



Mr. Phil Etchison

March 9, 1927 - August 29, 2016

Philip Bowie Etchison "Phil", age 89, of Crabapple, GA passed away peacefully on Monday, August 29, 2016. Phil was born in Gaithersburg, MD to Frank Leslie Etchison and Kathryn Engle Etchison. He grew up in Charleston, SC and Rocky Mount, NC where he graduated high school. Drafted near the end of World War II, Phil served in the Army in 1945-46 including time in Hamburg, Germany. After army service, Phil graduated with a degree in forestry from North Carolina State.

Phil was a devoted public servant for 41 years in the U.S Forest Service and received numerous awards and recognitions during his Forest Service career. He received accolades for conserving natural resources and consistently maintaining outstanding land purchases for the Forest Service Southern Region. He was the head of the region's land ownership program with the addition of over one-half million acres of land acquired for the national forest system directly attributed to Phil's leadership.

Phil actively pursued acquisition of rights-of-way for the Appalachian Trail and received a significant award for completion of the Appalachian Trail, a benefit for all to enjoy. Phil was nationally singled out by his colleagues and fellow workers as the individual who contributed the most to the overall program of acquiring lands in the southern region.

Phil had many passions: reading, gardening, the Atlanta Braves, his church, volunteering at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital, and riding his 1952 Ford 8N tractor. There was discussion that the love of his life was his tractor. He was extremely active all his life. After his retirement, Phil volunteered for almost 25 years in outpatient surgery at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital, with a multitude of duties including greeting patients, facilitating the smooth running of the operating room schedule, changing beds, transporting patients, and being the nurse support volunteer. "Our Phil" was extremely close to the nurses and fellow volunteers.

He was a member of Roswell Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years where he taught Sunday School, served as an elder and worked on Mission trips to Haiti and Jamaica. He was a steadfast member of the Men's Bible Study.

Phil was preceded in death by his sister, Sarah Tigner. Phil is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and daughters, Patricia Etchison of Canton, GA, Janet Evans of Belews Creek, NC, and Mary Ann (Faisal) Rashid of Oakton, VA and grandchildren, Julia and Samuel Rashid. He also is survived by his brother, Frank Leslie (Dorothy) Etchison of Charlottesville, VA, and his sister, Mary Ann Nichols of San Diego, CA along with many adoring nieces and nephews.

He was an inspiration to all who knew him. We will never forget his dry wit, his humbleness, his kindness, his intelligence, his strength and his zest for life. Phil, you were so loved by so many, giving unselfishly every day. We thank you for being you. He was a kind and gentle soul.

Visitation is Friday, September 2, 6:00-9:00 at Northside Chapel in Roswell. The funeral is Saturday, September 3, 10 am at Roswell Presbyterian Church in Roswell. Following a reception at the church, he will be buried at Green Lawn Cemetery, 10933 Alpharetta Hwy, Roswell, GA 30075. Details at www.n

orthsidechapel.com

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Special Olympics, the Salvation Army, or Roswell Presbyterian Church.

Cemetery Details

Green Lawn Cemetery

10993 Alpharetta Hwy
Roswell, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 2. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors & Crematory
12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Funeral Service

SEP 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Roswell Presbyterian Church (Historic Sanctuary)
755 Mimosa Blvd
Roswell, GA 30075

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Phil Etchison*

October 08, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Carolyn, Janet, I am So very sorry for the loss of a wonderful and Loving Husband and Father. I never had the pleasure of meeting him, But heard a lot of great things about him. I know Heaven opened its door wide for him. Thank you Carolyn for letting me know. I know you will surly Miss Him let God comfort your heart and know You will always have a Guarding Angel watching. Love to Both of you. Wanda Cates*

Wanda Cates Greensboro N.C. - December 27, 2016 at 05:52 PM

JE

“ My name is Janet Evans
I'm the middle daughter
Two nights before the funeral, I was up all night and for some reason I started writing a poem. I know nothing about prose, specific grammatical rules or how to write a poem.
But writing is cathartic for me and I wanted to honor my wonderful dad who meant so much to me as well as so many others. So.....

I wrote from my heart:

Dearest Dad

*Did I tell you I love you?
Did I tell you how much?
You were taken so suddenly
Time is never enough.*

*I sit at the kitchen table of my childhood home
Thinking what life will be without you, and feeling alone.*

*All the things you said and did, mean so much more now
Than when I was a kid.
No more “All I want is a little kindness Carolyn.”
“Just a little peace and quiet”.
How I wish I could hear that again.*

*Every nook, every cranny, reminds me of you.
Why wouldn't it. The house and property was an extension of you.*

*Sitting in your recliner and “resting your eyes”
How I want this vision never to die.
With your book on your lap, the braves game blaring loud.
It's really amazing the peace that you found.*

*The simplicity of your life
That you loved so much*

Riding your tractor and not making a fuss.

