



Ford R. Phillips

January 23, 1945 - December 17, 2018

Ford R. Phillips, 73, of Cape Girardeau, passed away Monday, December 17, 2018, in hospice care at Ratliff Care Center, surrounded by his loving family.

Ford was born in Cape Girardeau on January 23, 1945, the third child of Ford and Venita Phillips of McClure, Illinois. He lived in McClure as a young boy and moved to Cape Girardeau with his family as a teenager.

Ford graduated from Cape Central High School in 1963 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English and journalism from Southeast Missouri State in 1967. He continued his education at SEMO and earned a Master of Arts in American literature in 1972.

He married Brenda Joyce Latham on November 26, 1964, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. They celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary this year.

Ford was a loyal, hard-working, and dedicated man whose first job, at the age of 14, was at his beloved Wimpy's Drive-In. His work career was interesting and varied including English teacher and part-time school bus driver at Tamms High School in Tamms, Illinois, and head of the English Department at Cape Central High School. In 1976, he started work as a Communications Manager for McDonnell Douglas Health Systems in St. Louis and in 1984 he became the Director of Corporate Communications for McDonnell Douglas

Information Systems Group. After moving to Alton, Illinois, Ford started his own business in 1988 and spent the next 30 years as the CEO of Riverbend Marketing Communications Group.

While in Alton, he served as president of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club from 2009-2010 and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. Ford was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church serving on the vestry and volunteering within the church and the community.

After living in Alton for 30 years, Ford and Brenda returned to Cape Girardeau. Being a true nature lover, Ford delighted in birdwatching and identifying trees that surrounded their home. He especially enjoyed watching his bluebirds and hummingbirds that visited his many feeders.

His childhood in McClure was the inspiration for two published books of short stories titled East of the Sun and West of the Moon and More Tales from McClane. He was at work on a third book called Farewell McClane at the time of his passing.

Ford was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, a willing and faithful volunteer, and an active member of the church vestry. He was a loving and kind man with a generous heart and talent for bringing people together. He helped establish the Men's Group at Christ Episcopal Church, and faithfully served the community through the church's Food Pantry every week.

He is survived by the love of his life, Brenda (Latham) Phillips of Cape Girardeau; one son, Ford (Wendy) Phillips of Hinsdale, Illinois; one daughter, Amy (Andrew) Jenkins of Chicago, Illinois; two sisters, Patricia Ann (Jerry) Walker of Wake Forest, North Carolina and Jacqueline Mathews of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; and four grandchildren, Connor Phillips, Ava Phillips, Evelyn Phillips, and Brynn Phillips of Hinsdale, Illinois. He was a loving uncle

to many nieces and nephews as well as other surviving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Betty Neal of Ballwin, Missouri; and two brothers-in-law, Chet Neal of Ballwin, Missouri, and Alvin Mathews of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Cape Girardeau on Saturday, January 26 at 2 pm with the Rev. Edie Bird officiating. Ford's family looks forward to greeting friends and family following the service.

To honor Ford and his work with the Food Pantry, memorial contributions may be sent to Christ Episcopal Church Hunger Ministries, c/o 38 N. Fountain St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN **26**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Christ Episcopal Church
101 N. Fountain
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

GF

“ My name is Gracie (Burchyett) Fitzpatrick and I'm a cousin to Ford (or Fordie as we called him in McClure growing up.) I remember him as childhood cousins and visiting with his family and going to the movies on Saturday Evenings. He and his son came to the McClure Homecoming a few year back and I got to visit with him. I saw him again at the Cape Fruit Market and we visited again. We both had roots in the McClure Community and often shared stories of the past. I was very sad to learn of his death. My prayers are with your family during this time

Grace Fitzpatrick - January 19, 2019 at 11:02 PM

KA

Brenda, my name is Kay Margraf Ancell I remember both you and Ford in high school. You were both great n kind people. Unfortunately we lost touch ! We moved to Kirkwood after Clay n I married n then his job moved us outside Washington DC in Vienna VA. So very sorry for your lose ! Know he was a great husband and father n also a great grandfather! 🥺 Kay

Kay Margraf Ancell - January 20, 2019 at 04:39 PM

BP

Kay, it was wonderful hearing from you. Yes, Ford was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He is greatly missed....best friend and love of my life. Thank you for your kind thoughts. Brenda

Brenda Phillips - January 24, 2019 at 12:28 PM

BP

Gracie, Ford spoke of you and your family often. He loved sharing his childhood memories and stories. Thank you for your sharing your memories. Brenda

Brenda Phillips - January 24, 2019 at 12:31 PM