



## Paul Arthur Palmer

August 12, 1946 - April 4, 2026

Paul Arthur Palmer, 79, of Manassas, Virginia, passed away on April 4, 2026. Whether at 30,000 feet in the cockpit of a fighter jet or on the ground at a local fire station, Paul lived his entire life in service to others — a character trait, not merely a career.

Born on August 12, 1946, in Hastings, Michigan, Paul enlisted in the United States Navy in 1964, beginning as a Nuclear Power Machinist's Mate. His natural aptitude earned him a place in the prestigious Seaman to Admiral program, through which he earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Marquette University. Rising from the engine room to the sky, he became a Naval Flight Officer, piloting first the F-4 Phantom and later the iconic F-14 Tomcat, serving with distinction over a twenty-year career before retiring in 1984.

Retirement did not slow Paul's instinct to serve. He settled in Manassas and found a new calling in Prince William County's volunteer fire service — first at Buckhall Station 16, then at Lake Jackson Station 7. His calm under pressure, honed over decades in naval aviation, made him a natural leader. He ultimately served as Fire Chief at Lake Jackson for several years, mentoring generations of young firefighters and keeping his neighbors safe. He was a steadfast presence in both the Buckhall and Lake Jackson communities and will be deeply missed by all who served alongside him.

In the private sector, Paul applied his engineering expertise as a Logistics Engineer, contributing to critical programs including the Navy Marine Corps Internet (NMCI). Whether solving problems in the field or in the boardroom, he brought the same disciplined, mission-focused approach that defined every chapter of his life.

Paul was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria Elaine (Deane) Palmer; his son, Shawn Christopher Palmer; his parents, Arthur and Mary Palmer; and his sisters, Bonnie Jean and Judith Ann.

He is survived by his son, Craig Allan Palmer; four grandchildren, Remy, Alex, Laura, and Zachariah; his stepdaughter, Wendy (Geno) McFadden, and her sons Joseph, Justin, and Tyler. Na d his Neice Debe (Lancaster) Roys and her husband Gary He is also remembered by a large, loving circle of both biological and chosen extended family.

Paul Arthur Palmer leaves behind a legacy of integrity, courage, and quiet dedication — from the cockpit of a naval fighter to the front lines of his community. His life was a reminder that service is not a season; it is a calling that endures.

A public viewing will be held on May 2nd from 11AM – 2PM at the pierce Funeral Home in Manassas, VA.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 2. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

# Tribute Wall

CK

“ *Carole, Katie, Brian and Kelley purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Paul Arthur Palmer.*



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**Carole, Katie, Brian and Kelley** - April 18 at 02:34 PM

WD

“ *I joined the Fire Department in 1996 and Paul was the Chief. He was always a respected Chief that always listen to his members and made sure all fire and rescue calls was answered. Paul I will always never forget you and taught me Rest in Peace Brother. Retired Chief Waiter Davis*

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**Walter Davis** - April 17 at 09:06 AM

LI

“ *Paul was always willing to teach you how to do something. Spent a lot of time in the garage learning how to fix something on a car. Also, remembering our family gatherings and the quick take off's for Fire/Rescue Calls when they would leave from the house to help out when it was needed.*

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**Linda** - April 14 at 10:11 PM



“ 11 files added to the album *Paul Palmer Pics*



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**Craig Palmer** - April 14 at 04:11 PM