*Not brushing your hair for days on end
And wearing that green shirt that needed a hem.*

*I remember you rubbing your hands all over my head
Spouting just a little manure on my hands as I ran off and fled.*

*Childhood frustrations I experienced with you, my dear dad.
GET UP time to weed, which I thought was so bad.
Made me the person I am, whether I like it or not,
Knowing right from wrong which is how I was taught.*

*Your invaluable example of how we should act, being humble, kind,
true to yourself,
Don't make a big act.*

*Repairing a 150 year old home, maintaining seven acres, pond,
pool, and land.
Working so hard I don't see how you stand.*

*Gardening, tractor mowing, swimming volunteering, Pilates and
such
How could a man at near 90 do so much.*

*The things you said and did made you my beloved dad.
My hero, my mentor, an inspiration to all
Your wisdom and strength was what made you so tall.*

*Where has time gone, I guess it just flew
If I had one more wish, all could be more like you.*

*It's not money or status that holds true importance in life,
Relationships and love will keep you from strife.*

*Dad I can't thank you enough for the lessons I've learned
Everything you taught me at each and every turn.*

*I'm so proud I was your daughter
You're always in my heart
From this day and forever
No matter how long we are apart.*

You will be greatly missed.

Janet Evans - September 16, 2016 at 05:45 PM

WN

*My Dear Sweet Janet I know how much you loved your Dad. I am so sorry for your Loss. Wish I had Words to comfort your heart, but you have Some great memory's that you can keep in your heart for ever. Wish I had know sooner. Your Mother sent me the OB out of the paper. Please know you are always in my Prayers and will always be in my Heart. I will always know you are a very close Friend. Love You.
Wanda*

Wanda Cates Greensboro N.C. - December 27, 2016 at 06:09 PM

SM

“*My dad, Vince McCormack, worked with Phil from the late '70's and through the '80's. When I was a boy, I looked so forward to the office cookout Phil hosted at his house every summer. I still remember the pool (and waterslide), pond, volleyball, hammock, shade tree, burgers, dogs, and everything just as if it were yesterday, and those memories are a festive spirit I try to evoke into my own kids' summer memories today.*

My parents thought very highly of Phil and would like to have attended his funeral. Be sure they were "there in spirit", but weren't able to cover the distance.

*Heartfelt prayers and warmest regards to the whole Etchison family!
Steve McCormack*

Steve McCormack - September 06, 2016 at 02:44 PM

JE

Thank you. I'm so glad you remember the picnics. They were great fun and dad really loved them. Janet Evans daughter

Janet Evans - September 06, 2016 at 08:22 PM

JA

“*Phil & I worked together for many years with the United States Forest Service. I have always felt that in most large organizations there are a few people who by their character, professionalism and goodness tend to set the tone for all. Phil was one of those people and I admired him greatly. I loved working with Phil and realize his contributions went far beyond his job. He was a fine man. Our prayers for his family. Jack & Joyce Alcock (Regional Forester retired)*

jack alcock - September 05, 2016 at 12:33 PM

JE

Thank you for your kind thoughts about my dad. Janet

Janet Evans - September 06, 2016 at 10:31 PM

“ As some of you may know, my father-in-law, Phil Etchison, passed away in his sleep on Monday, August 29. He was 89.

I am not really sure where to begin to describe Phil and what he meant to our family. Phil was a kind, strong, charismatic man who loved his family, his country, his church, his friends, his Atlanta Braves and of course, his 1952 Ford 8N tractor. Phil served his country at the end of WWII while stationed in Hamburg, Germany, which makes him a part of the Greatest Generation. He also volunteered at North Fulton Hospital for over 20 years and was beloved by all who knew him, especially the nurses.

I first met Phil in December 1995 during Christmas at Janet and Bill's house. I had gotten a heads up about him from my late brother-in-law, Bill Evans. Bill described him as the strong, silent type. And boy, he sure fit that description. Phil was an avid reader who loved history. He frequently read books about WWII, the stock market, the civil war, the economy, well, pretty much anything he could get his hand on. We spoke frequently about the Braves and Nationals. I would always tell him there's no shame in the Braves finishing in second place behind the Nationals, which would always make him chuckle. There are two images included in the slide show from a Braves/Nationals game we attended in August 2010. I would frequently remind him the Nationals won that game and again, he would chuckle. He was also a terrific gardner and would give away okra, corn, beans, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and countless other vegetables.

