



## Mr. Thomas Phillips

April 11, 1945 - July 28, 2022

### Obituary

Thomas Phillips was born in Hot Springs Arkansas on April 11, 1945, to Johnny and Beatrice Phillips. He passed away peacefully at Olathe Hospice in Olathe Kansas on Thursday July 28, 2022.

The family relocated to Stuttgart Arkansas when Tom was a young child. He graduated from Holman High School and was salutatorian of his graduating class. Among his high school honors, he was the president of the honor society both state and local. He attended AM&N College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). He majored in History and Political Science. In 1964 he was an initiate of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Gamma Delta Chapter) in Pine Bluff, Beta Xi Lambda in Omaha Nebraska, and a member of Beta Lambda Chapter in Kansas City for over 50 years. He has served in various roles in his fraternity for over 58 years. Thomas inspired countless members of the fraternity to serve as he did.

He graduated from AM&N with honors in 1967 where he married the love of his life Vera Jones Phillips, their union lasted 55years. To this union one son, Courtney Alfred Phillips was born.

He began his professional career working as a Park Ranger in the National Park Services in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was later recruited to teach

American Government at John Burke High School in Omaha, Nebraska. He taught for 2 years. While teaching he earned a Masters degree in Counseling from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 1971 he began working for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Four years later he was transferred to Kansas city. He worked at HUD for over 20 years as a Human Resource Specialist. He ended his career in 2003 with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from which he retired as a Senior Regional and National Human Resource Executive. During his 30 year tenure he earned several service and performance awards from both agencies.

He was a member of St. Paul Presbyterian Church since 1975. He was an active trustee and member of St. Paul's Personnel Committee. He was also a go to person when something needed to be done in the church. As well he relished his yearly role as "Andrew" in the "Last Supper."

He followed in his father's footsteps and became a Mason. He was a member of the Green Pasture Lodge #128. He also held membership in the UAPB Alumni Association Kansas City Chapter (platinum member) and he was a proud member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Theta Boule.

Tom lived a good life. Most people would have been happy to attend one Super Bowl. Tom and 3 of his Alpha buddies Andrew Hicks, Robert Dansby and Saul Davis attended 15 Super Bowls.

The last one was in 2020 where he got to see his favorite team the Kansas City Chiefs, play and win a Super Bowl!!

He is survived by his wife Vera, son Courtney and sister Donna Kaye Hazelrig. He leaves to mourn his immediate family, a host of friends, and relatives

A Memorial Service will be held August 20, 2022, 11:00am at St James UMC 5540 Wayne Ave KCMO. Alpha Omega Ceremonial 10:30am. Service conducted by Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel, KS. Condolences may be shared on our website.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Mr. Thomas Phillips, please visit our floral store.

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# Tribute Wall

AP

“ A Memorial Tree was planted for Mr. Thomas Phillips  
We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Lawrence A. Jones  
& Sons Funeral Chapels-Missouri - Lawrence A. Jones & Sons  
Funeral Chapels  
Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

A Memorial Tree was planted for Mr. Thomas Phillips - May 25, 2023 at 11:39 AM

PP

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Mr. Thomas Phillips by  
Patricia & Robert Price. Plant a TreeTo: Mrs. Vera Phillips &  
Courtney PhillipsWe are praying for your strength during your loss  
of Tom. He left a wonderful legacy of sharing his wisdom and  
kindness. A true man of integrity.Patricia & Robert Price

Patricia & Robert Price - May 25, 2023 at 11:39 AM

DH

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Mr. Thomas Phillips by  
Donna Hobbs. Plant a TreeDonna Hobbs

Donna Hobbs - May 25, 2023 at 11:39 AM

GC

“ Farewell Dear Brother Phillips, there are many fun Memories from  
my ZG college days with brothers Phillips and Buford.RIP. GCosby

Gee Cosby - August 20, 2022 at 05:38 PM

JT

“ I met Tom through my dad who at that time worked for the Justice department and Tom was employed by HUD. Tom was an upstanding gentleman and a scholar. Well respected and loved. Tom was very humble and showed so much grace!! It was a blessing to know him. He will be missed. Sending prayers to the family !!Jennifer Titus

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**Jennifer Titus** - August 19, 2022 at 09:36 PM

JB

“ My sincere condolences to you Vera, Courtney and family. May your cherished memories of Tom comfort you, knowing you were blessed with one another for 50+ years.take one day at a time and know my prayers for comfort, strength and peace.much love Bera, Courtney and your family. Jerry Briscoe and Tommy Amico.

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**Jerry Briscoe** - August 17, 2022 at 09:32 AM

MC

“ To God Be The Glory, Vera and family, I dont have the words to say that will ease the pain that you may have at this difficult time in your life. I ask the Holy Spirit, to whisper a prayer to Our Heavenly Father on your behalf that will suffice whatever hurt there is. Thomas, was full of life, never meeting a stranger. We all met while in college and remained friends throughout a span over 50 years. I was just thinking of the two of you last week. With homecoming coming up soon, and it was going to be Thomass 55th year I looked forward to seeing members of the class of 67. Which was always a joy. As you walk through this dark and difficult valley, know that God is near.. and loves you dearly. To be absent from the body, he is present before the Lord. For that we are grateful and give thanks. Thomas fought a good fight, now he has finished his course. He is at rest now. For that we give thanks. May the blessings of Our Lord And Savior Jesus The Christ be with you and your son always is my prayer. Amen

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**Marvise Cox** - August 16, 2022 at 07:23 PM

SC

“ I am deeply sorry for your loss of Tom. Losing a life long companion can seem overwhelming. Your faith and the love of family and friends will help you through this time. Tom's love for you will live on forever in your heart. God bless.

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**Susan Cleeton** - August 14, 2022 at 10:50 AM

MJ

“ To the family of Thomas Phillips: Please accept our sincere condolences during this trying time and throughout the days ahead. Tom is resting in the arms of the Creator. He is somewhere around the throne with the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and campaigning for the good of the fraternity and the better making of humankind."Goodwill is the monarch of this house, Men enter shake hands and depart friends." Rest in Peace, My brother. Mr. and Mrs. Herman L. Davis, Jr. Kansas City, MO 64129

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**Mr. and Mrs. Herman L. Davis, Jr** - August 13, 2022 at 07:20 PM