



Mr. Phil Fisher

October 27, 1933 - December 21, 2019

Philip V. Fisher ("Phil"), 86, died Saturday, December 21, 2019, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, following a brief illness. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Karyl, his five daughters, Kari (Richard) Merk, Kelly (Martin) Katz, Kristy (Matt) Powell, Jennifer (Lee) Lewis, Amanda (Flynn) Jowers, his son Michael (Alaina) Fisher, and ten grandchildren: Nick, Kiley, Zach, Madelyn, Broox, Jake, Aliya, Eli, Fisher, and Avery. Phil was born and raised in Robinson, Illinois, the son of Vernon and Thelma Fisher, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Karol Fisher, and grandchildren Carter, Clara, Cora, and Baby Lewis.

In his early years, Phil would help out at the family's business, Fisher's Tavern, where he made lifelong memories. He graduated from Eastern Illinois University and shortly thereafter, he served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Douglas A. Munro. After his service, he joined the Illinois Bureau of Investigation. He later joined the Drug Enforcement Administration as a federal agent in 1966 and served in Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. Phil met his wife, Karyl, who also worked for the DEA in Chicago, and they married on November 27, 1979. Phil was appointed as the Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Field Office, and retired in 1988. He was a remarkable Agent and a fearless leader. After retiring from the DEA, Phil served as the first Inspector General for the Illinois Department of Human Services from 1988 to 1991. Phil and Karyl then helped form a private investigation firm, where they worked for a few years before moving to Lexington, Tennessee, in

1993.

Phil was a true gentleman, who loved spending time with his family most of all. He was a loving husband and an adoring Papa. He made all of his children and grandchildren feel like "the favorite". Phil told great stories and even better jokes. He loved to read, sing bass in the choir, and write poems. To know Phil was to love him. He will be missed by all but he will live on in our hearts forever. "There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone, the light remains."

Funeral services are scheduled for 12 PM, December 27, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church in Lexington, Tennessee, with burial at the Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads, with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers the family ask contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church of Lexington, Tennessee.

Cemetery Details

Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads

693 Wildersville Rd
Parkers Crossroads, TN 38388

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **26**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home
71 Monroe Avenue
Lexington, TN 38351
(731) 968-2544
info@paffordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.paffordfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

DEC **27**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
Church Street
Lexington, TN

Church Service

DEC 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
Church Street
Lexington, TN

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Worked with Phil in the 70 and returned in the 80 for more in Chicago. He was a great person to work for and with. He could handle any crisis with a calm hand and praise when need be. He was liked by all that worked around him. He made people's lives easier that knew him. Karyl we all loved him too. RIP Phil*
Jerry Mooers

Jerry Mooers - December 30, 2019 at 04:25 PM

KF

Thank you, Jerry!

Karyl Fisher - December 31, 2019 at 01:34 AM

HF

“ *Dear Fisher Family.*

I worked with (for) Phil both at the Illinois Dept of Public Safety and then with BNDD. He was a truly honest and dedicated professional law enforcement man. Always approachable with a genuine welcoming smile. Wonderful memories of his life.

Harry Fullett
Retired Taos New Mexico

Harry Fulett - December 30, 2019 at 03:20 PM

KF

Thanks, Harry, wonderful memories!

Karyl Fisher - December 31, 2019 at 01:35 AM

AK

“ SAC Fisher was my first SAC when I came on the job. I remember him vividly for his presence and the respect that he garnered. I always admired that about him. I also attended Eastern Illinois University and who knows, maybe that is why he hired me. After all of these years I am now a Senior Executive that was inspired by my first Senior Executive, Phil Fisher. My heart goes out to the family. May God bless you as you go through this difficult time. Andre Kellum, Regional Director for the DEA Africa Region.

Andre Kellum - December 30, 2019 at 03:19 PM

KF

Thank you, Andre, for sharing your memories of Phil and his positive influence on your life!

Karyl Fisher - December 31, 2019 at 01:39 AM



Thank you for your kind words about my dad. We've always thought he was special, and it's nice to know he had a positive impact on your life as well.

Jennifer Lewis - January 01, 2020 at 11:33 PM

JC

“ I worked in the Chicago office (1984-88) and found Phil to be an effective and kind leader. Phil always had a smile and was always available. Rest in Peace Phil

Joe Corcoran - December 30, 2019 at 01:20 PM

KF

Thank you, Joe. Phil really missed the Chicago DEA office and those working there!

Karyl Fisher - December 31, 2019 at 01:41 AM

KF

“ 1 file added to the album *Phil Fisher Memorial Video*



Karyl Fisher - December 29, 2019 at 05:09 PM

KG

Karyl, that is a touching video. May you find strength in those beautiful memories.

Kenneth Goodman - December 30, 2019 at 07:23 PM

RJ

Karyl, thanks for sharing and bringing back memories. Though the world of Phil.

He will be missed by many.

