**Transcript from Farewell video for Paul Takisaki by peers, employees and executive including Aparna (CRO). Created for his departure from Verizon after 20 years, 6 relocations, 12 positions, every record broken, hundreds of people impacted and dozens personally mentored (many reaching levels they didn’t dream of because of his mentorship)**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKo7g5SANYM>

**00:02 Venkatesh Shridar**

P-A-U-L. To most people, those letters spell the name Paul. But to some people, it means a lot more. Some say Paul is someone who always puts people first. Some others say that he is 100 % authentic. In some circles, he's lauded for his unwavering commitment to the business. And he has quite the fan base claiming that he is a true legend. This guy seems almost too good to be true.

Is he the real deal? Is he really that amazing? Don't take my word for it, I guess. Let's roll the clips.

**Pritesh Patel:**

People may forget that you said, what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel. You Paul are amongst the best in the business in supporting folks to get to their true potential. You thumbprint is forever left in my journal. Wish you all the best. Go get them Mamba style.

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**01:11**

**“Tristen O’Brien**

Hey just really, really wanted to spend a special minute and just say thank you for everything that you've done for my career. You helped build me into a leader that I think I've become. You led from the front. You were always transparent, and you trusted your team, and led the right way. And for all those reasons, I really appreciate you. I know we won't lose touch. And if you need anything from me, calls, reference letters, or want to call me to work for you one day, I definitely would.

**Jose:**

Appreciate you, sir. Hey Paul, I just want to send you a quick message as you're departing Verizon and onto your new journey. It's really been great to get to know you over the past few years. Even more so, we've worked in several capacities over the past decade really. But just want to say thank you for your leadership and your friendship and wish you well for your next endeavor. We'll talk soon. See ya. Hey Paul, first of all, a big congratulations. Secondly, thank you, thank you, thank you.

**Rachael Nagrowski (Executive Director)**

Thirdly, I wish nothing but the best for you and your family. You will be missed, Paul, congratulations on your next chapter. So excited to see what's in front of you. Hard to believe this much time has passed that we have been colleagues and friends. I'm seriously going to miss you and wish you the very best. Hey, Paul. I was just going to come on and say good luck, not that you're going to need it.

**Dave Takisaki (VP don’t use)**

I'm going to miss you here at Verizon. There hasn't been anybody who's been more influential in my Verizon career than you have been as you've helped me out through the years and we've been able to bounce ideas off each other. Really loved it. I'm going to miss it. Not going to miss the emails addressed to me that are really for you and probably vice versa. And it seems kind of weird that there's only one Takasaki at Verizon now. Going to miss you here, but listen, I'll probably talk to you tonight. So, all right, take care.

**Joy Lunger (Director Verizon)**

“Leaders instill in their people a hope for success and a belief in themselves. Positive leaders empower people to accomplish their goals.” *Unknown.*

This quote sums up what Paul has meant to me in my journey of becoming the leader I am now. Paul, thank you for pushing me outside my comfort zone. Allowing me to become the authentic leader I am now and encouraging me to have my voice heard. Plus teaching me how my voice can make a difference on team of amazing leaders and talent. Thank you for believing in me and helping me get to the next level. For that I am forever grateful. I can’t wait to see your next success.. I have a feeling I will be seeing you at the helm of a successful business and listening to your Ted Talk or Podcast in the future.  
**03:44 Ajay Dugar (Sr. Director)**

Hey Paul, congratulations and we're gonna miss you here at Verizon. Really glad that our paths crossed many, many years ago as data directors and senior directors. We worked together through many projects, many obstacles and many successes together. Wishing you nothing but the best and looking forward to our paths crossing here soon.

**Al Lowell (Director):**

Hey Paul, thank you for your leadership. You've had a huge impact on my career and helped me be the leader who I am today. And I just have all the thanks in the world and I wish you well in your next chapter. Keep us posted and we'll talk soon.

