

Philip F. Vasko

January 25, 1937 - November 9, 2016

Philip F. Vasko, 79, of Chapel Hill, passed away November 9, 2016 at WakeMed Hospital in Cary.

He was born January 25, 1937 to the late Frank and Mary Mae (Steck) Vasko in Youngstown, Ohio. He is also predeceased by one son, Kenneth Vasko, one brother and one sister.

Philip served his country in the U.S Coast Guard from 1955-1959 and later with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Williamsburg, VA and in Cary, NC. He also had a long career with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1959 until his retirement in 1988. His work took him to many lands including; Cyprus, Japan, Iran, Ethiopia, Laos, and the Philippines. He was awarded the CIA Medal of Merit in 1988.

While taking pride in serving our country, his greatest joy was serving his church family. Philip was a Cantor in the Catholic Church choirs, a Pastoral Council Representative in 3 churches, a Stephens minister, minister to the homebound, and a funeral consultant ministry.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years Beverly Vasko of Chapel Hill, NC, sons Philip Vasko of Vienna, VA, and Matthew Vasko of Apex, NC, daughter Diane Hilow (Christopher) of Phoenix, AZ, and grandchildren Courtney, Kyle, and Kara Hilow, and Zachary and Adam Vasko.

A visitation will be held Thursday, November 17, 2016 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM at St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church, 3008 Old Raleigh Rd, Apex, NC 27502. A Funeral Mass with military honors will follow at 6:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Catholic Charities, 7200 Stonehenge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613.

Cemetery Details

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church

3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM (ET)

St Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Funeral Mass

NOV 17. 6:00 PM (ET)

St Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Reception

NOV 17. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Tribute Wall

CB

“ I just heard of the passing of Phil 4 months after the fact, but am so glad I did. I knew Phil and Bev in Williamsburg, VA as neighbors and fellow members of St. Bede Catholic Church. I am so sad that he was taken but am sure he is in the arms of God. He was always a strong example of love and service to his family, his country and his church. I am honored to have known him. Blessings to you, Bev. I know your Faith, family and friends will be your support always. Carol Brandely

Carol Brandely - March 17, 2017 at 03:56 PM



“ Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Philip F. Vasko.



November 16, 2016 at 07:03 PM

MV

“ "Why use a bucketful of words, for a spoonful of thought?" I hear you dad. So, I love you and please know you are and will always be my hero. God blessed me by allowing me to be your son. I am truly grateful. Go Buckeyes, Yankees, and... unfortunately Browns. Matt.

Matt Vasko - November 13, 2016 at 09:14 PM

KN

“ I am not sure that words can describe the sadness that we feel with Uncle Phil's passing. There is, however, great comfort knowing that Uncle Phil is with the Lord now and will still be watching over his family. He left everyone with many gifts... service to his church, service to his country, and most of all the gift of love for his family. We are very blessed to have been a part of his life.

Mike, Krissy, Michael, Nicholas, and Jake

Kristina Nanosky - November 13, 2016 at 07:47 PM

JP

“ Mary and I were deeply saddened to learn of Phil's passing. During my 31 years of service, he was one of the finest and most honorable gentleman I had encountered. I was not surprised to learn how active he was involved in our Catholic faith. He was always a man who walked to walk as well as talked the talk and , although we have had little contact in later years, he will be greatly missed. Bev, you and your family are in our prayers. Keep the faith.

Mary and John Pineau

John Pineau - November 12, 2016 at 08:58 AM

CA

“ Aunt Beverly,Diane,Phillip,and Matthew,
I was so sad to hear that Uncle Phil passed away today. He was one of the kindest men I have ever met, . I will remember him most of all for his kind smile, and welcoming personality. I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Don and Carla Ferree

Carla - November 12, 2016 at 01:38 AM

MB

“ Years and years ago I remember meeting a handsome/lovely and loving young couple with a beautiful little girl. Then again some years later this same grand couple welcomed us to life in Ethiopia and introduced us to a community of Christian Brothers there. For that we have been eternally grateful. So saddened to learn of Phil's death. He was a dear person. My heart go out to Beverly and Diane and the family. Please accept my heart felt condolences.
Martha Blake-Adams

Martha Blake-Adams - November 11, 2016 at 07:51 PM

“ A few weeks ago I was in a yoga class and the instructor asked us to dedicate the practice to a person who inspired us to be best person we could be. I dedicated that practice to my grandfather, Geegee, because he was the very first person who came to my mind. He always made sure that I was pushing myself towards happiness and growth. Regardless of the path I took to achieve those two goals I would find him there, cheering me on.

