



Paul L. High Jr

August 10, 1935 - June 29, 2019

Paul (Pete) Laverne High, Jr. 83 of Haymarket, Va. passed away on 29 June 2019 after a brief illness. He was the eldest son of Paul and Elsie High. He is survived by his wife of almost 59 years, Shirley Peterson High, his 6 children, Kim High Saxton (David), Stacy High-Brinkley (Karen), Paul L. High, III (Julia), Todd High (Maria), Daniel High (Christine) and Julie High Farmerie (John), and 15 grandchildren along with two sisters, Darrell High Wittkamp (Bernard) and Judy High Boyer (Fred).

Paul, also known as “Pete”, was born in Annapolis Maryland in 1935. His father, Rear Admiral Paul L. High, was a Naval Officer and decorated Destroyer Skipper in World War II, earning the coveted Navy Cross Award for his efforts commanding the USS Bryant in the Battle of Surigao Straits, Philippine Islands, in October 1944.

Pete attended the College of William & Mary where he was elected President of his Freshman Class. He graduated in May 1958 with a B.S in mathematics. He applied and was selected for the U.S. Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and then was commissioned as an Ensign on 30 Oct 1958. Upon graduation he was given temporary duty at the Pentagon until November 21 when he was transferred to the Panama Canal Zone for active duty as an intelligence officer with the 15th Naval District. In February of 1960 he met Shirley and on the first of March of that year, he proposed. They were married on 17 September 1960 in Margarita, Canal Zone.

Lt. High reported for duty at the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) on Tuesday

1 November 1960. Since he had experience in computer programming, he was assigned to work as the ONI Automation officer under Captain Don Higgins. He was placed in charge of the Intelligence Files and immediately began the initial effort to automate the files. He developed an indexing system and procured automation equipment to support this effort. Lt. High began a program to microfilm all ONI Information Reports and developed a punched card index for rapid recovery of reports based upon content and date of information. During this period, the Secretary of Defense had approved the creation of a Defense Intelligence Agency. Lt. High was a member of the transition staff for DIA. Certain Intelligence elements of the Army, Navy and Air Force were transferred to DIA. Upon completion of his four-year Navy obligation, he joined DIA as a GS-12 Computer Systems Analyst. This began his 32- year career with DIA. There he was the project manager tasked to internet computers at CIA, NSA and DIA. This effort resulted in the establishment of the Community On-line Intelligence system (COINS). From 1970 to 1978 he served as the program manager for the Naval Intelligence Assets of the worldwide Intelligence Data Handling System (IDHS). In May of 1974 the Deputy Director of DIA (Lt. Gen Eugene Tighe, USAF) established a Systems Reorganization Group to recommend changes to the DIA Information Systems organization. Mr. High was selected to this group along with Mr. Harry Banford, Chairman, and Mr. Thomas Haug. The group's recommendations were approved and the first major reorganization of DIA Information Systems was completed in the fall. Before General Tighe left DIA he promoted Mr. High and Mr. Haug to GS-15 and, along with Harry Banford they were presented the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal by General Tighe. Pete retired from the DIA after 32 years in 1995. He went on to work for Scitor until his retirement in October of 2004.

A Mass will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church 8213 Litton Hall Road, Gainesville, VA 20155 on 12 July 2019 at 1030 am.

Burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, at a later date.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **12.** 10:30 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Graveside Services

SEP **30.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Tribute Wall

“Pete's sister, Darrell ("Dodie"), is so thankful that she had her thoughtful, considerate, baby brother Pete in her life as long as she did. One of her earliest memories is when Pete became a big brother to Judy at age 4. Sitting at the dinner table, Judy would pull on Pete's hair until she brought tears to his eyes. Dodie said, "Why don't you move dummy?" To which Pete replied, "but she likes it!". So there is one of the early examples of Pete putting others first, as he tended to do his entire life.

Dodie knew that Pete found an absolute jewel when he married Shirley. She remembers him calling one day and saying, "if you want to be humbled, try having your four-year-old daughter (Kim) translate for you". Pete went on to have six wonderful, successful children whom he loved and served. But not just his children, he was attentive to and engaged with virtually everyone he came in contact with. He stayed involved with his high school alumni association for decades after he graduated. He was very attentive to all family, even more distant relatives.

Dodie remembers fondly how Pete and Shirley and the children made Christmases so special for Elsie and Paul High by inviting them into their home and spoiling them with their hospitality. In addition to providing a home (actually building an addition) for his aging mother-in-law and father-in-law, Pete was absolutely instrumental in caring for his mother Elsie in her later years. Despite living two hours away, Pete did her banking, found a wonderful retirement home for her to live in, and even moved in her furniture and pictures. Pete or one of his thoughtful children were consistently traveling to Richmond to visit her, giving her great comfort in her later days.

Dodie will greatly miss Pete until they meet again, but she is so grateful for his life of love and service and for the amazing family he has left with us to carry on his legacy.

Love forever,

Sister Darrell (Dodie)

ST

Biff - thank you SO MUCH for uploading that wonderful loving amazing note from your Mom! What wonderful stories and amazing memories of Dad!!!

Stacy - July 28, 2019 at 03:26 PM

JF

This was so wonderful to read! Thank you Biff for uploading Aunt Darrell's note - love that story of when he was 4. I've never heard it before but it so sounds like something our big hearted Dad would say!:) Love to all our amazing Richmond family!

Julie Farmerie - July 28, 2019 at 09:18 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Paul L. High Jr.