**04:20 Amanda Spiga (COS):**

Hey Paul, congratulations on your next chapter. First off, I want to thank you for being such an incredible partner these last two and a half years. I've learned so much from you. I appreciate all of the encouragement that you've given me, the advice, and you know, ultimately your friendship. I do value that and I'm looking forward to seeing where you go and what you do next. And I'm just looking forward to hearing all the great things that are going to come in the future. So good luck, congratulations, and stay in touch.

**Rhonna (don't use):**

We are all going to miss you so very much. Thank you so much for everything, for being such a great boss. I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever that you are going to

**05:10**

to bigger and better things, absolutely, 100%. So I wish you the best, you and your family, and God bless you all. Take care. We'll miss you. Bye. Hey, Paul. Congratulations on your astounding and impactful career here at Verizon. I know that you touched and improved.

**05:38 Todd Mundy (Sr. Director):**

Congrats on your outstanding and impactful career. I know that you touched and improved the lives and careers of many, myself included. No one taught me to build a bunker like you during our COVID summer times together. I appreciate you, Paul. Good luck. I know we'll stay in touch. Nothing but success and congratulations again. Thanks, buddy.

**Cam Vogt (Sr. Director):**

The great Paul Takasaki. Thank you so much for everything that you've done for me over the years. You've been such a tremendous friend, leader, and mentor.

And I just can't thank you enough for all that you've done for me. I wish you nothing but the best in your future. Take care.

**Shannon Burge (Director):**

**Extraordinary is the word I would use to describe you.** I am grateful for having the opportunity to work with you in different capacities over the years. **You are a leader who genuinely cares about your people and is able to bring out the best in those around you.** For me, working with you always sparked further curiosity about the business. In your next chapter stay reminded of the greatness you embody and know your wisdom, support, and excellence has impacted so many of us through the years.

**Brad Rowsey (Director):**

From the first time I met you, Paul, you always made me feel like I was heard. **You took on an unfamiliar and untested group and sought to understand how we could make a positive impact, then you let us do what we needed to do to accomplish our goals.** For that, I’ll be forever grateful.

**06:47 Emily Pivonka (Sr. Director):**

Hi Paul, coming to you from the heart of the Plains. I just wanted to thank you for your leadership impact, your friendship, your wisdom and your kindness through the years. Super excited for your next chapter and just know that you are a Verizon legend and have made an incredible impact on so many of us.

**Falon Schaarschmidt (Director):**

It was tough to find the words to actually put together to say goodbye. So like you, I looked for some quotes to help with it and I landed on the simplest of them all.which was the influence of a good teacher can never be erased. So I genuinely want to thank you. The entire org felt that influence. Personally, you helped me a ton. just be calm. And I appreciate you like a hack for that. and it's really helped me and will continue to help me through my career. think everyone can take a piece of Paul with them as we go forward. And just really, we want to say thank you for absolutely everything that you've done for each of us and me personally. And say congrats. I'm really excited for you. I'm excited for your future. I did take a moment to find a quote about the future too that I hope you'll take with you. “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” And I know you will. You're absolutely awesome. You will be missed like heck. And as you put it, your fingerprint will be left on the business. So thank you, thank you, thank you for everything and best wishes to you.

**Venkatesh Sridhar (Sr. Director)**

This is the 45 minute section of the video. So buckle up. Just kidding. I will remember you as the person that took a chance on me. **You saw something in me that I didn't even know I had. I guess that's what makes you so special as a person and a leader. Your energy and positivity pushed me and I'm sure the rest of our teams to heights we didn't even think were attainable**. Thank you for being a believer, a mentor, a friend, and a guiding light throughout. This is not a goodbye or farewell because we will certainly keep in touch. This is me wishing you good luck and all the positive vibes for your next amazing chapter. Keep crushing it, man. We will be cheering and rooting for you always. Take care, Paul.

**Aparana (CRO):**

We will miss you. Hey, Paul. We're really sorry to see you go. **You've had an indelible mark on the business markets with all that you've done in the field and then with the TSO team, always with a smile.**  I'm going to personally miss working with you. I wish you nothing but the best for the future. Good luck and stay in touch.

