



Awe, Gratitude, and Farewell.

Paul has given his life to NMAC and on his last day we honor his legacy.

October 8, 2025 By NMAC

How do you say farewell to a leader like Paul Kawata? An unapologetic and fearless voice who has led NMAC and the HIV movement for 36 years. For many of us, that's a lifetime. Indeed, Paul has given his life to NMAC and on his last day we honor his legacy.

Paul's relentless drive to center communities of color and LGBTQ communities is the foundation of NMAC's work today and moving forward. He took this role almost four decades ago, in the early days of the HIV epidemic when leading an HIV organization, for people of color, wasn't a career builder. Yet, he continued to build the organization and with it, many other community leaders who have been a part of NMAC over the years.

Paul's vision has allowed NMAC to create community-centered convenings like the U.S. Conference on HIV/AIDS. Recognizing the need to train frontline workers on PrEP education and access, we launched the Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit. He collaborated with leaders from other national HIV and STD organizations to launch The Partnership focused on educating policymakers on HIV issues.

Today, as Paul retires, it is the end of an era for NMAC. Yet, we also know that he deserves rest, healing, and the ability to smile again. We continue to build and strengthen as the best way to extend his legacy to our communities.

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