



## Paul Eugene Petty

October 10, 2016

### Obituary of Paul Petty

Paul Eugene Petty passed away at 89, in Florida with his wife, Ann, and daughter, Cynthia, at his side. Paul was a devoted husband and father, an accomplished engineer and patriot. He and Ann were married in 1969, and raised five children: Sharon, Cynthia, Lisa, Paul and Jeff. They also have 8 grandchildren: Samantha, Katie, Andrew, Victoria, Olivia, Natalie, Griffin and Eliot. He is survived by his brother Leon and his sisters Joyce and Vivian.

Paul grew up on a small farm in southern Indiana, and at 18 joined the Navy where he became a pilot. While he served, he flew Corsairs from the Midway, Roosevelt, and the Coral Sea battle carriers. Afterwards, he received a BS in Aeronautical Engineering at Purdue University. He started his career at Chance Vaught where he worked on the same types of fighter planes he had flown.

He went on to work at General Electric where he met Ann and pioneered reconnaissance satellite systems that helped maintain the peaceful balance of

power between the United States and Soviet Union. In 1968, Paul joined Perkin-Elmer to create the next generation of satellite systems. Also while at Perkin-Elmer, Paul was responsible for building the Hubble Space telescope, which has been described as the most significant advancement in astronomy since Galileo's telescope. After leaving Perkin-Elmer in 1986, he consulted with Government clients for several years until retiring. He was proud to be recognized by Purdue for Outstanding Aerospace Engineering in 2014.

He loved fresh tomatoes grown on the farm in Indiana and though he searched he never found their equal. Paul enjoyed learning, reading, playing euchre, bridge and golf, travelling and enjoying time with Ann and his family. He enjoyed holidays with his family. He was an active member of his community, who enjoyed supporting Purdue at alumni events and attending and supporting his church. He enjoyed speaking about his field, the people he worked with and the impact they had for their country. He will be missed.

There will be a funeral service on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at Community United Methodist Church in Fruitland Park, FL at 10:30 AM. There will be a visitation from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at the church prior to the service. Interment will be at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 11:00 AM.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL Online condolences may be left at [www.BeyersFuneralHome.com](http://www.BeyersFuneralHome.com)

# Tribute Wall

RW

“ So very saddened and sorry to learn of Paul's death. Please accept my most sincere sympathy and know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Dick Webb

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**Richard Webb** - October 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Ann and her family at this time. I was proud to have a relative who contributed so much to our country and made a difference. He made history.

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**Bruce Cunningham** - October 16, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ It was such a joy to meet up with someone I worked with 50 yrs ago. Of course, we didn't know each other personally then or allowed to talk about it until recently but the work on Hexagon helped win the Cold War. So the serendipity of being here in FL together and being able to share memories and technical "war" stories with each other these past 5 years can't be over stated. Paul was not only brilliant, accomplished, and a true patriot, he was a wonderfully warm and loving friend. We'll miss him. So glad you have a loving family and friends plus many great memories to sustain you at this difficult time Ann. Love, Steve and Kathy Frangos.

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**stephen frangos** - October 15, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear Ann, Paul was such a dear, sweet man and we truly enjoyed knowing him. You two were such good neighbors and we certainly have missed you both since you moved. If there is anything we can do for you during this difficult time or in the future, please let us know. Sincerely, Scot and Linda

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**Linda and Scot Shipic** - October 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Ann, you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. We get through trying times like this one day at a time with God's help. We often sat behind you in church and you commented you liked to have Ted behind you because you liked to hear him sing. With our sympathy, Ted and Judy

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**Ted and Judy Bedell** - October 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Paul Eugene Petty*

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October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM