



## Philip James Ross

July 15, 1950 - February 27, 2021

Philip (Phil) James Ross, 70, of Vienna, Virginia died Saturday, February 27, 2021 at Inova Fairfax Hospital from complications relating to a rare blood disorder. Phil was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 15, 1950, and moved to Hartsdale, New York when he was seven years old. In 1959, the family relocated to Greenville, South Carolina. Phil's parents took an active interest in politics and encouraged Phil to do the same. He first recalled wearing a political button in 1956 at age six, and thus launched a lifetime love of politics and political memorabilia. Phil was, however, first and foremost a family man who loved his family above all else.

During his high school years in Greenville, Phil took part in the Model UN and organized and led the South Carolina Youth Suffrage Movement which sought to lower the voting age to eighteen. During college he spent his summers in Greenville working on anti-poverty initiatives for the Office of Economic Opportunity.

He graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. in 1972 with a bachelor's degree from the School of Government and Public Administration. He was a member of the Young Democrats at American, and worked as a volunteer for several South Carolina Democrats.

It was at American that he met his wife, Jean on March 7, 1970 during a solar

eclipse they viewed while working as volunteers at the U.S. Capitol. They quickly became inseparable. Their marriage took place in Greenville on October 27, 1974. They attended Emory University together where Phil graduated in 1975 with a Juris Doctorate degree and began his legal career. His first less-than-glamorous legal job entailed searching through dusty title volumes in various Georgia county courthouses. On the other hand, he found it interesting to work for a law firm helmed by Margaret Mitchell's brother, who guarded "Gone with the Wind" copyrights and production rights.

While in law school Phil served as DeKalb County campaign manager in 1974 for the Bert Lance for Governor campaign. It was energizing work, and he loved the political life. He managed to win his county for Lance, who unfortunately lost state-wide.

Relocating to the Washington, D.C. area in 1977, Phil began his career at the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Legislation where he prepared Congressional testimony for EPA administrators and other officials. In 1984 he transferred to the EPA General Counsel's Office and focused his work on pesticides, often crafting labeling language to protect consumers. He was proud of his work for EPA, and especially happy to have endured through several administrations during which environmental concerns were minimized. He always worked to have the right thing happen. During his 40-year career he received numerous awards and commendations for his regulatory skill. His proudest moment was attending the bill signing when President Clinton made official a law that Phil was instrumental in drafting.

Phil was a member of the Arkansas Travelers for Hillary, boarding a bus and going door-to-door with this cadre of Arkansas natives to promote Hillary's run for President. He loved all the Travelers and was so grateful to have been one of their number, despite not being from the state. He served as President of the Bill Clinton Political Item Collectors and arranged an Oval Office visit on

March 7, 2000 for members of the club. The personal tour of the office that President Clinton treated them to was one of Phil's favorite memories.

A man of many interests, Phil was fascinated by Cuban culture and was fortunate enough to travel there on a cultural exchange tour there in 2000 with his daughter, Audrey. He loved interacting with the Cuban people and remained friends with several long after the trip. Phil also had many other loves: his family, lobster, political humor, great restaurant meals, family parties, the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Yankees, writing with fountain pens and—of course – photography. He won a place in the prestigious Fotobama exhibit at the Newseum, and his photos also appeared in EPA publications. He wrote for Fountain Pen Magazine, Autograph Collector, The Bandwagon, (a publication of the American Political Items Collectors organization); and several other journals.

He was happy to be part of any occasion involving his beloved family, whether it was a graduation for a niece, his daughter's "40 Under 40" award ceremony, support during his grandson's medical challenges, birthday parties, weddings, high school lacrosse and football games, helping with moving, acting as the DC tour guide endless times over and over, enduring his wife's enthusiasm for St. Patrick's Day at Ireland's 4P's, the twins' softball games, antiquing with any child who was willing to go along, soccer games, and introducing Audrey and her friends to campaign headquarters' swag, taking them on late night Tower Record trips to DC and for rides in his restored 1968 Pontiac Lemans convertible. He showed his devotion to family daily with his willingness to go anywhere and do anything for us, from running mundane errands to spending evenings entertaining Jake on FaceTime in more recent months.

