



## Phillip Lee Milan

January 10, 1931 - February 5, 2019

Phil Lee Milan, 88, of St. Martin's Pointe, Hessel, Michigan, passed away early Tuesday, February 5, 2019 surrounded by his family. He was born January 10, 1931 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Thomas Milan and Helen Howe Milan.

Phil graduated from Assumption High School in Windsor, Ontario, and then attended The University of Detroit, where he played football and earned a business degree. He married Lenore "Lee" Burkel, his high school sweetheart, in 1951, and they spent the next 62 years raising a large family together.

Phil and Lee were always drawn north to waters of Les Cheneaux, where his family had a compound of cabins outside of Hessel. He would bring his family up north throughout their summers to enjoy swimming, boating, water skiing, lakeside bonfires, jersey muds at Bon Aire, and excursions to Mackinac Island. When not with the family, Phil was building his water-well supply business, which grew to several locations throughout the state. Eventually, Phil and Lee moved from Mt. Pleasant to St. Martin's Point where he opened his last supply store in Cedarville before retirement.

Phil was always deeply involved in the communities in which he lived: He was in the U.S. Naval Reserves; He was President of the Parish Board of Sacred Heart in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He was a member of many fraternal

organizations, including the Lions and Knights of Columbus; He was on the Marquette Township Zoning board of appeals; He served as president of the Education Board for the Les Cheneaux school system, as well as a member of the Les Cheneaux Education Foundation. But no matter whether he was doing, Phil's witty and mischievous sense of humor endeared him to colleagues and friends.

Phil and Lee were separated by her death after 62 years of a loving marriage. After several years, Phil eventually met a wonderful friend and companion Sylvia Kievit – who had also been married for 51 years before she also lost her beloved husband – and they were happily married in 2016. Together, they joyfully attended the many family milestone events that occurred during their time together.

Phil will be celebrated by his wife Sylvia and their children: Barb and her husband Gary of Cleveland, Ohio; Daniel and his wife Sharon of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan; Kevin and his fiancée Dehn Aniana of Chandler, Arizona and Calbayog City, Philippines; Michael and his wife Siriporn of Seattle, Washington and Bangkok, Thailand; Dr. Chris and his wife Joyce of Gaylord, Michigan; Christian Kievit of Naples, Florida; Keith and his wife Candice of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mark and his partner David Savini of Andover, Massachusetts; Phil and his wife Jane of Charlevoix, Michigan; Melanie Kievit of Traverse City, Michigan. He will also be celebrated by their grandchildren, Alicia, Joe, Alex, Jenni, Nathan, Micah, Matt, Laura, Kataleya, Ellyn, Jayna, Ian, Levi, Sheamus, Birdi, Bac, Zachary, Winifred, Elijah, and Isadora; as well as by great-grandchildren Alyssa, Aziza, Evalyn, Aiden, Zoeli, Adrian, Leopold, Brianna, Lillian, Freyja, Saoirse, Daon, Sievert, Eleanor and Cassidy.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 8th from 4pm until 6:30pm at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, Hessel, Michigan. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10am on Saturday, February 9 at Our Lady of the Snows Church in

Hessel, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Phil's name to the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation at <http://lescheneauxcommunityfoundation.org/donate.html> or to the Les Cheneaux Watershed Council at <http://lescheneauxwatershed.org/about/how-to-help-donate>.

R. Galer Funeral Home in Pickford, Michigan is serving the family.  
Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.rgalerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rgalerfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church  
261 S Islandview Rd.  
Hessel, MI 49745

## Visitation

FEB 9. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church  
261 S Islandview Rd.  
Hessel, MI 49745

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church  
261 S Islandview Rd.  
Hessel, MI 49745

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillip Lee Milan*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Phillip Lee Milan*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Phillip Lee Milan*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Sending love and condolences to the entire Milan Family. Many happy memories of Uncle Phil and time shared with family. Love and prayers to all! You are in our hearts,*

*Debbie & Charlie Caine & Family*

Debbie Caine - February 10, 2019 at 02:18 PM



*I always enjoyed seeing Phil at northern Michigan waste water meetings that Dan was involved in. For several years Phil attended with Dan and we all enjoyed his friendly personality and his wry humor which was always showing. My sincere condolences to the entire Milan family.*

*Ted Loudon, Michigan State University.*

Ted Loudon - February 12, 2019 at 10:18 AM

TH

*Our family always enjoyed our time with the Milan Family. Uncle Phil was such a big part of setting a great example for everyone. His sense of humor was unique and his leadership was inspiring. We will truly miss him. Our condolences and love to the entire Milan Family. We are sure his memory and presence will continue to be with all of us! God bless !*

-----  
**Tim & Susette Hart** - February 18, 2019 at 08:34 PM

LI

“ *Sympathy to all the family Phil Lee Milan  
A kind and gentle man who helped everyone.  
Near in our hearts with prayers and love.  
Colleen and Lisa Theater  
Midland*

-----  
**Lisa** - February 08, 2019 at 05:01 PM

BA

“ *Sylvia and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Phil was a good friend and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.*

-----  
**Bob and Gerry Adams** - February 07, 2019 at 08:01 PM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Milan.*



-----  
February 07, 2019 at 07:08 PM

Jeff  
Clerc

“ So saddened to read this, I have fond memories of working with Phil while he was the Chair of the Marquette Twp planning commission, I recall one meeting I attended where he showed up a bit annoyed because the planning commission meeting was cutting into his dinner and time and viewing of Jeopardy LOL. So he looked around the table and exclaimed, "we're all old and retired why don't we meet at 2pm" and so it was done. Rest in peace Phil, you were a great community leader, your contributions will be missed!



Jeff Clerc - February 07, 2019 at 03:03 PM

MF

“ My deepest condolences to all of you during this time. Uncle Phil has always held a special place in my heart ever since my family made a trip to the UP. He was charming, quick-witted and always funny. Loved listening to the stories shared between my parents (Uncle Phil's sister-in-law Cecie and her husband Bill) and my Aunt Lenore and Uncle Phil. We always remembered them as the family with so many children!!! Enjoyed attending mass with the family as they all made us feel so welcome. May God bring you comfort during this time and I know you all will continue to love one another. 🙏🙏🙏



Michelle Timmer-Saldana and Family - February 07, 2019 at 02:25 PM

JF

“ So sorry for the loss of your beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. I always remember Uncle Phil as a sweet and devoted man; my Mother (Cecie (Burkel) Lawton) talked about him often. May God bless all of you in this time of grief and may you find peace with your memories and love of each other.



Jennifer Fairman - February 07, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Milan.



February 06, 2019 at 07:10 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Phillip Lee Milan.



February 06, 2019 at 06:53 PM

KA

“ Offering our deepest condolences for the loss of your loved one. May 'the God of all comfort' be with your family at this time. Isaiah 41:10

Kathryn - February 06, 2019 at 06:48 PM