



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 Giannati 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

Upcoming 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