



Phillip Tommy Stelzer

November 19, 1941 - March 12, 2020

Phillip Tommy Stelzer, 78, of Columbia, MO, went home to the Lord on Thursday, March 12, 2020.

He was born November 19, 1941 in St. Louis, MO, to Arthur and Alyce Stelzer. He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 58 years, Carol Stelzer, and children David (Brenda) Stelzer, Daniel (Stephony) Stelzer, Diana Stelzer, Dawn (Richard) Womack, and Douglas (Catherine) Stelzer. He also leaves behind three siblings, numerous nieces and nephews, and 12 grandchildren.

Phillip attended Ritenour High School in St. Louis and married his high school sweetheart, Carol Jean Wilkinson in 1962. He served in the United States Navy for four years. In the mid-1970's the family moved from St. Louis to Columbia where he worked as the credit manager for Semco Inc. and Philips & Co. He was the first president of the Columbia Youth Hockey Association and helped start the Columbia Soccer Club.

Phil's hobbies have included many things such as breeding and racing thoroughbred horses, watching all types of sporting events, and playing poker. He played his first poker games at the age of 10, in attics and basements, with his winnings being 1950's baseball cards belonging to his neighborhood friends. Through the years, Phillip has shared tables all over the world (and at sea) with many poker legends, earning his nickname Poker Phil or "Columbia Phil" as the out-of-towners call him. In 2011, he earned a seat in the World Series of Poker National Championship in Las Vegas.

PaPa, as he was known by most of his family, also enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren at the Lake of the Ozarks. Most weekends were spent boating, fixing things around the house (he was an excellent do-it-yourselfer), watching sports, playing very competitive Scrabble games with anyone that dared to be defeated, and cooking huge meals (most notably, his famous spaghetti).

Phillip also enjoyed watching his beloved St. Louis Cardinals. He would often take his wife

down to Florida in their RV to watch spring training and visit with his brother, Steve, and sister-in-law, Ellen. He was also a huge fan of the St. Louis Blues and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Mr. Stelzer was an amazing, smart, and talented man. His grandfather taught him at a very young age about the power of knowledge. Years later, Phil would tell his grandchildren to “gain knowledge everyday”. He continued to do so by keeping his mind sharp, solving word puzzles, crosswords, and sudoku (with an ink pen!) daily.

Visitation will be held at 11:00 a.m. with a service immediately following at noon on Wednesday, March 18, at Parker-Millard Funeral Service, 12 E. Ash St., Columbia, MO. Memorials in his name can be made to the Central Missouri Honor Flight.

Arrangements are under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service and Crematory 12 East Ash Street Columbia, MO 65203 (573) 449-4153. Condolences may be left on line at www.parkermillard.com

Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery

1217 Business Loop 70 West
Columbia, MO, 65202

Events

MAR **Visitation** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

18

Parker-Millard Funeral Service and Crematory
12 East Ash Street, Columbia, MO, US, 65203

MAR **Funeral Service** 12:00PM

18

Parker-Millard Funeral Service and Crematory
12 East Ash Street, Columbia, MO, US, 65203

Comments



“ Carol and Family,

I am so sorry to hear about Phil. He took such pride in his family. He always spoke so highly of everyone's intellectual and athletic accomplishments. Family was so important to him. He was quite a competitor in everything he did. He will be missed.

Finny Aronson

Finny Aronson - March 19 at 11:40 AM



“ dear Danny and Stephony and your family,
We are very sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Bonnie and I wish to share our condolences with you and your family. Thanks for connecting us with your Dad by telling us stories about him in your life. Love, the Caldwelles

Robert R Caldwell - March 18 at 09:52 PM



“ Our sympathy goes out to Dan and Stephonie and all the family. We are sorry for your loss and hope you can support each other through these sad times.
Meredith and Joe Donaldson

Meredith Donaldson - March 17 at 03:35 PM



“ Randall and Susan Jenkins purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Phillip Tommy Stelzer.



Randall and Susan Jenkins - March 17 at 10:56 AM



“ Doug, Cathy and family,

Flo and I have you in our thoughts at this sad and difficult time in your lives. Although we never met your father, his obituary portrays him to be an amazing man and we

know he will be deeply missed.

Please accept our condolences.

Earl and Flo Wilson

Earl Wilson - March 17 at 10:04 AM



“ You will be lovingly missed, you were the best father in law for our daughter, we will forever be grateful for all you did for her and our grandkids. Thank you for your service You will be forever missed.

Jim and Linda Alumbaugh



Linda Alumbaugh - March 16 at 08:45 PM



“ God bless, thank you for your service.

Ron M CTO3 CVN65

Ron M - March 16 at 01:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Phillip Stelzer.



March 14 at 08:16 PM