

After a long battle with Colon Cancer, Joseph Paul Fordham died on June 24, 2015 at home in St. Leonard, MD at the age of 51.

Joe was born in Lafayette, Indiana but spent his high school years in Clinton, Iowa. After graduating from Clinton High School, he received an appointment to the Naval Academy. He graduated with the class of 1985 as a member of 9<sup>th</sup> company. After graduation, Joe was a Naval Flight Officer and flew as a bombardier/navigator on the A-6 Intruder. Here he amassed over 250 carrier landings on the USS Forrestal, where he was a member of VA-176 (Attack Squadron 176). He then attended Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California from July, 1991 to October, 1993 where he received a MS in Aeronautical Engineering. He went on to live in Panama where he worked for the US Southern Command as a Staff Officer for two years before leaving the Navy in 1996.

After his military career, he went on to work as a Systems Engineer Manager for System Planning Corporation, Naval Air Warfare Center, The Boeing Company and CRL Technologies where he was currently working. When diagnosed with colon cancer in January 2013, he remained dedicated to his work through many surgeries and chemotherapy treatments.

Joe loved many things. He had vast knowledge about Civil War history; his favorite place to visit by far was Gettysburg. He knew most every battlefield and could tell you what had occurred there. He loved trivia and won many local trivia contests. He loved the outdoors and going tent camping with his girls. He liked to take road trips with his family around the country. He was famous for saying, "What's our next big adventure?" His friends and Naval Academy classmates were viewed as his extended family. Lastly, he loved spending his evenings watching the Nationals baseball team. He was a gentle soul and always kind to everyone and he will be missed dearly.

Joe is survived by his wife of 21 years, Robin; step daughter, Kylee Sills; daughters, Maranda and Audrey; his mother, Blanca Fordham of Wake Forest, North Carolina; brother, Chris Fordham of Raleigh, North Carolina; sister, Theresa Jones of Wake Forest, North Carolina and sister, Karen Smith of Easton, Connecticut. He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Fordham.

Interment with military honors is planned for 27 July 2015 at the USNA Columbarium with a reception to follow at The Officer's Club.