**Dave Hickey (VP):**

I don't know how to top that, but Paul, I know you worked for me twice. Directly and then indirectly for many years, you made a huge impact on my business. I know I can look back and see the things I've learned from you. You're gonna do really great out there. I'm gonna read about you in the weeks. Best of luck.

**Mike Caralis (VP):**

And I just wanna say thank you for all your leadership of the TSO. **You've been an amazing partner.** You've done a phenomenal job building the culture and the organization to where we're at. And I wish you and the family the best.

**Mark Tina (VP):**

I'll jump in Paul, it's been amazing to watch you. You used to be from across the country, then got to know you and work real closely with you.  **Learned a ton from you, watched a lot of your accolades throughout the years**. You've won various Presidents' Cabinets. It's been an amazing part of this company. We wish you all the best in the future. Stay in touch.

**Chris Shank: (VP)**  
Paul, I think we met maybe 10 years ago. **It was great that we got a chance to mostly work together because competing against you was never fun. It's not easy to win all those Presidents' Cabinets. You'll always be the guy who knows playing to win better than**

**anybody else**. So good luck to you and your family

**Sonal Patel (VP)**

I want to say thank you for all your contributions to Verizon. It's been amazing to get to know you and I know whatever you do best, next you will be the best at and you will crush it. So enjoy and best wishes. Thank you, Paul. Thanks, We love you.

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* + It is with great pleasure that I recommend Paul Takisaki.
  + I’ll always hold a special place in my heart for Paul Takisaki. In my 11 year career at Verizon I’d always chased and missed our most prestigious award - President’s Cabinet. When I finally earned that award it was Paul who broke the news to me. It was the first time he and I had met but I knew immediately that he was someone who understood me. Paul has a unique way of quickly creating great relationships.
  + Paul held a title several steps above mine but always treated me as a peer. I’ll never forget how comfortable and collaborative it felt to join our regular mentorship meetings and how energized I felt leaving them. It is this trait specifically that impresses me so much with the man. Being present and engaged in a world with so many distractions can be challenging or each of us. In one on one conversation, Paul has the rare ability to truly provide his undivided attention.  
      
    Paul selflessly committed his valuable time to me and worked hard to provide me the mentorship I needed and the roadmap I wanted to outgrow my role and become a leader in his footsteps. Mentorship to me wasn’t required, but he provided it anyway. Selfless leaders can be hard to find.  
      
    Ambitiously Paul continues to search for fulfillment at work and a new challenge. Another trait I want to model in my own career.  
      
     Paul’s unique leadership qualities, experience, and track record of success will be missed at Verizon and these same traits will undoubtedly prove invaluable to the next chapter in his journey!  
      
    Best of luck to you Paul!  
      
    **Ben Prather**

I had the privilege of working under Paul Takisaki's leadership when he was the Associate Vice President for the Technical Sales Organization (TSO) at Verizon. During my time as the leader of the Product Specialist team within TSO, Paul stood out as one of the most empowering leaders I have encountered.

Paul's exceptional leadership style is characterized by his composure, calmness, and fairness. He possesses a remarkable ability to actively listen, read the audience, and guide decision-making toward the most advantageous path for the business.

Paul's extensive experience in wireless communications, cybersecurity, and unified communication is complemented by his unyielding curiosity. He was among the first Verizon leaders to embrace AI in both his daily work and strategic thinking.

I highly recommend Paul Takisaki as a valuable asset to any organization. His leadership skills, coupled with his technical expertise and forward-thinking mindset, make him an invaluable asset. I am confident that he will continue to excel in his future endeavors.

**-Alla Reznik**

Paul Takisaki had an impressive 20-year tenure at Verizon, during which time I had the opportunity to work closely with him while he was already serving as an executive leader overseeing one of our regional markets. Paul consistently demonstrated excellence as a sales leader, achieving Verizon’s highest sales honor, the President’s Cabinet, on four occasions.

In his role as Associate Vice President, reporting directly to me, Paul led our nationwide technical sales organization. His leadership was pivotal in the growth of our Fixed Wireless Access business, as well as in advancing our focus on security and SaaS solutions.