Ray Justinic

Ray Justinic - January 09, 2020 at 06:30 PM

NE

“ *Condolences to Phil Fishers family. I was an agent in the CFD at the time he was the Special Agent in Charge (SAC). I have all good memories of SAC Fisher. He was a gentleman, fair, and a very nice man. Rest in peace Phil Fisher.*

Nancy Evans

Nancy Evans - December 29, 2019 at 03:27 PM

AM

Thank you!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 10:03 PM

PC

“ *RIP PHIL. So glad I got to spend some time with Phil and KARYL at the Hilton Head AFNA conference. My heart goes out to KARYL and his entire family. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers during these difficult days ahead.*

Pat Collins - December 29, 2019 at 02:36 PM

KF

Thank you, Pat, we were happy to see you at Hilton Head, too. Phil was one of a kind, more like 68 instead of 86 years old. He loved life and his family and could always run circles around me. We were married 40 years and I will love him forever.

Karyl Fisher - December 29, 2019 at 03:35 PM

JG

“ *So sorry to hear of Phil's passing. Although I was in NY I heard many good stories about Phil. RIP and thank you Phil for your service.*

John Gilbride - December 28, 2019 at 09:07 PM

AM

Thank you!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 09:04 AM

KF

Thank you, John!

Karyl Fisher - December 29, 2019 at 03:46 PM

RJ

“ Some people you think will be around for ever or at least you hope they will. Phil was one of those people for me. Phil was a class act as a leader and man. I knew him in Chicago and DC while we both were part of BNDD and DEA. I have many memories of Phil and Karyl and just reconnected with Phil via email in November. I had hopes of seeing he and Karyl during 2020. This is both a shock and extremely sad for me. My prayers are with his family.

Ray Justinic

Ray Justinic - December 28, 2019 at 03:41 PM

AM

Thank you, that's how we feel about him too!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 09:05 AM

KF

Ray, Phil and I were so glad to hear from you. We were hoping to see you in 2020 and be able to swap old war stories. Phil always missed the "old days" and the old friendships.

Karyl Fisher - December 29, 2019 at 03:39 PM

KB

“ Very sorry to hear of Phil's passing. I had the pleasure and honor of working for him in Chicago in the mid-80s and was in charge of the group that seized that 5000 lbs of coke in 1987. Very much of a gentleman and will be missed. Condolences to the family. RIP, Phil.

Keith Baudoin - December 28, 2019 at 02:22 PM

AM

Thank you!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 09:05 AM

KF

Keith, Phil still talked about the "old days" and the seizure of that 5,000 lbs of coke. What a great record!

Karyl Fisher - December 29, 2019 at 03:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Fisher.*



December 26, 2019 at 05:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Fisher.*



December 26, 2019 at 10:51 AM



“ *Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Fisher.*



December 24, 2019 at 11:01 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Fisher.*



December 24, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ *We were honored to know Phil through church. Nancy and the rest of the Library staff will miss his gracious smile. Prayers to his family.*

T Brad & Nancy Ray - December 24, 2019 at 09:20 AM



Thank you very much! He loved all of you at the library!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 09:06 AM



“ *I had the honor of being a friend of Phil and Karyl's for several years now. Phil was a serious, devoted man to every endeavor before him. BUT.....there was an "impish," little mean-streak dedicated to healthy pranks well hidden behind that grin! I don't know how many times I've heard him say something "off the wall"... and after giving it a second to sink in, I'd turn to look at Phil, and he would be sitting there grinning from ear-to-ear, with that little twinkle in his eyes, as if to say, "GOTCHA!" His dedication to the Lord was so evident in every aspect of his life. There was no question as to Whom he served, when he walked among us. That dedicated spirit was just as obvious, when it came to the love of his life, Karyl. And, you certainly can't leave out his children or Grandchildren when you're talking about his loving devotion. I feel honored to have known Phil, but I feel extremely blessed to call him my "friend"! I miss you already, Phil! There will never be another one like you!*

Kay Houston Simpson - December 24, 2019 at 12:50 AM

AM

Thank you Kay!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 09:06 AM

KF

Thank you sweet friend! I think you nailed it! He loved life and everyone!

Karyl Fisher - December 29, 2019 at 03:54 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Fisher.*



December 23, 2019 at 10:58 PM

AM

“ *In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his honor to Phil's church, First United Methodist Church in Lexington, Tennessee, or the Lexington Henderson County Everett Horn Public Library.*

Amanda - December 23, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Fisher.*



December 23, 2019 at 05:35 PM

BW

“ *Phil was an inspiration to all that new him. I enjoyed singing with him in the choir.*

Bobby Webster - December 22, 2019 at 05:27 PM

VN

I was also honored to have known Phil. I loved his sense of humor and quick wit he had with friends in choir, and he will be greatly missed..

Virginia Nalepinski - December 26, 2019 at 09:00 AM

AM

Thank you both!

Amanda - December 29, 2019 at 09:07 AM