Due to medical issues, Phil retired from EPA in April 2020. In retirement, Phil was a model of perseverance for his Facebook (and real life) friends as he

mastered walking with a prosthetic leg, learning how to use his “robot arm” and was determined to be the best Papa to Jake possible. His courage and can-do attitude inspired hundreds and many today have examined their lives and decided to move forward because Phil served as a source of inspiration. Thanks go to his friends, Russ Roseman and Steven Barry for devising a way that Phil, the one-armed man, could still have the ability to be an amazing photographer. Thanks to skill and hard work of “The Concrete Boys”, Phil had a ramp to allow him to get out and explore. Old and dear friends Larry and Ellen Korb, along with Suellen Sommer, served as cheerleaders for his recovery, along with so many others that to name them all would be so daunting.

Due to our Havurah group, we were never without visits when weather permitted outside distancing, phone calls, food and so much more. We were lucky to have neighbors like Dempsey and Lydia Hackett, Carol and Ed Tsou, and Matt and Heather Tully who cheered him on and helped us so much. Family members kept Phil in touch, sent him jokes and presents and were always there for him. He knew he had them all rooting for him and it provided him with the motivation to keep going despite the challenges. Thanks to his loving and supportive caregiver Sahr Abu Bockarie, Phil was able to enjoy many days out in his neighborhood, snapping bird photos and more. Sahr is responsible for so much of Phil’s progress because of the incredible loving care he provided and his strong belief that anything was possible for Phil (not to mention the joint love of CNN, Hillary, and politics that united them).

Phil was predeceased by his mother, Ann Adelson Ross; his father, Robert Elias Ross; his brother, William Mark Ross, his Aunt, Lenore Gussaroff Strauss; and his step-mother Joyce Abrams Ross. He is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Jean Lambert Ross, his beloved daughter, Audrey Ann Ross, treasured son-in-law Will Kmetz and Grandson, Jacob Charlie Kmetz (known to him as the world’s best grandchild). He also leaves behind

his grieving sisters-in-law, Dr. Betsy Fay, Linda Lambert Raupers and Michele Lambert, as well as his brother-in-law Thomas Lambert. His love and support for his eight nieces was legendary and he will be very much missed by Karen Raupers, Lori Farr, Ashleigh Cole, Marni Lambert, Janelle Lambert, Lauren Ross, Elaine Ross and Julia Swarthout. His great-nephews, Kevin Schlosser Jr., Justin Schlosser, Matthew Farr, Nathan Farr, Jace Hull, and Chance Cole were a source of delight to him, as were his great-nieces Onalee Cole and Nora Cole. He is also survived by his cousins Stacey Torrieri and John Strauss; his step-brothers, Barry Abrams and Michael Abrams; and step-sister, Susan Abrams. While not his children, he considered Adrienne Isleib and ARong Park as daughters. Phil had a special way of connecting with many of his daughter's friends (from childhood and beyond) and they will no doubt miss his presence in their lives. In addition, he leaves behind an army of friends who supported him during this difficult journey.

Due to COVID-19, a Zoom memorial service will take place on March 7 from Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church. Phil's family invites you to join that virtual service at 2 pm. You are also invited to join them in prayer during a virtual shiva on Monday, March 8 at 7:30pm. To request the Zoom link for either event – and please specify which or both – send an email to [Philrossmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:Philrossmemorial@gmail.com).

The family also requests that you submit your favorite photo of Phil for use either during Sunday's service or at a celebration of his life to be scheduled at a future date, using the email shown above.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in his memory be made to: Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children/Delaware Valley location - Child Life Department. Select Child Life Department from the dropdown menu here: (<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/931999/page/291496>) or the National Organization for Rare Disorders (<https://rarediseases.org/donate/>). May his

memory be a blessing. He will forever be missed by everyone whose life he touched.

# Previous Events

## Virtual Memorial Service

MAR 7. 2:00 PM.

To request the zoom link to join the service, please email [philrossmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:philrossmemorial@gmail.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Philip James Ross

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October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ sorry this is so late but I wanted to add my condolences at Phil's death. We worked together at EPA's Office of General Counsel for many years. He was a terrific lawyer, which I am sure has been thoroughly commented on, but what I remember most was his laugh and his enthusiasm and how much fun it was just to shoot the breeze for a while together. I loved his eccentricities, his extensive collection of political memorabilia and the fact that he would collect and preserve all these odd items that carry so many memories for political junkies. I left EPA some time ago and mostly saw my old colleagues at retirement parties or on the plaza that connected EPA and the Woodrow Wilson Center where I currently hangout, but personalities like Phil's were what made working there distinctive -- to have the commitment and the mission-driven culture but also to have such an interesting life outside of that, as well. My sympathies for your loss,  
Ruth Greenspan Bell.