Julia and Sam were a big part of his life. They called him Pop Pop and he would love hearing about how they were doing in school and various activities. I would frequently tell him how well they were doing and he was so incredibly proud of them. He loved his three daughters, Patty, Janet and Mary Ann very much. They frequently relied on him for advice on many topics and he often told them exactly what they needed to hear. He was a devoted husband to Carolyn and together they raised some pretty amazing daughters

and shared enough laughs and good times to last multiple lifetimes.

Our last big vacation together as a family was in June 2014 when we all went to the Canadian Rockies. He absolutely loved that vacation and all the beautiful scenery from that trip.

The last time I saw Phil was in May 2016 when we celebrated Mary Ann's surprise 50th birthday party. The very last image in the slide show is Phil dancing with Carolyn. Many who met him for the first time at that party have a lasting impression of him. I have received many emails and notes about how thrilled folks were to meet Phil. Frankly, that's not surprising. You only needed to meet Phil once to know what an amazing and kind man he was to everyone. Mary Ann saw Phil just a few weeks ago here in Atlanta. Phil fell and hit his head and ended up in ICU for a few days. Mary Ann flew down to check on him and help around the house. I am very thankful she did this and was able to spend some time with him. We all feel that fall contributed to his passing on Monday, even though doctors felt he was fully recovered.

I will leave you with something he would frequently say to his wife, Carolyn when she would ask him if he needed anything. He would reply, "kindness, Carolyn, kindness".

Thank you for letting me share a small part of my thoughts about my father-in-law. He really was more of a father to me for the past 21 years. As you know, my own father passed away 25 years ago and I really regarded Phil as my own father. Someone I could count on for advice and words of wisdom.

Phil, may God bless you and keep you next to him in heaven. May you bring as much joy to those close to you in heaven as you did on earth and to your family. I have and will always love you.

Faisal

JE

A very touching and meaningful letter that depicts dad so well.

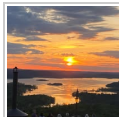
Janet Evans - September 06, 2016 at 10:37 PM

MM

“*In Memory of Mr. Etchison*” - *I've known you since I was born and have the best memories of running barefoot and wild at your house and property with your daughter and my friend, Mary Ann, while you and Mrs. Etchison visited with my parents and let my siblings run wild, too. The player piano, the tree swing, late night family dinners, lightning bugs, zucchini bread, swimming at night, fishing in the pond, trying to ride a horse or two, telling stories, feeding the animals, exploring in the fields and woods, picking fruits and veggies and popping as many as I could in my mouth, and on our last visit, you took out the tractor so I could ride it and get my picture taken! May your soul shine on all of the other gardens on this earth to help make them as wonderful as yours always was!! Philip Etchison: 1927 - 2016*



Megan Mondri - September 03, 2016 at 02:59 PM



Thank you for posting and your kind words. I will show my mom tomorrow.

Mary Ann Rashid - September 03, 2016 at 10:14 PM



“ 137 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Northside Chapel - September 02, 2016 at 01:55 PM



“ It has been many years since I have seen or talked with Phil. I worked with him in the Regional Office of the Forest Service. He was so dedicated to his work and the mission of the Forest Service. He was a fine man. Love to him family. Sandy Pence

Sandra Pence - September 01, 2016 at 07:59 PM



Thank you Sandra.

Mary Ann Rashid - September 03, 2016 at 08:18 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Richard Mong - September 01, 2016 at 03:38 PM

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Richard Mong - September 01, 2016 at 03:35 PM

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Richard Mong - September 01, 2016 at 03:31 PM

RM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Richard Mong - September 01, 2016 at 03:28 PM

“ August 31, 2016

Dear Phil,

It has been 2 days since you left us and I miss you a lot best friend, but I know that you are at peace with God and Jesus in their heavenly kingdom.

Thank you for being a great husband, a great father, a great family man, a great friend and a great, humble servant to so many people. Thank you for being a great Sunday School teacher for 20 years at Roswell Presbyterian and all your many hours of involvement on mission trips and other church related activities plus Habitat For Humanity plus your over 12,000 hours (= 6 years full time) as a volunteer in out-patient surgery at the North Fulton Hospital. You were always so generous with the most delicious fruits and vegetables you raised with your green thumb in your very productive garden.

One of the smartest things my Pop ever did was to bring you home from your joint office at the US Department of Agriculture to meet Carolyn. And one of the best things that you and Carolyn ever did was to take excellent care of Pop in the last year of his life.