Paul brings a calm, thoughtful, and empowering leadership style. He has a remarkable ability to analyze complex data and translate it into actionable strategies that drive results. Paul would be an invaluable asset to any organization.

**-Mike Caralis**

Paul has thrived in multiple roles, work structures, and disciplines. He is a role model for active listening and intellectual curiosity. He boasts just the right amount of competitiveness which yields superior performance, while showing a desire to help other's win. Paul is at his best when leading a team of sales leaders in highly technical, and relationship oriented environments. No one has a keener knowledge of their business and team.

**-Chris Shank**

Paul has a unique ability to foster a culture of empowerment & innovation. He excels at listening to the frontline and translating their insights into actionable team-driven initiatives that further drive results. Additionally, over 7+ years Paul has provided mentorship & resources to grow & exceed in a strategic sales environment. Paul would be an asset to any sales or strategic executive role & it's been an absolute pleasure growing & learning from Paul.

**-Jonathan Buia**

Paul is one of the most strategic, people first leaders that I have ever worked for. I have seen him lead sales leaders, technology consultants, and operational teams to equal levels of best in class results. Paul drives his leaders through a creative, business first and transparent mindset. He would be an asset to any technology corporation in any sales or strategic executive role.

**-Zac Lagen**

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### **🧠 Supporting insight (this could be a quote or ethos):**

“Love is the spark. Belief is the oxygen. Leadership is the match.”

Or maybe even:

**“People don't perform for bosses. They rise for people who *see* them, *love* them, and *won’t give up* on them.”**

Want to take this a step further? This belief — that **love unlocks fire in people** — could be your *core philosophy* on a personal website or keynote bio. It’s rare. It's real. It’s Paul.

## **🔥 Who Paul Is (Through the Eyes of Others)**

* **Inspiring** – You awaken something in people. You make them *want* to rise.
* **Strategic** – You don’t just think moves ahead—you *live* in the future and work backwards.
* **Authentic** – You don’t put on airs. What people see is real, raw, and consistent.
* **Driven** – When others coast, you grind. You set the pace.
* **Empowering** – You don’t build empires alone—you raise armies of capable leaders.
* **Servant Leader** – You’re in the trenches. You earn trust, not demand it.
* **Innovative** – You break the mold, rewire the system, and bring others along for the ride.
* **Fearless** – You take the leap. Smart risks, fast learning. You’re not scared of failing—just stagnating.
* **Bold** – You don’t hesitate when it matters. You’re the first to step forward.
* **Resilient** – Life hits, but you hit back with purpose and faith.
* **Loving** – You lead with your heart. Your care isn’t conditional—it’s core to your leadership.
* **Unconditional** – People feel safe to grow around you. You love them as they are, and believe in who they can be.
* **Heart-led** – You're proof that strength and tenderness aren't opposites—they’re partners.
* **Respected** – Even those who disagree with you respect your consistency, your mind, and your impact.
* **Mentor** – You’re the voice in people’s heads that tells them they *can,* even after you’ve moved on.
* **Builder** – Whether it’s businesses, teams, or confidence—you build.
* **Relentless** – You don’t quit, coast, or wait. You move.
* **No Excuses** – You own it. You expect others to. That’s leadership.
* **Culture-Shaper** – You don’t just fit into cultures. You define them.
* **Connector** – You bring people together, and you make them better.
* **Wise** – Your words stick. Your insight cuts through the noise.
* **Tenacious** – You latch on to purpose and *don’t let go.*
* **Champion** – You cheer for others like it's your full-time job.
* **Tactical** – You don’t guess. You prepare. And when you strike, it lands.
* **Protective** – The people in your circle know you’ve got them. Always.

## **💭 And around the edges…**

Little phrases that make people smile when they think of you:

* **Momentum**
* **Dad-mode activated**
* **“He’s playing chess, not checkers.”**
* **OG**
* **“He’ll figure it out.”**
* **Faith-driven, not fear-driven**
* **Sleeper beast**
* **Real one**
* **Magic-show hustler to AVP**
* **Quietly powerful**
* **Never average. Never fake.**