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**Ruth Greenspan Bell** - May 04, 2021 at 01:46 PM

BA

“ My heart goes out to Jean, Audrey, Will and Jake at this difficult time. Losing Phil was such a profound loss. He was larger than life to many people, including me. He was a jovial political scholar, photographer, extremely passionate about causes he believed in and could be loud and brash, but in a good way. He enjoyed an argument but with such passion and love behind his seemingly gruff exterior. I have cherished his quick wit, analytical mind and his laugh for many years, but esp in the past few years.



When his struggles increased after that bout with the flu, I eagerly watched him conquer all obstacles put in his way, from his illnesses, amputations and zest for life that kept him fighting to push forward. He was my hero, even though in his notes and cards to me, he called me HIS hero. Yes, I've had some of my own struggles as well, but he always remained my hero. I'm sure many of you agree. Sending hugs and prayers to you all at this most difficult time. And I want you all to know that he was loved, honored and cherished by his friends and colleagues. I will miss him terribly and hope his legacy continues within all of you.

- Bonnie Crystall Adler

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**Bonnie Crystall Adler** - March 09, 2021 at 10:10 AM

AC

“ We will miss my Uncle Phil tremendously. He was always there for all the big events in my life. From him buying me the jasmine doll if I talked in kindergarten, drives to antique shops and our many Barnes and Noble trips. I can not express how proud I was of him with how far he pushed himself and his accomplishments this past year. I wish he could still be with us to watch my children grow and my son play his favorite sport of baseball but know he will always be with us. We love you Aunt Jean and Audrey and wish we could be there with you at this time.

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**Ashleigh Cole** - March 07, 2021 at 03:43 PM

YH

“ Phil was an inspiration in his steadfast and optimistic effort towards recovery.  
One memorable anecdote from our working relationship is how Phil saved my life.  
We happened to be seeing the same medical specialist, and neither of us was satisfied. Phil took particular umbrage at his treatment by the office staff regarding an issue around his care and the the physician backed the staff and wouldn't acknowledge Phil's position. So that was it, Phil found another and encouraged me to switch too. Knowing Phil's discernment I made the change.  
The new physician was concerned immediately with an issue the previous one ignored. It turned out to be cancer!  
I joked over the years to Phil that he saved my life, which may not have been hyperbole.  
I hope these shared memories and tributes comfort his family, friends, and caregivers.

Yvette Hopkins

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**Yvette Hopkins** - March 07, 2021 at 11:24 AM

RA

“ *My condolences to Phil's family. He was an incredible source of inspiration as he fought his health battles with such incredible optimism. As an OGC colleague, I send my love and support to you all.*

*Richard Albores*

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**Richard Albores** - March 05, 2021 at 03:58 PM

IF

“ *Inez Franklin lit a candle in memory of Philip James Ross*



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**Inez Franklin** - March 05, 2021 at 02:27 PM

“ For something like 7 or 8 years, while working for EPA’s Special Review and Reregistration Division, I helped to write and put together data collection packages that were one of the few legal mechanisms afforded EPA to collect new data on particular pesticides as well as act to enforce policies and determinations on the sell, distribution and application of individual pesticides as applied to their use in the United States. Because of the legal nature and extreme importance of these packages, they had to be well examined and meet all standards of the law before being sent out to all those affected as well as made public. That’s where Phil came in. We had to send each draft package to Phil for his legal review and there was often a period of time when a particular portion of the package did not fit with Phil’s understanding of the Law and his very high standards for stating the exact legal language to be used. Wish I had a nickel for every time that Phil would send a particular draft package back with his concerns and recommendations for revision! I must admit that often (back in those days) when I saw his name show up on the telephone or in an e-mail, there might have been some ‘inner groaning’ coming from yours truly! But, for all my teeth-gnashing and scurrying to make each document ‘acceptable’ (from a legal standpoint) to Phil’s review, I must say that I was impressed over and over again, at his expert legal mind and his knowledge of the power (and all the possibilities of different interpretation of the written word).

