Paul Murray, Jr., Col. USA ret., age 96, of Fernandina Beach, FL passed away on Wednesday evening, May 20, 2015 at The Retreat of Osprey Village on Amelia Island, FL.

He was born January 30, 1919 in Piqua, OH to Paul Murray and Elizabeth (Smith) Murray. His father was a career US Army officer, and Paul spent his youth in a variety of Army posts stateside and abroad, including Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX and Camp John Hay in Baguio, PI. He attended Haverford School in Valley Forge, PA, and a Jesuit College in Manila, the Philippines. In 1942 he graduated with a BA, cum laude, from Williams College with an Honors Degree in Political Science and a MA in International Affairs in 1964 from George Washington University. After graduating from Williams, Paul enlisted in the US Army at Camp Edwards, MA, an Army post on Cape Cod commanded at that time by his father, Col. Paul Murray. He went through Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry. He was assigned to the 2nd Armored Division in the European Theater and was an armored infantry platoon leader during the Battle of the Bulge during which he was seriously wounded in combat operations. He recovered from his wounds in time to rejoin his unit before entering Berlin during the closing days of the war.
After the war, Paul remained in the Army. He attended Chinese language training at Yale University and was assigned to Peking, China for intensive language studies. While there he witnessed the turmoil of change as the regime of Chiang Kai-shek was replaced by that of Mao Zedong’s in 1949. After returning to the States he served in a variety of staff and troop assignments in Washington, D.C. and Army installations in the continental U.S. He graduated from the Army Armor School at Ft. Knox, KY, the Army Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA. He was an executive officer of a tank battalion at Ft. Hood, TX. He served as the Army Attaché with the US Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan; an instructor of cadets and commander of garrison troops at West Point, NY; and he commanded a brigade of the US Army 7th Division in Korea. After returning from Korea, he was assigned as an instructor at the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA, and then served as a member of the National Security Council Staff in Washington D.C. His awards included the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, three Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, a combat infantry badge and various service ribbons.

Paul retired from the US Army in 1973 as a full Colonel and temporarily worked as a consultant for the RAND Corporation in the Washington DC office. He moved to Louisville, KY for several years but then returned to Falmouth in 1983. While in Falmouth he became an avid sailor and was an active member of the St. Barnabas Church. He also traveled with the Williams College Alumni Association to several locales in North America and Europe. In 2003 Paul moved to Amelia Island, FL.

Paul was predeceased by his daughter, Katherine Louise, his first wife, Jane B. Murray, and his sister, Harriet (Murray) Edgerton. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen H. Murray of Falmouth, his companion, Linda Wilde of Amelia Island, FL, his son, Paul E. Murray of Falmouth, his daughter, Martha J. Robinson of Saugerties, NY, his granddaughter, Whitney E. Murray of Phoenix, AZ, and his grandsons, John P. Murray of Jacksonville, FL, and Daniel E. Robinson of Golden, CO. He also leaves a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from the graveside in Eastlawn Cemetery, Williamstown, MA with the Reverend Rector Peter T. Elvin of St. John’s Episcopal Church of Williamston, officiating.

Colonel Murray Jr. will be laid to rest with full military honors.

His family will receive friends on Saturday, following the graveside service, at The Orchards Hotel.

Please share his Life Legacy and leave your memories and words of condolence at www.oxleyheard.com

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3 attachments