Geegee was a true Renaissance man. He was brilliant, artistic, musical, athletic, spiritual, comedic, and technologically adept. The best part is, despite having it all, he was incredibly humble. He didn't see himself as above anyone. That mindset had so much to do with his unwavering dedication to the Lord and therefore to others.

Geegee's compassion, faith, kindness, loyalty, and hard-working attitude are all characteristics I strive to embody every day of my life. Not to mention his amazing ability to listen. Geegee's genuine interest in the lives he touched is what attracted so many people to him.

I'm also probably one of the few graphic designers my age who had a grandfather who was able to use Adobe InDesign in addition to other complex software. From his personal birthday cards to the community newsletters he created - Geegee proved that learning and creativity have no expiration date.

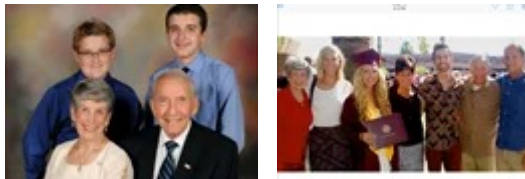
A few Geegee-isms to end with:

- 1) While driving, it is very important to make a "perfect turn" each time
- 2) No need for a gallon of words for a teaspoon of thought
- 3) If you want the the last note of a song to end, just clap

Geegee's song will live in my heart forever and I will continue to be inspired by his eternal song of love.

Courtney Hilow - November 11, 2016 at 06:12 PM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



michael nanosky - November 11, 2016 at 05:15 PM

CH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Courtney Hilow - November 11, 2016 at 01:21 PM

MN

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Nanosky - November 11, 2016 at 12:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Philip F. Vasko



Diane Hilow - November 11, 2016 at 11:27 AM



“ *Humble and kind are two words that best describe my father. A man of faith, of compassion, and a sly sense of humor, he was loved by anyone who had the good fortune to meet him. He had a special way of making you feel unique, important, and loved.*

One of the skills he gained from his unique career was the ability to learn different languages. Wherever he went, he assessed a person, guessed their country of origin, and greeting them in their native tongue. They loved him for it.

Like most families, ours has had its share of trials and tribulations. My father endured them with strength and resilience and never, ever gave up on anyone.

His passing will leave a hole in my heart, but the memories we shared will live forever.

I thank God for giving me the best father a girl could ask for. I will always be Daddy's little girl, a title I'll hold close to my heart for the rest of my days.

Diane Hilow

Diane Hilow - November 11, 2016 at 11:24 AM

MN

“ *To many people Phil was a business or church associate. But to us he was family. Phil was a very unique person. He was a wonderful brother-in-law to us and a terrific uncle to our children. We got to spend many happy family times here in Youngstown with Bev and Phil. Our kids knew when Uncle Phil was here it was going to be fun times. He had time to spend with our kids and that time was very special. He knew each one of them well and even got to meet their children. Phil loved coming back to Youngstown for family gatherings. He always felt welcome and made himself a part of the occasion. The Love he had for Beverly and his family was evident. You just had to look at the two of them to know that 60 Years of marriage was pure love. His kids and grandkids were so special to him also. To us Phil will always be there for us and now all we have to do is look up to the sky to talk to our very own Angel. Some day we will all be together again as a family--but until then we send our love and prayers to Phil and his family! Blessings to each of you. Maryann and Mike Nanosky. Youngstown Ohio.*

michael Nanosky - November 11, 2016 at 09:20 AM

JJ

“ We are shocked and saddened by the news of Phil’s passing. Phil was a good friend and mentor, a great boss, and a true patriot in every respect. He was admired and respected by all of his intelligence community colleagues as he set an example of service and dedication to God and country that motivated us all to try and do better. Our hearts and prayers go out to Beverly and family during this most difficult time and may God bless and comfort you. “When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.” Jim & Gloria Joyce, Tampa Florida.

James Joyce - November 10, 2016 at 10:25 PM