It was only after something like 3 years of retirement for me, that I decided to ‘take the plunge’ and join Face Book (after saying that I would never do that as it would suck the life right out of me). Not long afterwards, I began to see some the posts that Phil had put on FB and it was then that I truly saw just how insightful and intellectually varied his interests were—becoming impressed all the more and to the point where I asked him to ‘friend me.’ Which he did, and we immediately began to post and respond to each other, which soon made me realize what an outstanding person he was, and with so very many interests! I looked forward to his new posts on FB, and when I understood and read about the number of health challenges he was not only facing but actively tackling and rising

*above, my interest and respect for Phil just exploded exponentially. There are very few people that consistently stand out in a crowd and represent the best that all of us could be, but Phil was one of the few prime examples of that and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to know and interact with him. My deepest condolences go to his family and friends that knew him better than I ever will; if ever there was someone who I will greatly miss, it is Phil.*

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**Gary M Mullins** - March 05, 2021 at 01:31 AM

JA

“ *I was in the Pesticides office at EPA when Phil was in the General Counsel's office covering pesticides. Some in his office felt power in being able to tell us in the program office that we couldn't do what we wanted to do. Phil wasn't on of those. He tried to find a legal way for us to get it done. He was a breath of fresh air. At the time my parents were living in Spartanburg, SC. He and I would joke about the peach water tower being our landmark as we drove close to seeing our parents. We liked him well enough that we even invited him to our pesticides office parties. He brought one of Jean's cookie creations to our party. I liked them so much I asked for the recipe. It was called peanut blossoms and had a Hershey kiss on them. I happened to pull that recipe out and made those cookies this past Christmas.*

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**Jan Auerbach** - March 04, 2021 at 11:24 PM

AH

“ *Phil and I became friends over the last year or so as we worked on a history project together. I was rummaging around the office at EPA and I came across these photos of Phil and friends enjoying a walk in the woods during an office retreat. We will all miss him very much.*

*--Allison Holden*



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**Allison Holden** - March 04, 2021 at 04:19 PM

PR

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Philip Royer** - March 04, 2021 at 03:27 PM

SS

“*Phil was my colleague and friend at the Environmental Protection Agency for years. His calm demeanor and good humor were an invariable tonic in what was sometimes a superheated, overemotional atmosphere. His palpable faith in the American political process, even in times when it was sorely tested, was another endearing trait.*

*Phil was also most generous, to me in particular. He came to my home, gratis, to take a series of photos for concert use (I am a pianist and harpsichordist) which I now use -- properly accredited -- as my official publicity photos. A palpable blessing to me.*

*I watched Phil's tribulations on Facebook with ever-growing alarm. I mourn his passing and believe the world is now a lesser place without him in it. Please accept my condolences.”*

*Steven Silverman*

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steve silverman - March 04, 2021 at 02:37 PM

JB

“ I first met Phil and his wife Jean when we all attended Emory University together. We shared many wonderful times there. After I graduated I stayed with Phil and Jean and they were the most wonderful hosts ever! We reconnected on Facebook years later. I will miss Phil tremendously. He was such an inspiration to all of us and never stopped fighting no matter how awful his health declined. He encouraged all of us. I also credit him for getting me through two tumultuous elections and am happy he got to see Trump run out of office. He took on any and all comments and challenges with wit and wisdom. He was one of those rare people who filled the room when one was around him!

He leaves a mighty legacy. He wrote me several thank you notes which I will always cherish. His interest in butterflies was told to me after I sent him a magnet. He was interested in everything ranging from photography to memorabilia to political to many hobbies. But his greatest love was his family. He was devoted to his lovely wife, Jean, daughter, and son in law and his beloved Jake and his love shined through!.

Phil, you have left the world a far better place and we will all remember you. YOu will be sorely missed! I am a better person for knowing you and thank you. Rest in peace, my friend.

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**Jane Biehl** - March 04, 2021 at 12:45 PM

SB

*I find it difficult writing a good bye to Phil Ross , a man of compassion and love for humanity who treated me as part of his family. I came to know Phil Ross a little close to a year working as his care giver. Most people must have seen our photos that he posted on Facebook. Again as I stated earlier, Phil didn't treat me as a care giver but I can say I was treated by his family as being a part of them. I was treated with honor respect, dignity and love by the Ross family. I will definitely miss our political discussions. We both share the same political and social beliefs especially respect for humanity. I will miss our photography trips around the neighborhood in which you took photos of birds...Cardinals, herming birds and most recently deers and foxes. Your love for animals and birds was humane as you loved to see them comfortable. To me, Phil wasn't just a person but a very good human being..... With a heavy heart I say goodbye and may your gentle soul be received with Heavenly Peace I will forever miss you Phil*

