

Misty 148 Biography, Paul Tackabury

Paul was born 14 Oct 1944. Paul headed west on 27 March 2021.

“Tack” graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1967. He flew the F-100 and the F-4 on separate tours to Vietnam; 300+ missions in the war.

Paul was Misty 148 while stationed at Tuy Hoa by the sea. After Vietnam, Paul graduated from the USAF Test Pilot School. He remained at Edwards AFB in flight test and as a Test Pilot School Instructor; he later became a test pilot in the F-117A . He was the Director of the F-117 Combined Test Force as the program transitioned from research and development to production. After 20 years in the Air Force, Paul retired as the Commander of the F-117 Combined Test Force.

Following his Air Force career, Paul joined Northrop and was designated as the manager of Test and Evaluation for the USAF YF-23 Northrop ATF prototype aircraft. His previous experience with the F-117 test program was instrumental in the success of this high-risk YF-23 program. Paul later oversaw the science and technology projects in the B-2 division. His contributions to the challenging satellite bombing system on the B-2 resulted in the precision combat power of America’s long range bomber.

Paul was a loving husband and father of 2 daughters. Flying was his second love, and it never left him. In his lifetime, Paul became a master at building new aircraft and restoring vintage models. And, not to let speed leave him behind, Paul also won many air races before retiring his wings.