What a joy it has been to have been with you during our many, many fun times together especially at family weddings, birthdays, holidays, vacations, etc. In the past few years it has been Elderhostels in Western Texas, Colorado and Yellowstone plus Canadian Rockies, trips to Spain & Portugal and Cruises to Alaska and Northern Europe including London, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Sweden & St Petersburg.

I will always also remember all the work we did together at your home, at the Florida cottage and at Janet's home. Plus I will always remember going to church and Sunday School plus Men's Tuesday morning Bible Study followed by time at the library when you read

The Wall Street Journal and I The Investors Business Daily. You would always walk out with many books for the weekly reading. Then at home in your lazy boy you always had a book in your hands (as you devoured them) plus the TV on CNBC or Atlanta Braves baseball. We frequently discussed stock investments but we both conceded that Carolyn was the best stock picker in the family. On Saturday nights we always listened to Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion followed by two excellent jazz programs on PBS radio or playing your 33 & 45 jazz records.

What a blessing to know you best friend!

Love, Richard (Uncle Rich)

Richard Mong - September 01, 2016 at 03:19 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Spruill - September 01, 2016 at 02:45 PM

LS

“ Everyone has days that they dread to live, Monday was one of those for me. I have known Phil for the 13 years I have worked at North Fulton Hospital . He always had a smile on his face, and could always spread a smile with his contagious laugh. We all have grown to love him as a friend and another father figure. He was such a kind, generous and intelligent man that could hold conversation with anyone he met, our patients always told us how fortunate we were to have such a special person amongst us, we always replied, "yes we do!"

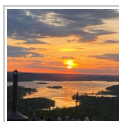
Through the years we nurses have looked out for him through some of his "times in need", but I think we all would agree he took far greater care of us! It was definitely a mutual admiration society between us. He kept us in vegetables from his gardens all year round, in stitches most of the time, and never lacked for great conversation.

Phil shared his knowledge of Oregon and all but planned my family's vacation this year, he graciously shared his beach house with us, and he and I could always talk food and recipes. I always said " I want to be Phil when I grow up"

His family will no doubt miss him every day forever, but this kind soul is no doubt in heaven spreading his cheer. Phil was the most positive and energetic man I've ever known, now he has a fresh new chance to live his next adventure with his maker.

We all wish his family love, peace and comfort in the months ahead.

Linda Spruill - September 01, 2016 at 02:40 PM



Thank you so much Linda for your kind words.

Mary Ann Rashid - September 03, 2016 at 08:19 AM

KW

“ It was with a great sense of loss when I heard of Phil's passing. I've known Phil for 17 years. He was a "fixture" here at the hospital. Every Monday and Thursday morning, when I pulled into the staff parking lot, I would look to see if his pickup was there.

Most of the time, when it was not there, I knew that he was "on vacation" in Florida, or doing something else. Monday morning I did not see his truck. I came in and asked one of my coworkers if Phil was sick, and she said that no one had heard from him. I knew that was not like Phil. Shortly thereafter, I got the heartbreaking news that he had passed away.

He was always joking with me. We would discuss politics, and other current events. He would always tell me that "when they made me CEO of the hospital, I needed to give him a raise in pay."

His infectious smile and sharp wit will be missed.

Memories of Phil will always remain within my heart, and I have included you in my daily prayers. May God give you strength.

Blessings,

Karan Woodall
Pre-Admission Testing
Wellstar North Fulton

Karan Woodall - September 01, 2016 at 09:28 AM



Thank you Karen for your kind words.

Mary Ann Rashid - September 01, 2016 at 02:23 PM

AE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



ann etchison - August 31, 2016 at 08:52 PM



Les and Phil Etchison

Mary Ann Rashid - September 15, 2016 at 11:52 AM

CG

“ *Colleen Garcia lit a candle in memory of Mr. Phil Etchison*



Colleen Garcia - August 31, 2016 at 07:40 PM

CG

“ It is difficult to put into words just how sad I am that I will not see that smiling face come through those doors at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital. I can honestly say I don't think I have ever met a kinder, more generous, thoughtful gentleman in my lifetime. Phil and I had a lot in common. My daughter graduated with a degree in Forestry Business, and during her time in college we discussed a lot of his experience in Forestry. He was always interested in what she is doing with her career! He was the only one of my "co-workers" that cared anything about our Atlanta Braves. I will miss those arm chair discussions. He and I coached some great teams! My heart breaks for his family and friends, but I know God has taken a special man to accomplish great things in heaven! Thank-you Phil for the pleasure of knowing and working with you!
Love,
Colleen Garcia