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**SAHR ABU BOCKARIE** - March 04, 2021 at 09:45 PM

BA

*Sahr, I truly feel for you as you seemed to have the closest connection to Phil outside of his family. Working with him daily and helping him gain his independence and freedom to walk again was a goal we all hoped he'd achieve. You made that possible and thru him we knew you and all you did for him. Thank you for being a true care giver and friend. My heart goes out to you as well for this tremendous loss.*

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**Bonnie Crystall Adler** - March 09, 2021 at 10:26 AM

CZ

“ The picture has a special meaning: I had an appointment at the RFK Human Rights Center to give an interview there, regarding my connection to the people, Robert Kennedy left behind.

At the last moment it turned out that the woman who wanted to do the interview with me had to go to California. Phil helped spontaneously: "I'm a lawyer," he said ... "I know how to ask questions. I can interview you."

May Phil's memory and name be shared by all the people who are close to or love the Kennedy family. May all of them know how much Phil loved Robert Kennedy.

Please also know that Paul Schrade, a close friend of Robert Kennedy, was also sad to hear the news that our friend Phil is gone. Phil and Paul Schrade talked to each other on the day when Phil did that interview with me.

Phil, Jean, my husband Michael and I have been on friendly terms since 1993. We will miss him infinitely.

My heart is with Jean, Audrey and Jake.



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**Claudia Zwiener** - March 04, 2021 at 10:05 AM

HG

“ So sorry to hear of Phil's passing. We worked together for many years at EPA and I followed his journey on FB as well. Phil was one of a kind- A great human being who will be missed by many. ❤️

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**Heather Garvie** - March 04, 2021 at 09:08 AM

KH

“ Kathleen Henderson lit a candle in memory of Philip James Ross



kathleen henderson - March 04, 2021 at 08:48 AM

KH

*I never met Phil person to person yet he always felt like a good friend to me. About 7 years ago, I commented on a photo he had shared on FB of my hometown, Sayre, Pa. He graciously allowed me to share it with my friends. He piqued my interest with his connection to Sayre and his button collecting, which is also a hobby of mine. I knew Phil was from SC and when we contemplated moving south, I asked him for some recommendations and comments. I took his word and did not settle in Greenville; instead we settled in a small city in NC. I miss Phil. I miss his politics, his no BS look at everything, the love he had for his family and allowing us all to get to know them. He will always be in my heart.*

kathleen henderson - March 04, 2021 at 08:56 AM

JB

“ Phil, I will miss you very much. You were a great human being and I am so lucky to have worked with you. Jean and family, my greatest sympathies...

Jill Bloom - March 04, 2021 at 07:22 AM

ML

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Michele Lambert - March 04, 2021 at 04:59 AM

ML

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Michele Lambert - March 04, 2021 at 02:05 AM

JE

“ 7 files added to the album Phil and family



Jean - March 04, 2021 at 12:46 AM

DH

“ Worked with Phil at EPA, would receive faxes with his comments-written in the margins - with his beloved fountain pens! Phil introduced me to fountain pens collecting and went with him to my first pen show! I also spent many hours playing words with friends with him. He always won except the one time we tied... I have been so inspired by his courage and “Little Engine that Could” determination over the past year or so. It’s just not fair that he is gone! Love to his family and caregivers. May his memory be a blessing.

Deborah Hartman - March 03, 2021 at 11:12 PM

LL

“❤️



Linda Lambert-Raupers - March 03, 2021 at 10:05 PM

DE

“ *Phil, or Uncle Phil as he is known to me and my family. He has help mold me and my family in more ways then I could ever express. I will never forget the ways he cherished my children and the time we spent with him. I will always remember the love he showed for his wife and family and hope that I am remember to love my wife and family the same. I will never forget the time we spent talking about everything and the knowledge he shared with me about photography. He will be missed and never forgotten.*

Denis - March 03, 2021 at 09:43 PM

AK

“ *Phil was so caring and knowledgeable. I will miss his politics. Baruch dayan ha'emet.*

