



Paul Ronald Fine

September 26, 1945 - February 3, 2026

Paul Ronald Fine passed away on February 3, 2026, in Easton, Maryland, after a half-century career as a documentary filmmaker and cinematographer. For more than five decades, he told stories that mattered, giving voice to people the world might otherwise never have seen or heard.

Born in Washington, D.C., in 1945, to Nate and Rita Fine, Paul was introduced to a camera by his father, Nate Fine, the official photographer for the Washington Redskins for 50 years. By sixteen, Paul was on the sidelines photographing the games and working alongside his father. Those early years instilled in Paul both a love for the beauty of the game and an understanding that the best images capture not just action, but humanity. At 20, Paul moved into motion pictures as a news cameraman for the ABC affiliate in Washington, D.C. (now WJLA). There he met Holly DeLisio, and they instantly became "Paul-and-Holly", a single word, a singular force. For 40 years, they worked together both as producers and Paul as cinematographer and Holly as editor.

The Fines' talent quickly took them from local news to the national stage. They went on to create groundbreaking documentaries and specials for CBS, where their work on "60 Minutes" produced sensitive portraits of everyone from AIDS nurses to Barbara Streisand, from homeless activists Mitch Snyder to Chris Rock. They also produced hard-hitting work for CBS Reports, including a 3-hour special on violence, "In the Killing Fields of America." At ABC News/Nightline, they produced "The Survivors" for ABC/Nightline, a moving documentary about two people severely burned at the Pentagon on 9/11.

The accolades were extraordinary: four George Foster Peabody Awards (including a lifetime achievement award), 80 Emmys, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Award, four-time White House News Photographer of the Year, Ohio State Award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. But for Paul it was not about awards—it was about the people in his work. When Washington D.C.'s Engine Company 16 gave him a firefighter's helmet after he finished the documentary "We're No Heroes," he said simply, "That was the best award I ever received." His images always did the talking. He responded to the human side of every story with no thought for prestige—only for truth and dignity.

In 1997, Paul was diagnosed with a progressive motor neuron disease. He and Holly put their career on hold and moved full-time to Maryland's Eastern Shore where he fought to

keep living fully. His love for the Chesapeake Bay ran deep, whether he was casting a line or simply photographing the sunsets over the water, he found peace on The Bay.

Paul was also an extraordinary mentor and believed that the most important work we can do begins with listening. Paying attention to others, truly caring about their lives, their struggles and their dignity, is both demanding and essential. He knew that compassion can be painful, but he believed it is what makes us human. In that belief, he leaves us with a challenge worth carrying forward.

Paul is survived by his wife and lifelong partner, Holly, his sons Bryce Fine and Sean Fine, his daughter-in-law Andrea Nix Fine, and his beloved grandsons Aidan and Roan Fine, who continue his legacy of creativity. A celebration of Paul's life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Baywater Animal Rescue, 4730 Bucktown Rd., Cambridge, MD 21613.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ Paul was as good a "shooter" as there was in television. His work for WJLA, CBS and ABC attest to that. His eye for picture, framing, lighting and composition was impeccable. Just as important, however, was his personality. He had a way of relating to the subjects of his work that was incomparable. He just 'got' people and thus they wanted to work with him. That quality made his work all the better. Paul was also a great mentor. I had the privilege of working with Paul when my career started at channel 7 in Washington, DC, and then again when I was hosting Good Morning America and anchoring ABC's evening news as well as doing the occasional documentary. Whenever the opportunity, i requested that Paul be my photographer and I was always honored when he would call me and say "I have this idea..." And then there was Holly. I remember when Paul told me one day at channel 7 - "Have you met the new film editor? She's really great." I soon learned he didn't just mean as an editor, though she was that, but he was interested in knowing her personally. And they became an inseparable pair. For life. For 54 years of life. Paul's son Sean won an Oscar for his work on a short documentary about a lovely artist in California. Sean was a chip off the old block - he had a great example to follow. And now one of Paul's grandsons is studying film at NYU. I look forward to seeing what he produces, for excellence is in his DNA. Paul's health compromised his mobility in his later years. But he would send me a still picture on occasion that he would have taken of the Chesapeake Bay area. He shot great video; he shot great stills. Paul was 'old school'. He always preferred working in film. He never did like working in digital video. All of this it to say Paul was an exceptional photographer, and a lovely human being. His laugh was infectious and he laughed often. The awards for his work were many, but Paul lives in the hearts of those with whom he worked. Me included. God speed Paul. Charlie Gibson.

Charlie Gibson - February 12 at 07:26 PM



“ To Holly; Sean and the entire family. When I joined the ranks of Colorlab in the mid 1980's I quickly became aware of the vibrant film community that existed in the DC area and beyond. It was then I had the privilege to be acquainted with Paul, then a cinematographer for 60 minutes. I grew to respect him on many levels both as a professional and as a serious; intelligent and often humorous client. There are so many good memories of our encounters in those days when I was just starting out and I thank him for that. I thank Holly for that as well - they were a team always. My love and condolences to all of you. Jake Kreeger

Jake Kreeger - February 12 at 04:48 PM

SD

“ Sam and Sandy Donaldson purchased the *Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum* for the family of Paul Ronald Fine.



Sam and Sandy Donaldson - February 11 at 07:22 PM

SD

“ Sam and Sandy Donaldson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Ronald Fine.

Sam and Sandy Donaldson - February 11 at 07:22 PM

JD

“ My deepest condolences to Holly, whom I never met. I haven't seen Paul or his sister and parents (I called him 'Ronnie') since the late 1950's, as our lives separated when we entered high school. We grew up together in Silver Spring: I on Second Ave and he on Anson Street, a few blocks away. We started to lose contact when he moved about a mile away near Mrs. K's in Silver Spring. We had so much fun playing together as kids. I remember when he had his whole face bandaged from a fire from a barn across the street from his home on Anson Street; the photos his father took when his mother dressed us up in old, women's clothes from their attic and put cigarettes in our mouths, and the Redskins visiting the home. That's how I became a Redskin fan and still hold season tickets. So many more childhood memories. God rest him.

John Dondero - February 07 at 06:27 PM

SD

I just now learned of Paul's passing. What a great human being he was, in so many ways. His talent, his humanism, his sense of humor, and his love of the water all characterized him as one very special guy. He and Holly achieved greatness together, and my heart goes out to her and the family. Rest in peace, dear Paul. You led a good life and you'll be missed.

Sandy Donaldson - February 11 at 07:33 PM

JP

“ TO THE FAMILY: “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who recognizes the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day.” John 6:40.

Janice Pulley - February 07 at 12:25 PM

DP

“ Paul lent his keen and passionate eye to everyone he captured, and I felt honored to work with him on our documentary about artist Jack Lewis. He filmed Jack's students in a maximum security prison in Delaware with such compassion and care. In every frame, I saw Paul's humanity by simply revealing their truth. He shared his gift that lives on in his work, his family, and friends who miss him dearly. Thank you, Paul.

David John Petersen - February 06 at 05:30 PM

MW

To Holly, Bryce, Sean, Andrea, Aidan, Roan, Dominic:
We send our sympathy to all of you as you cope with losing Paul ("Sean's Dad" to us). We have always admired the work of Paul and Holly Fine and their integrity in using their talents for the good of humanity.

From the Tom West family in Washington and Centreville, Margaret, Tom, Ben, Susannah and Jon.

Margaret West - February 25 at 01:25 PM