



Philip Knight Selden

January 06, 1943 - May 18, 2024

Philip Knight Selden – A Guy Who Loved Life and Was Loved

Here's a take-away for all who will miss Phil.

In the 1950s Phil Selden, son of Frances Knight Selden and George Golay Selden, grew up with his sister Barbara in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. There he attended Christ the King Elementary School. As he grew, he fished ponds on the nearby Prentiss estate, romped about with buddies, and joined in on outlandish capers. From his descriptions I have the sense that his boyhood days were much like those in the quirky, hilarious, humane film *Moonrise Kingdom*. Later Phil Eagle Scouted.

Phil graduated from Cathedral Latin High School, Cleveland, and then from Miami University, Oxford, where he pledged Phi Gamma Delta, attained a B.A. in Psychology and was commissioned as an Ensign through Navy ROTC.

While at Miami University, he was simply lucky enough to meet Judi Davis. They became a “Miami Merger” on a fine June day. Naval orders then sent them to San Diego, where Ensign Phil was deployed to the South China Sea, in and out of Danang Harbor, Vietnam, during a two-year tour of duty.

After his return, Phil completed an MBA at Miami University. Judi and Phil then moved from Oxford to the Toledo, Ohio area, where Phil had been recruited to join corporate Owens-Illinois.

To their delight, their daughter Laurel entered their world. As their adored baby grew, Phil, a dad on the vanguard of dads involved in the lives of daughters, spent “Sesame Street” and crafting weekend mornings. He could soothe a booboo with skills. For a decade he later coached Laurel's winning, summer Sylvania softball team. He looked forward to Sylvania Southview High School basketball and football games where Laurel cheered. In her wedding photos you can spot his joy in being Laurel's dad.

Eventually Phil became President and COO of Bolanis Financial Planning Group, enjoying relationships with colleagues and clients, while connecting in the community as President of Toledo's chapter of the International Association of Financial Planners. As Phil gradually retired, he relished volunteering as a tutor with Kids Unlimited, and, of course, perfecting his golf game.

After Judi and Phil retired completely, they left decades of their Toledo area adult lives and dear friends and moved to the Mason, Ohio area to be closer in proximity to enjoy family.

Oh, and may I just say with confidence, that no grandfather is more adored. The grand-girls have lasting, wonderful memories of a guy who delighted in them. A gifted T-shirt - Papa – The Myth – The Legend – sums their relationships with Phil.

And, in case you're an animal lover, just know that Phil, who enjoyed four wonder-cats with Laurel and Judi over decades, became a gifted cat whisperer, first at Toledo Animal Rescue and then at the Humane Association of Warren County. In his role of socializing kittens and cats for adoption, he was pure magic!

And now, after a two-year, courageous battle with terminal cancer, Phil, an ardent proponent of green burial, rests at peace in Heritage Acres Memorial Sanctuary, Pierce Township, Ohio, in a lovely meadow close to a dense, stately woods that slopes downhill to a timeless creek. There May 24, 2024, a family service honored Phil. The light that day was ethereal. Against the backdrop of blue sky with high vaulting puffs of white silver-tipped clouds, a Navy Honor Guard performed its flag ceremony and Taps. Blue butterflies fluttered in, as if on cue, as meadow flowers graced his grave.

Here's a take-away for all who will miss great-guy Phil. We can take comfort in knowing that Phil was much-loved, had a positive impact on people and animals, and lived with humor, wisdom, and enviable courage. He truly enjoyed his time on earth – and that, for sure, counts for something!

Phil will be especially missed by:

Judi Davis Selden – Phil's wife of decades; daughter, Laurel Selden Conrad (Curt); granddaughters Hope Selden Conrad and Kate Selden Conrad – Mason, OH

Sister: Barbara Selden Wicker (John) – Jamaica Plain, MA; niece Lucie Wicker Tweeddale (Seth) – grand-nieces Katherine and Elizabeth – Cohasset, MA; nephew Jack Wicker – Roslindale, MA

Brother-in-law: James (Jamie) Davis (Kathie Martin Davis), Englewood, FL; niece, Meghan Davis Hryniewicz (Greg) ; grandniece Neve and grand-nephew Bryce – Annapolis, MD; nephew, Jay Davis - Charleston, SC

... along with dear, decades-long friends, who are like family, and blessings!