Al Kampmeyer - March 03, 2021 at 06:32 PM

JG

“ *We went to high school with Phil and knew then he was headed for higher ground. Congratulations to Phil for all the achievements during his lifetime. His courage during these challenging times is unparalleled. He was a TRUE WARRIOR and HERO to many. We will miss his Facebook presence. Rest In Peace our friend. Buddy and Judi Gregory*

judi gregory - March 03, 2021 at 05:23 PM

SM

“ I knew Phil in High School ..he was always friendly. I was new to SC and very lonely so it meant a lot when a person was friendly ....he made me feel acknowledged. We were on extreme opposite sides of the political spectrum but always agreed to disagree. I admired him for his strength and his perseverance through all his health ordeals and admired his wife, Jean. May the Lord bless you all during this difficult time of loss

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**Shirley Miller** - March 03, 2021 at 04:26 PM

SA

“ I didn't know Phil well, only doing a bit of "business" with political buttons. What I did learn from following him on Facebook was his perseverance in a time of personal crisis. Phil always demonstrated great courage with his medical battles. He endured, it seemed, endless tests and surgeries, but always showed optimism as he battled on. It is hard for family and friends to lose him after such trials that he overcame, but he fought well, and now can rest in peace knowing he did everything he possibly could to extend his life. My condolences to the Ross family. He will be fondly remembered.

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**Steve Amos** - March 03, 2021 at 04:21 PM

PR

“ My condolences to Phil's entire family, his friends and his numerous Facebook friends. May the love you shared and the memories made bring you comfort today and in the days ahead. Phil was indeed a profile in courage.



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**Philip Royer** - March 03, 2021 at 03:26 PM

HS

“ *Phil was a friend to every one he met or associated with through his love of life and politics. His can do attitude and determination in the face of adversity was and remains an inspiration. He will be missed by all he touched. We miss you my friend!*

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**Herbert S Shemwell** - March 03, 2021 at 01:51 PM

PM

“ *All of us with the Peter Mayer Group and Little Flock Music send our best to you, in fond remembrance of Phil's life. We all leave gifts with the lives we leave and the more I get to know about Phil his were many and varied and wonderful. We pray, Jean, for comfort and strength and Light for all of you loved ones that Phil held so dear as you travel on into the days that come. God bless you all, Peter Mayer*

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**Peter Mayer** - March 03, 2021 at 12:59 PM

JN

“ I first met Phil when he started with EPA's pesticides general counsel office. At that time I worked in the pesticides enforcement office and Phil and I came to work on many of the rules and regulations being developed by the pesticides regulatory folks. With his sharp mind and steadfast diligence he made all of those documents he touched much, much better. A bit of a character with those hats and the ever present fountain pens, Phil was a terrific contributor to the success of the pesticide program throughout his time at EPA. Later, Phil and I became Facebook friends and I followed his unfortunate medical issues and his witty posts about politics. Boy could he skewer someone that had the gall to challenge his view of righteousness of left leaning politics. And you just had to stand in admiration of his battles to master his prosthetic arm and leg. An avid and accomplished photographer, he figured out how to handle a bulky SLR camera with a big telephoto lens despite having only one operational arm. I know all of us that followed Phil were cheering when it looked like he had maybe turned the corner, and then doubly sadden when we heard of his passing. It just doesn't seem fair. I'm going to miss our distance relationship. But I know Phil is up there figuring out how he is going to guide and mentor his beloved grandson, Jake.

Jack Neylan  
EPA 1970-2007  
Naples, FL

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Jack Neylan - March 03, 2021 at 11:55 AM

JR

“ 2 files added to the album Phil and family



Jean Ross - March 03, 2021 at 11:48 AM



*Phil and I worked at USEPA together for decades, starting from his early days in the legislative office but less so after he moved on to EPA's General Counsel. Nevertheless we always greeted each other warmly in the halls and knew that we were working within a community with shared professionalism and goals. I lost track of Phil until I bumped into Phil and Jean at a Museum exhibit in DC when I had limited time and he let me in line with my visiting daughter and then saw Jean and Phil at Hillwood gardens. It was only after those two occasions that we connected personally and connected through Facebook. When I was introduced to Jean you could see immediately the deep love they had for each other. I followed his spirited and determined progress through the difficult journey after losing a limb. What can I say that others have not but that it is his spirit that will remain with me and all those many people he touched along the way. He was in every way a blessing and I feel blessed having known him. I should have known what he was capable of when he transformed himself with diet and running from an overweight to fit person.... very difficult indeed but still, the way he handled life's challenges is as telling as to his character as when he tackled environmental challenges. He is and will be missed.*

Cheryl Wasserman - March 05, 2021 at 08:16 PM