



James Cecil Phillips Jr.

May 28, 1928 - May 4, 2018

James Cecil Phillips, Jr., 89, of Martha, Kentucky, slipped away from his earthly body on the morning of Friday, May 4, 2018, at Community Hospice in Ashland.

He was born May 28, 1928, in Lawrence County, Kentucky. His parents were the late James Cecil Phillips, Sr. and Anna Mae Ferguson Phillips. Two brothers, Hobert and Herbert, and one sister Charolene, also preceded him in death.

His beautiful and loving bride of 67 years, Lola Stephens Phillips, passed away in February.

James was saved during a revival at Cains Creek Freewill Baptist Church and then baptized. He was a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and church bus driver.

James will be deeply missed by four daughters: Sandra (Lester) Wilson of Ashland, KY, Vickie (Johnny) Pelfrey of Lancaster, OH, Sharie Phillips of Martha, KY, and Angela (Willis) Ferguson of Louisa, KY, as well as six grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Two sisters, Carol (Jack) Lewis of Martha, KY and Mary (Roger) Skaggs of

Isonville, KY, also survive along with many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends who will also mourn his passing.

Born in 1928, the year before the Great Depression began, James saw a lot of hard times and challenges in his 89 years.

He took on man-size responsibility as a very young boy. Because of a labor shortage during WWII, a 14 year old James went to work driving a dump truck and running a bulldozer. He was proud of his lifetime of hard work with a resume that included working in the oil fields and in a sawmill, driving a bus, running a service station, farming, owning an antique and yarn shop, and construction.

He enlisted in the Air Force, but he was medically discharged not long into his service due to lung issues.

He could do anything including restoring and building furniture, electrical, plumbing, and construction. In addition to being a superintendent for several large bridge projects, James restored a two-story cabin with fireplaces for his brother-in-law after the cabin was relocated.

With his wife's help, James built a beautiful addition to the home they shared to make it a comfortable place for them and future generations. He later remodeled the kitchen with cabinets he built. At age 80, he remodeled the bathroom.

When dementia started taking over, he still pushed to do projects because he loved to work. Even at the nursing home, he "worked"....some days, he milked their cows. Others, he oversaw their paperwork and handled security. Then, there were days in his mind that the nursing home became a flea market. He visited the other "booths" and once even traded for a pair of too big

comfortable shoes.

James was amazed by advances in cars and technology. He loved following politics and also enjoyed horses, setting up at flea markets, and woodworking. Flea markets, auctions, and Lowes were a few of his favorite places. He also liked shortcuts via backroads that usually took longer, but made better memories.

James could cook. "Brown gritty gravy," salmon patties, and homemade French fries were his specialties. He could also sew. Really, there seemed to be no limit to James' skills, smarts, or problem solving abilities.

James faced challenges, battling injuries and illnesses, but he kept a sense of humor. He will be missed deeply, but a legacy of love and kindness will guide his family.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Elliott County Nursing and Rehabilitation in Sandy Hook, KY and the staff at Community Hospice in Ashland, KY for the amazing care he received. The love and kindness shown to him and his family is deeply appreciated.

Funeral services will be held 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 08, 2018 at the Waddell & Whitt Funeral Chapel with Bro. Gary Sparks officiating. Burial will follow in the Stephens Cemetery on Caine's Creek.

Friends may visit from 11:00 a.m. Tuesday until the Service hour at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Stephens Family Cemetery

Lawrence Co, KY

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.* ”



Mary - May 09, 2018 at 03:17 PM



“ *Prayers for the family!* ”



Cindy Turner Prewitt - May 09, 2018 at 02:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Cecil Phillips Jr..* ”



May 07, 2018 at 12:53 PM

“Wow! It was such a great honor to know Mr. Phillips! I first met Mr. Phillips and his wife, as I worked in Home healthcare field. I later was reunited with Mr. Phillips, as a nurse, at Elliott Nursing and Rehab. I seldom called Mr.



Phillips by his first name, James because he seem to deserve the honor and respect of being addressed as, Mister!

When reading his obituary, I thought you are so right; this is certainly the man in which I grew to live and adore! When my husband and I left there from visiting my Mother-in-law this evening, I said, "I miss Mr. Phillips, I hope and pray he is doing better!" Little did I know but he had already completed his journey to a place called, Heaven! MR. Phillips and I often talked about the community of Martha and his childhood. He would smile when I reminded him that he lived across the road from Roosevelt's heating and cooling. I would let him know that I came by there everyday to and from work and that the house looked great! You could see the pride as he smiled; and for that little time frame he remembered his home!

