



Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr.

March 5, 1931 - November 18, 2025

Paul Whittier Dillingham, Jr. was a native of Winchester , MA and a 1953 graduate of Harvard College. He entered the Navy Officer Candidate Program at Newport, RI and was commissioned an Ensign in the Naval Reserve in November 1953. He was augmented into the regular Navy in 1958. He retired as a Rear Admiral in 1984.

He attended the Russian Language Division of the Naval Intelligence School in Washington, DC and had major operational tours in Bremerhaven, Germany and Nicosia, Cyprus. He served as the Naval Security Group's Department head and Executive Office at the US Naval Communications Station, Spain. He served as Commanding Officer of the US Naval Security Group Activity, Misawa, Japan.

He was promoted to Flag Rank in August 1979 and assumed command of the Naval Security Group Command in 1980. He also attended the Naval Postgraduate School, George Washington University, and the University of Rhode Island where he took Masters degrees in Business Administration and Marine Affairs. He is a 1974 Distinguished Graduate of the Senior Officers' Naval Warfare Course at the Naval War College.

The Admiral's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal and Naval Commendation

Medal.

After his naval service, he was a Vice President of Cray Research, a supercomputer company.

An all-around athlete, he played varsity football, basketball and track in high school and while at Harvard was on the diving team. In four years, he lost only one dual meet (to a Navy diver) and he was selected New England Champion, Eastern Collegiate High and Low Board Champion and all American Diver in 1951 and 1953.

He was married to Patricia M. Dillingham (nee Murphy) of Arlington, VA and is survived by their sons, Timothy P. Dillingham of Hopewell, NJ, Paul W. Dillingham, III of Catonsville, MD and Pal Gjesdal of Oslo, Norway and their wives, Dr. Barbara J. Reale, Rosemary Courtney Dillingham and Ann Gjesdal, and their grandchildren Catherine R. Dillingham of Philadelphia, PA, Leah M. Dillingham of Nashville, TN, David R. Dillingham of Encinitas, CA, Patrick R. Dillingham of Belmar, NJ, Grace C. Dillingham of Catonsville, MD and Paul W. Dillingham, IV of Catonsville, MD. He is also survived by a sister, Deborah Green of Camden, ME and nieces and nephews.

He moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 1989 to a beautiful historic farm in Rock Hall, MD on the Chesapeake Bay where he and his wife restored a 1692 colonial period house and cultivated the gardens and grounds creating a haven and home base for his sometimes far-flung family after years of service-dictated traveling. He was an active member of the community, serving on the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal parish for many years where he managed the historic cemetery, was active as a board member of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and led the effort to sustain the presence of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's performances on the Eastern Shore. He and Patricia were active volunteers and supporters of the Eastern Neck National

Wildlife Refuge, reflecting his life-long commitment to conservation. He was especially proud to be recognized by Rock Hall as a “Home Town Hero” for his military service. He served as an advisory to the President of Washington College, Chestertown MD during several of their strategic planning processes. He served Kent County on several advisory committees related to efforts that might have compromised the beauty and agricultural economy of the County including state proposals to site a third Bay Bridge in Kent

County and to dispose of dredged materials from Baltimore harbor on farmlands in the county. He was a descendant of William Brewster of the Mayflower and was an active member and officer of the Descendants of Colonial Clergy.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Shore Rivers via their website at (<https://www.shorerivers.org/give/annualappeal>).

Previous Events

Viewing

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **23**. 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Kent
7760 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Burial

NOV **23** (ET)

St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)
7600 Sandy Bottom Road
Chestertown, MD

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Danielle M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete" Dillingham Jr..

Danielle M. - November 23, 2025 at 10:26 AM

GH

“ Gregory H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete" Dillingham Jr..

Gregory H. - November 22, 2025 at 10:22 AM

JS

“ Jean-Marc, Marnie, Bennett and Sophie purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Paul Whittier 'Pete" Dillingham Jr..



Jean-Marc, Marnie, Bennett and Sophie - November 21, 2025 at 11:31 AM

JS

“ Jean-Marc, Marnie, Bennett and Sophie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete" Dillingham Jr..

Jean-Marc, Marnie, Bennett and Sophie - November 21, 2025 at 11:31 AM

JM

“ Jennifer M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr..

Jennifer M. - November 21, 2025 at 09:18 AM

PR

“ Paige R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr..

Paige R. - November 20, 2025 at 03:31 PM

DL

“ 2 files added to the album Photos from Friends



Don Lubach - November 20, 2025 at 03:15 PM

DM

“ My heart is with you, Tim and Dillingham family. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Danielle McCulloch - November 20, 2025 at 08:44 AM

CM

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers and hugs to you and your family .

Cissy McGinnes - November 19, 2025 at 09:57 PM

KM

“ *Mr Pete was one of kind. My husband and I cut his grass at Hodges Bar for many years. We will never forget him. RIP Mr Pete we are sure Mrs. D was waiting for you with open arms. You will be missed but never forgotten.*



Kevin and Tracey Middleton - November 19, 2025 at 08:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr..*



November 19, 2025 at 07:15 PM

YF

“ *Your American Littoral Society Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr..*

Your American Littoral Society Family - November 19, 2025 at 07:15 PM

DE

“ *Debby purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr..*



Debby - November 19, 2025 at 04:53 PM

DE

“ Debby planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr..

Debby - November 19, 2025 at 04:53 PM

JA

“ A truly remarkable man, always reasonable. Pete provided serious stewardship to Saint Paul's, to the Rock Hall community. and to preserving the best of Eastern shore life. I will treasure my memories of him and pray that his family finds comfort in their memories.



Jean Austin - November 19, 2025 at 04:01 PM

DE

“ Donna Hubbard Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul Whittier 'Pete' Dillingham Jr.



Donna Hubbard Edwards - November 19, 2025 at 10:58 AM

DE

Mr Dillingham was one of my most favorite customers at the Peoples Bank in Rock Hall. After I retired I would always see him in Bayside Market. He would always come back to our wonderful hometown. My thoughts & prayers are with the family. God Bless him until we meet again. Love, Donna

Donna Hubbard Edwards - November 19, 2025 at 11:03 AM

GK

Tim: I am sorry to learn of the loss of your father. If the two of you were close as adults, the loss of this friendship, this love for one another is particularly devastating. I am sure he was very proud of your accomplishments as Director of the ALS and your abilities as a leader. My heart goes out to you. George Kowallis

George Kowallis,MD - November 22, 2025 at 07:54 PM