



Orlin Lee Mullen

October 10, 1942 - May 10, 2026

Brigadier General Orlin Lee Mullen (Ret.), 83, passed away on May 10, 2026, in Easton Maryland. A man of profound integrity and distinguished service, Orlin dedicated his life to his country and his family with equal devotion.

Born on October 10, 1942, in Muskogee Oklahoma, to Orlin Harold and Minnie Lee Mullen, Orlin's journey of service began at the Oklahoma Military Academy then continued to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated with the Class of 1965. A scholar as well as a soldier, he furthered his intellectual pursuits at the University of Michigan, earning a dual master's degree in engineering, and later graduated from the U.S. Army War College in 1985, preparing him for the highest levels of strategic command.

General Mullen's 29-year career in the U.S. Army was defined by a rare combination of combat bravery and visionary leadership in military technology. As a young officer General Mullen served two tours in the Vietnam War, he served as a troop commander in the armor branch and as a decorated aviator, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. This award, among the military's highest for aviators, recognized his skill and courage under fire during his combat tour in 1971.

Throughout the Cold War and beyond, his leadership continued to ascend. He

was twice awarded the Legion of Merit, first for his exceptional service as Chief of Staff for the 7th Army Training Command in West Germany, and again for his meritorious conduct in senior leadership roles.

His military career culminated in his role as the Project Manager for the RAH-66 Comanche stealth helicopter program. For his "exceptionally meritorious service in a position of great responsibility" during this pivotal era of modernization, he was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal. His additional decorations included the Bronze Star, the Air Medal for combat flight hours, and the Army Aviator Badge.

Following his retirement from uniform in 1994, Orlin began a second successful chapter at Cypress International. He applied his vast experience in weapons systems and strategic requirements to assist the defense industry, earning the deep respect of colleagues for his insight and continued commitment to the nation's defense capabilities.

Beyond his military accolades, Orlin was a devoted family man. He is survived by his beloved wife of 61 years, Sandra J. Mullen, whose steadfast partnership supported him through decades of service and numerous deployments around the globe.

His legacy lives on through his children and grandchildren, whom he deeply cherished:

- His daughter, Sydney Podraza and her husband Jeff, and their daughters Willow and Skylar.

- His son, Garrett Mullen, his wife Molly, and their children Connor and Makenna.

He is also survived by his sister, Mary Bruce, her daughter Stephanie Burris,

and his brother, J.B. Mullen, and his two sons John and James Mullen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Orlin Harold and Minnie Lee.

Family will receive visitors at Fellows, Helfenbein, & Newman, Easton, Maryland on Wednesday May 20th, from 4-6pm.

Funeral services with Full Military Honors will be held at the United States Military Academy at West Point July 8th at 1:30pm.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Talbot Hospice: WHV (We Honor Veterans) in memory of BG Orlin L. Mullen (ret).

Cemetery Details

West Point Cemetery

Washington Road
West Point, NY 10996

Upcoming Events

Graveside Service

JUL 8. 1:30 PM (ET)

West Point Cemetery
Washington Road
West Point, NY 10996

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street
EASTON
EASTON, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Orlin Lee Mullen*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - May 21 at 11:32 AM

DW

“ *We were so sorry to hear of Orlins passing. I worked with him during the Canadian Army Trophy Shoot while stationed in Graff, GE. How an MP officer was tasked with a job involving tanks and tank gunnery still has me scratch my head. His guidance and advice were certainly helpful for my success along with that of our Chief of Staff, Col Dick Coffman and our 7th ATC CG, BG Crosbie Saint. He ran interference on my behalf on several occasions, and I truly appreciated that. RIP General Mullin.*

*Dick and Karen Wiggins
Coeur d Alene, ID*

Dick Wiggins - June 08 at 12:32 PM

GB

“ I am very sorry to hear that Orlin Mullen passed away. We worked together for many years in a very good way and I could not have done my job as CEO without the insights he gave me on a continuous base. He was a true leader. My condolences to the family.
Goossen Boers



Goossen Boers - May 20 at 12:31 PM

ST

“ Sharon & Tracy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orlin Lee Mullen.

Sharon & Tracy - May 20 at 06:51 AM

ST

“ Sharon & Tracy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Orlin Lee Mullen.



Sharon & Tracy - May 20 at 06:51 AM

SU

“ Sending you my deepest sympathies on the passing of your father. Your father was a true leader, both in uniform and at home. He will always be remembered for his service to our country; he was a leader in uniform but also at home. Sydney, his greatest legacy is what a great grandfather he was, and that he raised a daughter with so much integrity as a friend and person.



Susan - May 19 at 04:02 PM

ML

“ Michelle Leatherman lit a candle in memory of Orlin Lee Mullen



Michelle Leatherman - May 15 at 08:13 AM

LE

“ Sydney and family, I am very sorry to hear of General Mullen's passing. I always enjoyed seeing him and your Mom at the dental office.

Laurie Etzler, formerly at ESDC

Laura Etzler - May 14 at 07:11 PM

JM

“ I am saddened for your loss and he will be missed. Mr. Orlin was an amazing man and mentor to me throughout my entire career and I am forever in his debt for the guidance. I'll miss our chats sitting on mom and dad's back porch sharing stories and a cold beverage.

Josh Miller - May 13 at 01:07 PM

TS

“ Tracy And Stacey Schulz sent a virtual gift in memory of Orlin Lee Mullen



Tracy and Stacey Schulz - May 12 at 01:49 PM

PT

“ Pat and Tracy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orlin Lee Mullen.

Pat and Tracy - May 12 at 12:42 PM

PT

“ Pat and Tracy purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Orlin Lee Mullen.



Pat and Tracy - May 12 at 12:42 PM

AR

“ We send our condolences and prayers to you and your family in this time of need. We are eternally grateful for your father's service to our country. May his memory live forever in the hearts of his family, loved ones, service members, and friends.

Sincerely,

Aaron Reyes & Diana Chase

Aaron Reyes - May 12 at 11:37 AM

CS

“ JB and family--I'm so sorry for your loss. I never got the privilege to meet Orlin but heard a lot about his life from his brother. My prayers and condolences to all the family.

Cheri Smith

Cheryl Smith - May 12 at 11:18 AM

LF

“ Love, The Hill Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Orlin Lee Mullen.

Love, The Hill Family - May 12 at 09:20 AM

LF

“ Love, The Hill Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Orlin Lee Mullen.



Love, The Hill Family - May 12 at 09:20 AM

EC

“ Eastern Shore Dental Care lit a candle in memory of Orlin Lee Mullen



Eastern Shore Dental Care - May 12 at 08:34 AM