



Paul Edward Melody

October 20, 1952 - April 19, 2026

Paul Edward Melody, 73, of Gainesville, Virginia passed away on April 19, 2026, surrounded by family at Lake Manassas Health & Rehabilitation Center following a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on October 20, 1952 in St. Albans, New York to Mr. Norman Melody and Mrs. Mary Melody (née Gaine). Paul graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1977 and went on to obtain degrees from the US Army Command and General Staff College, the School of Advanced Military Studies, and the US Army War College.

Paul enlisted in the US Army and completed Ranger School and the US Army's Non-Commissioned Officer Candidate Course (NCOCC). He was passionate about the army, and especially about his soldiers. His deployments included Panama, Israel, NTC, Alaska, Korea, Germany, and Ft. Benning.

He displayed exemplary leadership talents from his time as a boy scout to his 32 year career in the army. After retiring as a full bird colonel, he continued to apply these skills as a defense contractor and later cultivated them in his students as a course director and instructor at the Army Force Management School.

Paul was also a skilled gardener who designed and planted a home garden

reminiscent of those from his childhood in Verona, Italy. He was a gentle and nurturing father who created a sense of wonder and magic in his children's lives through his enthusiasm for holidays, movies, and the outdoors. A voracious reader and lifelong learner, he had an expansive interest in theology, history, and strategy and tactics. His devotion to Eastern Orthodox Christianity came to guide his life and enliven his spirit.

Paul is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Angela Melody, his two children Brigitte Melody and Philippe Melody, and his two step-daughters Kathleen Gianitti and Carollee Taylor.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation by check made out to:

The Holy Innocents

Proceeds will go towards an Icon in memorial of Paul.

The funeral service will be held on May 13, 2026, at 10:30 AM at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Washington, D.C. The date for the formal military burial ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery is to be determined.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave
Arlington, VA 22211
(877) 907-8585

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St John the Baptist
4001 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20011

Tribute Wall

LG

“ I knew Paul for the almost ten years that he worked at the Army Force Management School and CALIBRE. For the first two years, we shared an office. I learned so much about Paul, his family and his faith during that time. At the time, my kids were young, and Paul would often listen to my parenting frustrations and either provide guidance, or just an ear to listen. I gained so much from learning about his Orthodox faith, and he continued to share prayers with me throughout the years. Prayers for different life events, different seasons, all very welcomed. He continued to inquire about my kids, keeping up with them as they grew, providing nuggets of advice when needed. When my son was accepted to West Point, Class of 27, Paul's 50-year affiliate class, he and a few of the other Old Grads on the faculty wrote to him and gave him some things to think about and ponder; recommendations, thoughts on leadership and sage advice. His thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Paul and I also often spoke about cooking. I would often share my joy or frustration with cooking dinner every night and trying to find different recipes to keep it interesting. Paul was a great source of recipes, some of which are family favorites today. I always think of Paul when I make those recipes and will continue to do so into the future.

Paul's love for his family was evident in the way he talked about them. Brigitte and Philippe, you were his world. He spoke of your accomplishments, as well as your hopes and dreams. You could tell that all he wanted was for you to be happy and fulfilled. Angela, he always had a twinkle in his eye when he spoke of you and the life you had built together. He was always so impressed with how you managed the household and the kids. Kathleen and Carollee, he also spoke fondly of you as well.

Knowing Paul was a Blessing and I will continue to think of him and miss his presence.

My deepest condolences to you all.
Larissa Ginty

Larissa Ginty - May 19 at 08:58 PM

LR

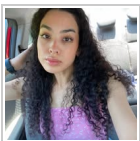
“ *Angela,
Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.
My deepest condolences! Liane Ryan*

LIANE Ryan - May 15 at 10:36 AM

MR

“ *Paul was my commander, my mentor & my very good friend, when Liane and I were stationed with Paul and Angela in Hohenfels, Germany in the mid-90s.
Paul was an honest, firm, good-hearted Christian man whose exceptional character showed in his brilliant leadership of the 1-4 Infantry Battalion tasked with the Opposing Force mission to train every maneuver unit in The US Army, Europe. Paul taught me much & it was an honor to serve with him and call him friend. We will miss him deeply.
Michael A. Ryan,
Brigadier General (Ret.)*

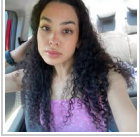
Michael Ryan - May 12 at 07:53 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Brigitte Melody - May 12 at 07:09 PM



“ <https://www.c-span.org/person/paul-melody/1003775/>

Brigitte Melody - May 12 at 10:41 AM

AZ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Alonzo Zarzycki - May 12 at 08:50 AM

BR

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire Melody family on the loss of our friend and colleague Paul Melody. Although words fall short to express our sincere thankfulness for Paul's many contributions to the Army Force Management School, his steadfast work in the nearly 10 years with us is an enduring legacy. Paul, our primary strategy instructor/ facilitator, was committed to academic excellence and ensuring that every young Officer or Civilian who attended our courses was prepared for the challenges of today's Army. He loved deeply the United States Army. He was a true patriot, mentor and leader. CALIBRE Systems Inc.is grateful for Paul's many contributions to our success and wishes the entire Melody family spiritual strength through this very difficult season.*

Bienvenido Rivera - May 11 at 04:52 PM

DG

“ Dear Melody family,

I am writing to express my deepest appreciation and respect for Paul's impactful tenure as an instructor at the Army Force Management School (AFMS).

