



Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips

April 6, 1939 - January 20, 2019

Lawrence M. "Larry" "Flip" Phillips, 79 of Irwin, passed away Sunday January 20, 2019 at home surrounded by his family. He was born April 6, 1939 in McKeesport, the son of the late Adam and Marie (Kaiser) Phillips. Known as Flip from the age of six, he was respected by his loyal friends and students. He was a graduate of McKeesport High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 1964 from Fort Hayes Kansas State College where he played basketball for four years reaching the NAIA semifinals twice. For the next 34 years he was a dedicated educator. It all began in Paola, Kansas teaching Biology and coaching basketball before moving back to Pittsburgh. He taught Biology and Chemistry at Gateway High School for 29 years and was Facility Manager for athletics working closely with the Athletic Director until becoming Athletic Director for his final three years at Gateway. He was a proud member of the Gateway High School Sports Hall of Fame and served on the nominating committee. Larry enjoyed the beach, cruising, and playing golf. He was an avid sports fan especially Penn State football and the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins. He was a Steelers season ticket holder for 40 years. Larry spent many summers golfing and vacationing in Sunset Beach with his golf buddies right after school let out for the summer and later with family and friends. He is survived by his wife of over 52 years Doris E. "Cookie" Phillips, his daughter Erin E. Goodwin and her husband Bruce of Pasadena, MD, and his grandson Brock Goodwin. He thought the best day a Pap could have was watching his grandson pitch or play 1st Base. It was his

best medicine! Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the William Snyder Funeral Home, 521 Main Street, Irwin, 724-863-1200, where a blessing service officiated by Rev. Jeffrey Wylie will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday. Interment will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles. The family would like to thank visiting nurse, Allison, and physical therapist, Erin, and Three Rivers Hospice nurses Erica, Kelly, Kathy, and Bonnie, for all the kind and compassionate care. In lieu of flowers a contribution can be made in Flip's memory to the Penn State Dance Marathon for kids with cancer at www.thon.org. For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

1443 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles, PA 15137

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 23. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

JAN 23. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Service

JAN 24. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips*

October 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips*

August 23, 2022 at 04:00 PM



“ *To the Phillip's family,*

I was a student of Mr. Phillips at GHS in the 80's. He was a favorite of mine and made me love biology. To this day, I can recall a lot of what he taught me because he truly knew how to make what he taught interesting and fun. Also, because he was so nice and funny too at times! I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. He was one of the good ones and will truly be missed.

Lynn A Jeffery - July 23, 2019 at 05:59 PM



“ *Cookie, I'm sorry to hear of Flips passing. My sister sent notice of his obit. I'm living in Kansas at present -- settled here after retiring from the Air Force. I have not seen Flip for years but will always remember his friendly smile and positive attitude. My heart goes out to you and your family.*

Pat Campbell MHS class of 58.

Pat Campbell - March 28, 2019 at 09:07 PM

GC

“ Cookie, I only met Flip at John and Caroline's wedding, but I liked him then and I'm sure I would have continued to like him if I had gotten to know him. I know John loved him very much! Caroline and Caleb did too and they enjoyed their time spent there with you and Flip. I know he suffered a lot so in a sad way I'm glad he is no longer suffering. Its hard to watch them suffer. My prayers are for you now and hope that you take care of yourself.

glenda coronado - January 29, 2019 at 11:43 AM

DH

“ Cookie,
So sorry to hear of Flip's passing. Sincere sympathy to you and your family. A lengthy illness is a tough road to travel. I still think of you and our co-employees and the good times we had at IBT. Take care.

Debbie Helderlein

Debbie Helderlein - January 28, 2019 at 01:30 PM



GL

“ Glenda And Luis lit a candle in memory of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips



glenda and luis - January 26, 2019 at 03:18 PM

ST

“ *Mr. Phillips was my teacher in the mid nineties. He was a great teacher and more importantly a great mentor. Just last week, something reminded me of his class and I told my wife how I loved having him as a teacher. As a Gateway teacher myself, I hope to have the same positive affect on my students as he did with his.*

Steve - January 23, 2019 at 06:58 PM

MH

“ *Cookie,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you in the loss of your dear "Flip." Wes and I have such fond memories of our 25 years of Steeler season tickets with you both sitting right behind us. Wes is reminded of the memories he and Flip shared criticizing the officials. Love you, MaryLee and Wes Hyde, North Hills*

MaryLee Hyde - January 23, 2019 at 10:39 AM

CO

MaryLee, What a surprise to see your name! Many,many special memories of our times at Three Rivers! Flip has been suffering from cancer and COPD for a few years. He just couldn't fight it anymore. Thank you for your thoughts. We never liked our seats at Heinz Field and transferred them this year to young friends who have been using them. Hi to Wes.

cookie - January 24, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 23, 2019 at 08:30 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.



January 23, 2019 at 06:39 AM



“ So sorry to learn of Mr Phillips passing. He was one of the best teachers that I had in High School and inspired me to continue my education.

Joyce Tokar - January 22, 2019 at 09:40 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to the Phillips's family. He and my brother Mitchell had a great friendship. They always had constant banter. A lot of fond memories of the two of them laughing together.
Memory Eternal
Jojo Adams

Mark Adams (jojo) - January 22, 2019 at 07:41 PM



“ *Cookie and Family,*

I am so very sorry for your loss!

