



## Ralph Phillips

September 20, 1938 - July 3, 2015

Ralph Phillips, loving husband, father and grandfather, age 76, of Charlotte, died Friday, July 3, 2015 in Lansing, MI. Ralph was born September 20, 1938 in Conway, MI, the son of Freeman and Eudora (Gilbert) Phillips. He graduated High School in Alanson before joining the U.S. Marine Corps, serving until 1963. In 1959 he married his true love, Arlene Jepsen. The two lived in many places before settling in Charlotte, where Ralph took a job as a diesel mechanic for Crandell Bros. trucking. He spent the majority of his career as a mechanic for Spartan Asphalt until they closed, at which time he worked for Clark Excavating in Lansing until retirement. Ralph loved working on cars with his sons and grandsons, and doing anything he could to help his family and friends. He was a former member of the St. Mary Catholic Church Men's Club, and was an avid MSU Spartan fan. Ralph will be remembered as a good man who would do anything for his wife, Arlene. Family was always number one.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Arlene Phillips; children, Tammi (Ron) Widmaier, Renee (Roy) Shumaker, Todd Phillips, Brad (Mary Brower) Phillips, Tonya Phillips, R.J. Phillips and Arnold Phillips; 22 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; brothers, Wally Phillips and Douglas Phillips; sister, Helen Phillips; and many nieces and nephews. Ralph was predeceased by his parents and his brothers, Robert, Edgar, Lee and Freeman Phillips.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 10, 2015 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Charlotte with Rev. Fr. David Rosenberg officiating. Visitation will be from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kidney Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Ceremony

JUL **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary Catholic Church  
807 St. Mary Boulevard  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Phillips



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Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 09, 2015 at 10:31 AM

BP

“ Dad, one last testimonial, I Love ya and will miss you very much. Your kindness and love for your wife, children and grandchildren, including the great kids will be carried on from the legacy you forged into our lifes. I will always remember all the knowledge you taught me about cars/mechanics and lifes matters/advise you gave me. I will see you when my time is over here on earth. Miss you forever. your son BAP. "65".

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Brad Phillips - July 11, 2015 at 10:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Phillips.



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July 09, 2015 at 09:23 AM

PA

“ *Ralph was a wonderful man with an amazing family. We are truly sorry for your loss, we will keep the entire family in prayer! Much Love to you all. Kirt and Patty Austin*

Patty Austin - July 08, 2015 at 10:00 PM

WS

“ *Wendy McBride and the EHS Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ralph Phillips.*



Wendy McBride and the EHS Staff - July 08, 2015 at 04:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ralph Phillips.*



July 08, 2015 at 04:34 PM

MW

“ *To the Phillips clan I'm so sad that Ralph is not here anymore. Even though I wasn't related to you all either by blood or marriage I Always felt part of the family. Ralph and Arlene love my nieces Kate and Jess as if they were blood and am forever grateful! Ralph taught his children to be loving and responsible adults. I love you all and I wish I could be there. My prayers go out to all who love him. Sincerely, Melissa Dawn Pope Warner*

Melissa Warner - July 08, 2015 at 11:28 AM

YI

“ Your friends at Datum Industries purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ralph Phillips.



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**Your friends at Datum Industries** - July 07, 2015 at 10:03 AM

JN

“ I never knew this man, yet I know he must have been great, for I know his daughter and she is a wonderful woman, so I know his legacy will live on. My heart goes out for the whole family, I understand what it is like to lose your daddy. Thinking of you today and every day Renee, stay strong ... Juanita Nemecek

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**Juanita Nemecek** - July 07, 2015 at 07:20 AM

AE

“ So very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all!

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**Amy Easey** - July 06, 2015 at 10:39 AM

BP

*Thanks, Amy*

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**Brad Phillips** - July 07, 2015 at 10:15 AM

“ My Dad was the best father and mentor I could have ever asked for in my life. He was a very caring and loving husband and father to us all. When anyone ever needed him he was there, night or day. I can honestly say I would not know anything about fixing cars if it was not for him. He taught all of us boys and grandkids everything about cars, we all always called him and he had the answers every time. He was very knowledgeable just about everything and if he did not know, he had his opinion on the matter for sure. Family was the most important aspect of his life, when you called him for advice or needed a tow, he would be there everytime night or day again. My Dad was a very strong man, he was and still is the foundation of our family, along with my Mom who is very strong as her husband. His strength lasted to the end, even on the Vent machine in the hospital, I was holding his hand and when he moved his arm, it took all I had to hold onto him to prevent any of the IV and resp lines from being pulled out. I challenged him one time outside, I pushed him down when he was not expecting it and I never knew at his age at that time how fast he could run, I do now, by the way I deserved what I had coming that day. I remember the times we went up to Alansing and Petoskey to be with our family up North. The snowmobiling in the winter and swimming/fishing in the summertime. He would always ask me how Dustin and Brandon are doing, what were they up too, he would always say, "how is that little girl", I would tell him, Cherrish was good. Mary and me took my mom and dad out on my pontoon this time last year, he looked tired then, but his strength showed up as it always did. I remember when I was young we all went out trick or treating, the plastic mask I was wearing made me start breathing hard, instead of taking me back home, My dad carried me the rest of the way that night. My mom told me a story about one winter he tried to get through a snow storm to get to work and his truck got stuck and when he walked back through the snow he had ice hanging down off of his eyebrows and face. there are many more stories I could tell you all about him, but not enough time. He spent time with everyone in this room at one time or another, You all know them.

*For his military history, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." , right Josh. I was going to be a Marine, My dad told me a story, when I was in they had us put all our field gear on and took out into the pacific ocean about a half mile and we had to float back to the beach, my weapon had to be dry when I got there, the scariest part were the sharks you could see swimming along side of us, so I decided the Army would be the branch of service I would go into too. My dad was a mechanic in the Marines, I did follow his career as I too was a "Tank Mechanic". He too paid the price for our freedom and I was proud to call him a Veteran. My Dad was my hero, over the years we clashed, by the later years I grew very close to my Dad, I will always love you and miss you very much.  
Your son always Brad.*



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**Brad Phillips** - July 05, 2015 at 02:25 PM

BP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Brad Phillips** - July 05, 2015 at 12:20 PM