Colleen Garcia - August 31, 2016 at 07:39 PM



Thank Colleen for your kind words.
Mary Ann Rashid

Mary Ann Rashid - August 31, 2016 at 08:46 PM

SH

“ I just viewed the pictures that have been posted of Phil and his life. My heart breaks because I miss him so much. I've known Phil for 25 yrs. of my 30 yrs. at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital. I've been there thru some of his "mishaps" of which he came thru with flying colors, bouncing back each time and back to Volunteering. Monday's and Thursday mornings were Phil's days where he would walk in at 520am and begin his 5hrs. of Volunteering his time to our patients and assisting us in everything we needed. His amazing laugh was contagious to everyone, his ability to converse with whomever he was with at the time was unreal. Our outpatient dept. will not be the same for quite some time but I know Phil, he is telling us all to keep going strong and continue to laugh each day as he always did in his life. He will be missed for his love of sports and the love of gardening. We sure did benefit from all his vegetables from season to season. I could write pages on this wonderful man, but in closing the one thing all of us said at the end of the day, Heaven got an amazing Angel Monday morning. I will miss you Phil. Thank-you for all the years you gave us your time and friendship. Love,
Sandi Huskey

sandi huskey - August 31, 2016 at 05:27 PM



Thank you Sandi. We appreciate your kind words.
Mary Ann Rashid (one of Phil's daughters)

Mary Ann Rashid - August 31, 2016 at 06:13 PM

PE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Patty Etchison - August 31, 2016 at 03:02 PM

JE

“ 23 files added to the album Phil Etchison



Janet Evans - August 31, 2016 at 02:50 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janet Evans - August 31, 2016 at 02:41 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Phil Etchison.*



August 31, 2016 at 02:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Faisal Rashid - August 31, 2016 at 02:16 PM



“ *6 files added to the album Phil Etchison*



Faisal Rashid - August 31, 2016 at 01:46 PM

LE

“ Love, Mera, Ray, Evan, Emmi, Mort, Dena, Ed&Alicia purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Mr. Phil Etchison.



Love, Mera, Ray, Evan, Emmi, Mort, Dena, Ed&Alicia - August 31, 2016 at 08:56 AM

CL

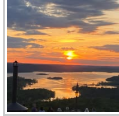
“ I had the privilege and honor, actually the blessing, of having worked with Phil on Monday and Thursday mornings as a volunteer at North Fulton hospital. Although I had worked there for almost two years, I asked Phil to become my 'mentor'. What a wonderful man! How many 89 year old persons get up at 4:30 in the morning to be at their volunteer hospital work before 6 am so as to help others? Incredible. Phil knew every doctor and all the details of what practice they were in. He knew who had to be taken to the Radiology Dept before surgery and he escorted them there. He kept his own personal schedule of all of our patients each morning and at what time he expected them. He was simply wonderful dealing with our patients. We all love him. He used to regale me with stories of his time as a soldier at the very end of WWII. Yes--he was of the Greatest Generation and we are in his debt. I especially enjoyed his stories about basic training in the summer of 1945 and how he ended up being posted to Hamburg, Germany in the bitter cold winter of 1945-46. His stories about his career in the US Forest Service were also fascinating. We used to cover all of the current topics such as Brexit, the stock market, and having lunch with Warren Buffett! I know that he especially enjoyed swimming in his pool with his wife. I am so thankful that we saw each other last Thursday, August 25 and got to hear the hilarious story about the time he 'set himself on fire' while burning some debris and brush on his property. We stood there and laughed for several minutes. Phil, I miss you terribly already and know that the Good Lord has taken you home. Now 'that's a wonderful life'. Chuck Lawonn

Chuck Lawonn - August 30, 2016 at 02:26 PM

SH

A beautiful tribute Chuck.

Sandra Huskey - August 31, 2016 at 04:57 AM



Thank you so much for your lovely tribute. My family really appreciated this tribute. We hope to meet you this weekend.
Mary Ann Rashid (one of Phil's daughters)

Mary Ann Rashid - August 31, 2016 at 10:20 AM



I also had the honor and privilege of working with Phil at NFH for the last 16 years. I will never forget how helpful he was when I first started volunteering. We have shared many fun moments. After I had worked with him for a while, we discovered that we had another bond. His daughter, Janet, and my sister, Joan, were friends in high school. It really is a small world sometimes. I am thankful to have known Phil. I will miss him but will carry all the fond memories in my heart..

Jean Snelson

Jean Snelson - August 31, 2016 at 11:52 AM



Thank you Jean.

Mary Ann Rashid - August 31, 2016 at 05:16 PM