Fuzzy, class of '57 and Flip's roommate @ the Campus on Big Creek.....Fort Hays State University! fn

floyd neyman - January 22, 2019 at 02:49 PM

CO

Fuzzy, What a wonderful surprise to hear from you. Flip often mentioned you and wondered where you were. He put up a brave fight for years with cancer and COPD and it finally wore him out. Liberatore mentioned seeing you at the Shag week in Myrtle Beach. Still dancing?? Take care, Cookie

cookie - January 24, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 22, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 22, 2019 at 11:40 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 22, 2019 at 11:17 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 22, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 22, 2019 at 10:01 AM



“ *I never had this man as a teacher, but he always tolerated my antics in the hallways between classes. Thus, I remember him vaguely, but remember him I do! This gentle man was a kind soul. Oh, and by the way, when I write the word "antics", trust me, he had every right to call out the national guard but never did, haha! A nice guy. Rest in eternal harmony, Mr. Phillips!*

Richard Ruttenberg - January 22, 2019 at 09:36 AM



“ *Cookie, Lee and I were devastated to hear about the passing of our favorite customer. He was a great man. It says a lot about a teacher when I can honestly say I looked forward to going to chemistry class everyday and I hated Science back then. He will surely be missed.. God bless you and your family. I will definitely miss his fist bumps (Jeff Friday & Lee Slogan, Carhops Subshop Monroeville)*

Jeff Friday - January 22, 2019 at 08:07 AM

CO

Thanks, Jeff and Lee. He hasn't been up since August. Larry Hanley brought him a CarHop a couple months ago when he could still eat and he loved it. The cancer and COPD took its toll on him. Haven't been to Monroeville in months, but I will stop on my next trip. Take care, Cookie

cookie - January 24, 2019 at 09:44 PM

TN

“*Mr. phillips was my biology teacher in both 10th and 12th (advanced biology) grades. He really made the class extremely interesting. I believe he played a major role in my decision to later major in biology for undregrad and grad school. But because of those decisions, I have worked with animals in the US and in Africa, tracked howler monkeys in Belize, had a very fun and exciting career in environmental consulting, and even met my wife through my work in zoos. I truly believe he was a driving force in my career path.*

My memory must be a little foggy, as I thought he was athletic director when I was there, but maybe he was not. I do know he stepped on the bus one day before the soccer team was headed for a game. I had stupidly skipped most of my classes that day. He saw me and whispered something to the coach and I ended up being benched for the first half. It was the only game of my senior year I did not start. Nothing else was ever said. I respected him for that I had screwed up, he handed down the punishment, and that was the end of it. You can bet I never skipped his class again.

He was and will always be my favorite teacher. I am very thankful for his direction and his passion for teaching. May he rest in peace and may his famiky know the great and positive impact he had on so many of us.

Tim Nichols - January 21, 2019 at 10:51 PM

GV

“ *Mr. Phipps was a wonderful soul and an amazing teacher. I had him for Chemistry and AP Biology at Gateway in '97/'98. He is unforgettable and will always remain special to me. My deepest sympathies to his family.*

Gina Vensel - January 21, 2019 at 10:39 PM

PA

Mr. Phillips was also my Biology teacher in '75! He was my favorite Teacher!! He was so compassionate to those who needed extra help! Once I needed extra credit, he handed me a screw driver and had me remove mud from football cleats! Lol! He was the BEST! My deepest sympathy to his family!

Patti Polce Alfieri - January 22, 2019 at 09:05 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.*



January 21, 2019 at 09:23 PM

RS

“ *Roselyn Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips*



Roselyn Schmidt - January 21, 2019 at 09:19 PM

RS

*Dear Cookie my heart hurts for you and your family
Larry was an amazing person and will be missed. Prayers and hugs.
God Bless*

Roselyn Schmidt - January 21, 2019 at 09:21 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Phillips passing. I was one of his students back in Gateway. All of his students really liked him. He was a great teacher and a great guy. One of those people that when you think back on, they make you smile.* ”

Brad Doczkat - January 21, 2019 at 09:04 PM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.* ”



January 21, 2019 at 08:55 PM

JB

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I had Mr. Phillips for both Biology and AP Biology in 1981 and 1983. He taught a large section on genetics and mentioned a career called “genetic counseling”. I'd never heard of it but was interested. I ended up going to graduate school and became a genetic counselor. My decision to do so was largely due to Mr. Phillips' enthusiasm towards the field. He truly made such an impression on me. I always looked forward to his classes. He was a wonderful teacher. My deepest condolences to his family. May he Rest In Peace .* ”

Jennifer Bubb - January 21, 2019 at 08:52 PM

RW

“ He was my teacher at GHS! Great teacher and kind man. May his soul Rest In Peace.

Rhonda Wilson - January 21, 2019 at 08:40 PM

CC

“ There are no words to express my sadness. We will always remember our visits with Flip and Cookie at the Cancer Center, you both really touched my heart. I pray that your family can find peace in knowing that he is no longer in pain. I am so very, very sorry Cookie for you and your family. Love you always, Carol Capezzuto and little sweet Mia

Carol Capezzuto - January 21, 2019 at 05:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lawrence M. "Flip" "Larry" Phillips.



January 21, 2019 at 05:53 PM