July 10, 2019 at 05:11 PM

JK

“ Sincere condolences to the High family on the passing of Paul High, Jr., who helped build the foundation of one of our nation's premier intelligence agencies, DIA. Today's workforce might not know him personally, but they understand his service and the sacrifices he made to help keep our nation safe and secure.

On behalf of my fellow DIA officers, we offer prayers for Paul and for his family.

James Kudla - July 10, 2019 at 12:05 PM

SH

Thank you so very much - my mother and the family are so appreciative of your thoughts and prayers!

Stacy High - July 11, 2019 at 02:24 PM

DH

Thank you Sir for your comments, thoughts and prayers.

Daniel High - July 14, 2019 at 07:41 AM

JH

“ I see that sweet/tough face (that our Ben has borrowed) and think of the great guy who taught me how to throw a basketball in our backyard net and how to (earlier, in Weirsdale) drag an old rotten boat into Lake Weir. I see him sharing (his senior, my freshman) year at William and Mary, bossing me about which of his fraternity brothers to date and "accidentally" running into me at the post office. "Got blades (money), Judums?" Any frustrations didn't last long: the year ended and he was gone. I still see him sneaking me a "hi" while I was finishing an exam and he was travelling from Naval training to Panama: that exact, darling face. Obviously, Shirley can agree, that was one heck-of-an important travel. He and Shirl have added so many darling boys and girls to our lives, not to mention sweet Tita and another Pete (Peterson).



But the face we're looking at is that of my only brother, Pete High. If I had ten of them, I'll bet he would be my favorite.

I love you, Yummies. Our great God does too, which helps me bear your loss. I love you forever. Judums

Judith H. - July 05, 2019 at 09:35 PM

SB

What wonderful memories to arise to on this 1 week anniversary of losing Dad - Aunt Judy what amazing memories and words. Our great God does indeed help bear his loss! I love you so much - Stacy

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 06:54 AM

KS

I miss you so much tonight dad

kim saxton - February 29, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Paul L. High Jr.*



July 05, 2019 at 03:02 PM

HB

“ *Herb Brennen purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Paul L. High Jr.*



Herb Brennen - July 04, 2019 at 11:24 AM

DB

“ *May my condolences bring you comfort and may my prayers ease the pain of this loss. I remember Pete from Washington-Lee class of 53 and for his tireless service putting together reunions over the years since. He will be missed by all of us.
Dwight Burgess, Durango Colorado*

Dwight Burgess - July 02, 2019 at 12:28 PM

SB

Thank you so much - he taught us all very well. I continue his tradition of planning our reunions. God Bless.

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 06:54 AM

RM

“ Condolences to Dan and family for the loss of his father, Paul. Our prayers are with you. Eternal rest grant unto Paul O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Robert May - July 02, 2019 at 09:17 AM

SB

Thank you so much for that wonderful prayer!

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 06:55 AM

DH

Thank you Bob for your prayers and the beautiful flowers you sent.

Daniel High - July 14, 2019 at 07:40 AM

JB

“ Pete was one of the primary organizers of our Washington-Lee High School Class of 1953 reunions for many years. His quiet levelheaded assumption of major responsibility kept it all going for multiple reunions. His absence from our 65th was a sadness for us all.

Thank you, Shirley, for cheerfully sharing all that time over the years that Pete gave to bring his classmates together. It was a blessing for all of us.

Jan Davis Burt

JANICE D BURT - July 02, 2019 at 09:16 AM

SB

Thank you so much Janice!

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 06:56 AM


FB

“ In early 1961, I was dating his little sister. He and Shirley, newly-weds, lived in a small apartment in Springfield. Upon returning to their unit, with pizza, watched a skunk wander under our just-parked car and disappear! Judy and I were afraid to exit so we waited 20 or 30 minutes, " for safety". Pete never believed the story; but we were married about 5 months later. Ask Judy! Pete was a great supporter of my military career despite my loyalty to aviation and "our" indifference to many naval traditions. (some of the stuff I did trickled down to DIA) Non-the-less, I became a loyal supporter of the USS Bryant (DD-665) Destroyer Association. Pete was a brother-in-law one could only wish for. What a family man with endless family traditions and support that will long endure. PLH,Jr. will be missed, indeed.

W.R. "Fred" Boyer, Lt.Col, USAF (Ret.) Valparaiso, Fla.

Fred Boyer - July 01, 2019 at 08:29 PM

JU

That was such a nice note and funny story about the skunk Uncle Fred :) 

julie - July 01, 2019 at 09:54 PM

SB

Thank you so much Uncle Fred!!! I'll bet he did believe you :)

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 06:57 AM

JC

“ Although we only knew Pete for a short time, he was a great and friendly neighbor. He and Shirley moved in across the hall from us. We enjoyed having them as neighbors. Pete always attended our building socials and was a pleasure to visit with. We will miss him,
John & GayLyn Combs

John Combs - July 01, 2019 at 01:30 PM

JU

Thank you for the kind note John. I know my Dad finds comfort that my Mom is surrounded by such a close knit group of neighbors.

julie - July 01, 2019 at 10:00 PM

SB

Thank you John and GayLyn - Mom actually said the other day "i have so many people here in the condo that care". He truly was an amazing man. We look forward to celebrating his life a week from today!

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 06:59 AM

RS

“ It was Paul who convinced me to join Scitor. This changed my entire life for the better. Always a kind and caring man, I considered him a good friend for all the years we worked together. I am sure he will be greatly missed by friends and family.

Robert K Smith - June 30, 2019 at 12:03 PM

SB

Thank you so much Robert - he loved Scitor!!!

Stacy High Brinkley - July 06, 2019 at 07:00 AM