



Phillip Lee Southern

April 27, 1942 - April 30, 2017

Phillip Lee "Willy" Southern, 75, lifelong resident of Charlotte, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, April 30, 2017 in Lansing. Phil was born April 27, 1942 in Charlotte, the son of Samuel Clark and Lila Marguerite (Buffenbarger) Southern. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1960 before attending mechanical school. He married Sandra Jean Milbourn on January 20, 1962 and together they had 4 children. Phil went to work as a journeyman mechanic for Owens-Illinois in 1963, where he served 42 years, retiring in 2005. He was a member of the 4H riding club, and enjoyed time in the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling. He has many trophies that show his love for hunting and fishing. Above all, he loved spending time with all of his family, especially his grandchildren. They could and would always make him smile, no matter what!

Phil is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sandy Southern; their children, Brian (Jamie) Southern, Lori (Raymond) Aseltine, and Ricky (Becky) Southern; grandchildren, Justin Southern, Melissa Summer, Shaunie Aseltine, Tyler Spitzer, Brock Southern, Haley Southern, and Briana Zakora; great-granddaughter Tara Spitzer; and special niece, Sue (Tim) Olmstead of Elgin, Illinois. He is predeceased by an infant son, Randy Southern; his parents; sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Verl Varner; and mother and father-in-law, Lawrence and Marjorie Milbourn.

A graveside service will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017 at Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Eaton Community Palliative Care. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Phil on his tribute page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Sandy,

I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers and positive thoughts are for you and your family.

John Colizzi

John Colizzi - May 07, 2017 at 10:03 PM

FO

“ from Susie, Tim, Amy and Sarah Olmstead purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Phillip Lee Southern .



from Susie, Tim, Amy and Sarah Olmstead - May 04, 2017 at 01:25 PM

MI

“ Sandy and family,
It is so sad that the Class of '60 has lost another long-term friend. There are so many memories that you and Willy were a part of. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Vickie Smith Mills

Mills - May 03, 2017 at 09:53 AM

BB

“ Sorry for your loss. Thinking of all of the family

Barb Bruce - May 02, 2017 at 10:10 PM

LR

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Willy. He was a great guy and I learned a lot from him growing up as kids. We did a lot of ice fishing together and would always had a fun time on the ice catching fish. And Willy would always bring his Coleman stove and cook hot dogs hamburgers and sometime even fish. It was always great when Willie would say FLAG UP and we would go running to the tip-up. RIP Willy and catch that big ol pike.

Lannie Ross - May 02, 2017 at 09:56 AM

LO

yes, those were definitely fun times!! All except getting wet and cold!

Lori - May 02, 2017 at 10:58 AM

ER

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. May memories of good times be of comfort to you and your family.
Elaine Russell

Elaine Russell - May 02, 2017 at 08:41 AM

LO

Thank you.

Lori - May 02, 2017 at 08:51 AM

TH

“ What a man with a great heart and a story to share :) you will be missed by many! So sorry loss. Praying for all involved! Sending my love. I won't be able to make Monday but I'll be praying!!

Teri Horton - May 01, 2017 at 08:33 PM

LA

“Dad-I was so sad when you left us on Sunday, but I know you will no longer be living in pain. I know it was your wish, but it makes it no easier to know that I can't talk to you when I want to and to share everything with you. I hope you have found grampa and are sharing all the memories with him from all the lost years. It will be hard to explain to Tara where her grampa Nicki is. Tell everyone hi and I will not say Goodbye...because one day I will see you again. RIP dad...I love you more than words could ever tell you. I miss you already.

Love your daughter,
Lori

Lori Aseltine - May 01, 2017 at 06:04 PM

KT

Lori, I am so sorry to hear about your Dad passing away. You are in our thoughts and prayers , Doug, Karry, and Jenelle Trickey.

Karry A. Trickey - May 01, 2017 at 09:34 PM

LO

Thanks Karry

Lori - May 02, 2017 at 05:39 AM

 Dennis
Hall

“So sorry to hear this. He was a good man. I will always remember when he tried to save our snowmobile vacation by driving his own truck hours north for you to use, after yours broke down. Then you hit a pole...oops.

Dennis Hall - May 01, 2017 at 05:51 PM

HK

“ Rick, Becky & Brock-

So very sorry to hear of your Dad/Grandpa's passing. Thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Heather, Jeff, Justin & Dylan

Heather Kennedy - May 01, 2017 at 02:46 PM

HK

“ Lori, Raymond, Shaunie, Tyler & Tara-

So very sorry to hear of you Dad/Grandpa's passing. Hoping that all of the wonderful memories will help to ease the sorrow. Thinking of you all at this difficult time.

Heather, Jeff, Justin & Dylan

Heather Kennedy - May 01, 2017 at 02:44 PM

LO

Thanks to you all

Lori - May 02, 2017 at 05:39 AM

HK

“ Sandy-

So very sorry to hear of Phillip's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Heather, Jeff, Justin & Dylan Kennedy

Heather Kennedy - May 01, 2017 at 02:39 PM



Mom thanks you all!

Lori - May 02, 2017 at 05:40 AM