Paul was very humble and welcoming. I valued his uniquely critical responsibility for teaching strategy. He possessed a rare gift for taking abstract strategic concepts and making them concrete, actionable, and relevant for his students.

Please know that Paul's legacy continues to live on in the countless officers, non-commissioned officers, and civilians he trained throughout his tenure. The Army is fundamentally stronger and more capable because of his service, his intellect, and his unwavering commitment to excellence.

I am profoundly grateful for the time he shared with us at the schoolhouse and extend my deepest thanks to you for supporting him in his dedicated service to our nation.

*Paul is truly miss here at the schoolhouse.
COL Darrell Green, Commandant*

Darrell Green - May 11 at 12:15 PM

LG

“ There were two loves Paul always spoke of with vigor and conviction. His love of God and his family. It was Paul's pleasure and honor to unconditionally love his family. Paul's legacy continues with his family. My deepest condolences to Angela and Paul's children. God's grace and mercy are sufficient during your time of grief.

Leslie Gerald, Calibre Colleague

Leslie A. Gerald - May 11 at 12:10 PM

WC

“ Paul joined CALIBRE and the Army Force Management School about nine years ago. I still remember his hiring interview. He clearly demonstrated a level of knowledge, experience, and confidence that we wanted to bring into the school.

Paul researched deeply into the history and dynamics of Strategy, his primary subject area and his instructional passion. No one could match his expertise. Paul loved to teach and interact on a professional level with his students. Despite the fact that he was twice the age of many of his students, he connected with them and often received high marks from the students on course surveys.

Paul was proud of his family, speaking highly of his son and daughter, their accomplishments and their aspirations. He openly professed his Christian Orthodox faith. It was the bedrock that helped him to accept his illness and ultimate return to the Lord.

I will miss him, but I know is in a better place.

Wayne Chalupa - May 11 at 06:11 AM

KV

“ We often talk about the "Long Gray Line," but rarely do we see it embodied as perfectly as it was in Paul. As fellow West Point grads and Infantry officers, Paul and I shared a shorthand - a shared language of duty and discipline born from the same Upstate New York roots. For eight years, I had the privilege of teaching alongside him, but the greatest lessons he taught weren't in a classroom; they were about what it means to be a man of character, faith, and family.

Paul was a brilliant instructor with a razor-sharp intellect and a sense of humor that could light up the heaviest days. But as much as he loved the Army and our work together, his heart lived at home.

To Angela, Kathleen, and Carol: Paul spoke of you with such profound respect and tenderness. He was so proud of the life you built together. And to 'L' (Phillipe) and Brigitte: you were his absolute world. When he spoke of you—which he did constantly - his eyes lit up with a warmth that surpassed any professional accolade. He adored you, and he made sure everyone he worked with knew it.

Paul's life was anchored by his Orthodox faith. He found great strength in his religious community and spoke so often of the guidance and friendship of Father Nectarios. That devotion guided him through his illness with a truly inspiring grace.

Paul was a warrior in every sense of the word—on the battlefield, in the classroom, and in his final fight. I will miss my friend, his wit, and our shared stories of home. We have lost a great man, but his legacy lives on in the beautiful family he loved so dearly.

Rest in peace, Paul. Well done. Be thou at peace.

Kevin Vink - May 09 at 06:50 PM

HH

“*Paul Melody was the consummate professional—an insightful scholar of defense and military strategy who spent many years studying and teaching the art and logic of warfare, from the ancient world to the modern battlefield. He had a gift for breaking down complex strategic decisions and revealing the reasoning behind them.*

Beyond his mastery of military theory, Paul was deeply devoted to his family and often drew on them to bring lessons to life. He frequently spoke with pride about his son’s talent and interest in international affairs, using those stories to connect classroom discussions to real-world national security challenges.

Paul’s depth of historical knowledge, sound judgment, and genuine reasoning left a lasting impression on both colleagues and students. He also brought humor and humility to his teaching. At one point, he realized it was best to let students read his famously “wordy” slides quietly rather than talk over them—a practical approach that reflected his respect for learning. It was always a funny sight to walk into the classroom and find Paul standing patiently while everyone read, especially in a virtual session when the silence could be baffling at first.

We will truly miss Paul—his intellect, his kindness, and his enduring influence on those fortunate enough to learn from him.

Hershel Holiday, fellow instructor, Army Force Management School.

Hershel Holiday - May 09 at 02:09 PM

KK

“ For over 20 years, we had the privilege of living behind an extraordinary man. He was the kind of neighbor who quietly made the world better simply by being in it.

He grew enormous lilies and many different kinds of lilies, each one more beautiful than the next. His gardens reflected so much of who he was—patient, thoughtful, intelligent, and full of quiet strength. There was something peaceful and grounding about seeing those flowers bloom year after year under his care.

Despite his many accomplishments, including serving as a colonel in the United States Army, he remained humble, approachable, and deeply kind. He carried himself with dignity but never with arrogance.

He was one of the smartest people I have ever known. Incredibly well read and endlessly curious, he could speak thoughtfully about almost anything. Yet he wore his intelligence lightly, always making others feel comfortable and valued.

What I will remember most is not simply what he achieved, but who he was: a gentle, gracious man whose presence made the world feel steadier, wiser, and kinder.

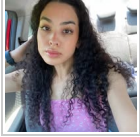
*Some people leave behind accomplishments.
Others leave behind beauty.*

He left both.

He will be deeply missed.

The Kaiser Family

Karen Kaiser - May 08 at 06:31 PM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Brigitte Melody - May 08 at 10:12 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Brigitte Melody - May 08 at 10:04 AM