Family Request:

If you know – enjoy – love Phil, please reach out to us through email and phone calls, so that we can plan get-togethers/visits in person and Zooms. We will raise a glass to Phil's accomplished life, while sharing stories and memories.

As you know, Phil had stories to tell.

Let's keep Phil's story alive together!

If you would like to honor Phil, please consider a remembrance donation to: The Humane Association of Warren County, 230 Cook Road, Lebanon, OH 45036, where Phil enjoyed socializing kittens and cats for adoption or to the Miami Fund, Miami University, Oxford, OH, where Phil and Judi fell in love, or to a cause that is most meaningful for you.

Tribute Wall

C

Colleen Pivoriunas

Judi and family: sincere condolences for the loss of Phil. Have missed our connection since you moved. Thinking of you....Prayers and hugs! God Bless! Colleen and Rich Pivoriunas.

H

Henry Heuerman

Judi, Laurel, Curt, Hope and Kate, you have Marcia's and my heartfelt sympathy for your loss of Phil, a great person. Phil was a friend of mine for nearly 50 years. We met on the tennis court in the mid-70's in Toledo, but our friendship played out on many stages other than the tennis court. Bridge games, golf trips, bocce ball games, snowmobiling, trips to northern Michigan and cruises in the British Isles and on the St. Lawrence Seaway are just a few of the wonderful and upbeat experiences that I was fortunate to share with Phil. The many golf trips to Pawley's Island where Phil always planned and prepared delicious meals with his co-chef, Gene stand out as some of the most memorable. Even after Phil was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he attended such an outing and was very open about his illness and the prognosis but was still upbeat and helped prepare a delicious dinner, as usual. Rest in peace Phil. You deserve it. You lived a great life, and a lot of people are going to miss you. Hank Heuerman



R

Richard Shemak

Phil and I met June 1969, Oregon, Ohio, Fountain Circle Apartment. We became life long friends. We all moved to Jamestown in Toledo. Yes, morning, noon and night you could find us on the tennis court. Along came that darling little one Laurel. We all retired and wanted to be near our kids. Unbeknown to all of us Laurel and our son and our children lived in Mason, Ohio. Our grandchildren also attended the same school. As fate would have it...we all reconnected. Phil and I had the time of our life! Golf....Phil set the tee time and we played 51 rounds of golf the summer before COVD. We never played the same course twice. Phil had a very competitive nature. I loved that about him. We were both Veterans. He would drive me crazy. He was a memeber of VA. He wanted me to join. Before we would teed off, he would always say...did you call the VA....I would always say NO. Yes, thanks to buddy, I am now a VA member. We had a new member join us. My grandson joined us and like very one who met Phil, how could you not not want to be around him. He played with us up until Phil could no longer swing that club. He spent a Sunday afternoon visiting with Phil before he passed. Phil sure had a was with young people, He was a man with a heart and always had that smile.. He loved his granddaughters. Its only been a short while since he left us....I will never have another golf buddy like Phil Selden. Richard Shemak

K

Keith Junk

Phil was a long-term member of the Lake George (MI) "Old Farts". This group of about 12-14 Toledo OH men gathered annually for well over 45 years to tell tales, over indulge for a weekend, and cross-country skii/snowmobile/golf/putt-putt/EAT/invest and sip! Phil not only participated energetically in all of that, he was the group's photographer. As technology advancements allowed, Phil would display our historical Old Fart journey with his annual computerized photo showing. That kept the tales alive. Thanks Phil. I will miss Phil as we continue to gather annually (hopefully!). His smile will be greatly missed. Keith "Trash"