Mr. Phillips very often sat outside my office! When I would see him, I would offer him cup of coffee! His eyes would light up and he would always say, "well, yes if it's not too much trouble!" I would tell him that I didn't mind a bit and that I made it especially for him because I thought he might be dropping by! We would sip our coffee together and just talk about life! I occasionally would sing gospel hymns for him and a few of the others and he loved it, would sometimes join in, and occasionally become overjoyed and tearful! Mr. Phillips loved the Lord! No doubt about it!

I pray that Mr. Phillips is sitting around Lord's table sipping coffee from his saucer!

My prayer for his family is that you get to know our God, as Brother Phillips did, so we can all be joined by together before long!

May God provide comfort, as only he can, during such a valley in our lives! I will ALWAYS SMILE when I think of Mr. Phillips and I thank you from the bottom of heart for sharing your Dad with us, even if it was for just a short time! My deepest condolences!

Dianna Skaggs, RN

Dianna Blevins Skaggs - May 06, 2018 at 11:51 PM

AF

Thank you so much for the kindness you showed my parents, especially my daddy at the Nursing Home. I look forward to seeing him again in Heaven.

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:37 AM



“ *Sending thoughts and Prayers to the entire family. He will be deeply missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him.*



Jessica Holbrook - May 06, 2018 at 08:54 PM

AF

We love you....and appreciate the loving care you gave our dad.

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:38 AM

CM

“ *Carolyn Gilliam Myers sent a virtual gift in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.*



Carolyn Gilliam Myers - May 06, 2018 at 07:59 PM

AF

Thank you...

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:38 AM

CM

“ Carolyn Gilliam Myers lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Carolyn Gilliam Myers - May 06, 2018 at 07:59 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:38 AM

MA

“ Michelle Adkins lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Michelle Adkins - May 06, 2018 at 05:21 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:39 AM

CT

“ Johnny and I (Christy) are so sorry to hear of his passing Vickie! So wonderful that he was ready to meet the King!

Christy Thompson - May 06, 2018 at 04:07 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:39 AM

JG

“ Joyce Greene lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Joyce Greene - May 06, 2018 at 03:44 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:39 AM

CS

“ Christy Smith lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.




Christy Smith - May 06, 2018 at 03:30 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:40 AM

 Sara Stephens

“ Sara Stephens lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Sara Stephens - May 06, 2018 at 02:32 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:40 AM

PF

“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort.*

Pamela Ferguson - May 06, 2018 at 02:25 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:40 AM



“ *Margaret Wagoner lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.*

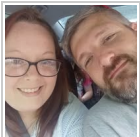


Margaret Wagoner - May 06, 2018 at 02:22 PM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:40 AM



“ *Jessica Gilliam lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.*



Jessica Gilliam - May 06, 2018 at 11:32 AM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:41 AM

Angie Roberts

“ Angie Roberts lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Angie Roberts - May 06, 2018 at 08:56 AM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:41 AM

SP

“ Susan Preston lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Susan Preston - May 06, 2018 at 08:28 AM

AF

Thank you

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:41 AM

AF

“ I miss my amazing, handsome, funny, giving and loving daddy and best friend... tell momma I love her.

Angela Ferguson - May 05, 2018 at 04:41 PM

SK

“ Sue Newell Keeton lit a candle in memory of James Cecil Phillips Jr.



Sue Newell Keeton - May 05, 2018 at 08:26 AM

SK

So sorry for your loss, May God give you Comfort during this time of sorrow

Sue Newell Keeton - May 05, 2018 at 08:27 AM

AF

Thank you....

Angela Ferguson - May 05, 2018 at 04:39 PM

SV

So sorry for your loss, love you my friend!!!!

Shevella Vanover - May 06, 2018 at 07:23 AM

AF

Thank you, Shevella. Love you!

Angela Ferguson - May 07, 2018 at 09:42 AM

JO

“ I will miss seeing James at the nursing home, so sorry for the family's loss...Love and prayers



Joyce Oliver - May 04, 2018 at 08:21 PM

AF

Thank you, Joyce. You all became his second family. The care he received there couldn't have been better. We were so blessed to know he was loved and safe

Angela Ferguson - May 05, 2018 at 04:39 PM