

Paul W. Obermayer

Class of 1981

Columbia High School

Paul W. Obermayer recently retired from the United States Navy after twenty-four years of active military service. He retired with the rank of Chief Petty Officer and currently resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mr. Obermayer graduated from Columbia High School in 1981. He was an outstanding athlete earning letters in varsity football and track. He helped to pioneer the initial phases of the Columbia Lacrosse program where he also lettered. After graduation from Columbia he embarked upon a military career which has consumed most of his life. He did however, find time to complete both an Associate Degree and Bachelors Degree in Liberal Studies from Excelsior University, a prestigious distance learning institution.

Mr. Obermayer's military career has been a unique, and to say the least, a challenging one. His enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps soon after graduation from Columbia resulted in his becoming a member of the branche's RECON unit, which served in the Far East. After serving a four-year enlistment he was discharged and immediately joined the U.S. Navy. It was here that he embarked upon the most exciting and demanding experience of his military career, that of a NAVY Seal. As it is universally recognized as one of the most demanding special unit forces in the world, Mr. Obermayer's successful completion of the rigorous six-month program was no small achievement. As a member of this elite unit he participated in a series of international interventions/crises, e.g. Panama (1989); Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (2001; 2004). Few, if any of us knew that a Columbia High "grad" was a key player in these historic events.

Mr. Obermayer's contribution to the defense of his country and dedication to its nobler ideals has earned him well-deserved recognition. He has been awarded two Bronze Stars for combat service in both Afghanistan and Iraq; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1991-2005); Commendation and Achievement Medal for Unit Supervision in the Balkans; Navy Commendation for Panama Operation Just Cause (1989-90); as well as a host of Service Ribbons and other medals. Devotion to country and excellence in the performance of duty aptly describes this gentleman's journey.

It is therefore, with great pride that the East Greenbush School District proudly inducts Paul W. Obermayer into the Columbia High School Hall of Fame.