt. Doro Paul lived in this camp until September of 1945.

By the time Doro Paul was 18 years old he managed to immigrate to the US. He departed Alexandria September 20, 1945 aboard the Gripsholm, and arrived in New York City on October 9, 1945. He settled in Everett where he worked for his father and uncles on the “Land” fleet of fishing vessels. Eventually a woman named Delores Zuvella caught his eye. They got married, and had two girls named Joanne and Stephanie.

Like most of the Martinis men, Doro Paul was a natural born fisherman. The success he found fishing for his father and uncles afforded him the ability to purchase his very own boat. Having always referred to his wife Delores as “Doro” he named his fishing boat the “Doro” in her honor. This also was the birth of his own nickname, “Doro”-Paul.

In 1972 Teta Katica passed away. She had been the only remaining Martinis in Komiza, so her passing left the family homes completely vacant. Although Doro Paul’s father and uncles loved their homeland, they were unable to take on the commitment required to care for the properties. Doro Paul always felt the same strong attachment to Komiza, and so he took it upon himself to preserve the Martinis family’s legacy in the village.

From 1974, until his passing in 2001, Doro Paul would travel to Komiza every year to work on renovating the Paloc and Nona Kuća. Originally, the Paloc had a cistern that supplied water to the kitchen with a pump. There was minimal electricity and no kitchen appliances to speak of. The Paloc had one toilet, which was located in the basement and required a bucket of sea water to flush. The second-floor bedroom could only be accessed by a trap door and ladder located in the dining room. The wood floors throughout the Paloc were old and worn, and had boards sticking up at odd angles. Doro Paul generously spent his own time and money to complete major renovations. He saw to it that running water and electricity went throughout the entire home. He added a toilet to each floor, a bathtub on the top floor, and a shower in the basement. He purchased kitchen appliances, he added a stairway to the second floor, and he replaced the wood floors throughout the house. He had the walls re-plastered and had a painter hand stencil all of the walls with decorative designs. He had the roof replaced, and made necessary repairs to the balcony and terrace. He also made many similar improvements to Nona

Kuća. Had Doro Paul not dedicated himself to renovating these properties, they would have fallen to disrepair and likely been taken over by squatters.

In addition to preserving the family properties, Doro Paul was a pillar in the community of Komiza. He was known for his jovial personality, his giving spirit, and his deep love for the village. The best example of his love for the village is on display in the fisherman's museum. In the museum is a fully restored Gajeta Falkuša. It is the traditional sailboat used for fishing the waters of the Adriatic. The donation and restoration of the boat to the museum was fully funded by Doro Paul and his close friend.

In 2001 Doro Paul became terminally ill. His dying wish was to return to his homeland. Upon his passing, Paul Piercey brought his ashes back to the village, and on a fishing boat accompanied by many of Doro Paul's friends from the village, his ashes were spread in the sea.

The Martinis family will never forget Doro Paul's selfless dedication to our family heritage. It is our duty to honor him by carrying on the Martinis legacy through our care for the properties and our dedication to the village.