



# William Seaton Phillips

APR 24, 1925 - JAN 26, 2018



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## **William Seaton Phillips**

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**W**illiam S. (Bill) Phillips, BSBA, MBA, PhD, CPCU, CLU, ARM, businessman, educator, musician, and former Memphis resident for over sixty years, passed away on January 26, 2018 in Lafayette, LA, after a brief illness. He was 92. Bill was born in St Louis, MO in 1925 to William Bryan Phillips and Mary Anderson Phillips. His mother died of complications from the birth; and Bill was raised by his aunt, Hazel Connely, a widow with six children. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in St Louis in 1943 and enlisted in the US Marine Corps, serving in the Pacific Ocean theater during World War II, including the battle of Okinawa, and attained the rank of corporal. After the war, he returned to St Louis, married June L. Rolando, and attended Washington University, where he received his BS Degree in Business Administration. In 1949; Bill took a job with (General) Motors Insurance Corp in their Memphis office and moved his wife and new son, Daniel Bryan Phillips, to the city. In 1958, Bill started his own independent insurance agency, Phillips Fire & Casualty. He received a Masters In Business Administration from Memphis State University (University of Memphis) in 1964 and was asked by the dean of the business school to teach there part-time and help develop their Risk Management and Insurance major. Over the years, while still operating his agency, he became a tenured professor at the university, received a Ph.D from the University of Southern California, and later several professional degrees including Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter, Chartered Life Underwriter, and Associate in Risk Management. His son, Dan, joined the agency in 1983. Bill retired from the university in 1994 and from the insurance business in 2004. Also an accomplished pianist and organist, Bill was a member of the Memphis chapter of the American Guild of Organists and worked part-time for many years as a substitute church organist. His hobbies included acting in musical productions at Theatre Memphis, collecting art, and traveling the world. He was preceded in death by his parents, aunt, cousins and wife. He survived by his son,



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daughter-in-law, Jeanne Plaisance, and step-granddaughter, Marie Kimball, who live in Lafayette, LA. Visitation will be on Friday, February 9, 2018, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, with the service there Saturday February 10, 2018 at 1:00 PM. Private entombment will follow in Memorial Park Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, please help support the Beethoven Club of Memphis, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Theatre Memphis, Playhouse on the Square, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, WKNO and WEVL.



## Tribute Wall

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MM

**Marcella Masteller** posted:

Uncle Bill I will miss your stories and hearing of your escapades all over the world. You brought joy to all you spoke to and enriched our lives in many ways. Your music, stories and beautiful voice will be missed very much. From Hazel's daughters child, Marcy.

February 3 at 8:39 AM

RR

**Rolland G. Riesberg** posted:

We thank God so very much for Bill and June Phillips!! They were Douglas and Marietta Robertson's best friends. And after Loretta Robertson and I married in 1964, we also became their best friends. Had Mr. Phillips NOT insisted that Loretta take the afternoon off work in the afternoon on May 31, 1961 and go to the Memphis airport to watch airplanes take off and land, Loretta and I would have NEVER met! While at the airport, a Delta Air Lines ticket agent convinced Loretta to go to the Stewardess office to have an interview for a Stewardess job. Loretta and I met while she was flying into Shreveport, LA. After dating for 3 years, we got married in 1964, and the year after we married, Loretta saved my life—she brought me to Jesus!!

February 1 at 4:06 PM

RP

**Rose Ann Bradley (Past Memphis Gavel Club President)** posted:

Bill meant so much to us as an important member of the Memphis Gavel Club. We will miss him terribly. Our thoughts are with the family and all his friends. He was a wonderful inspiration, so musically talented, and my Birthday soul-mate...although many years apart. He was our friend.

January 27 at 3:13 PM

LJ

**Laverne Jones** posted:

My condolences. We can look forward to the time when all sickness, suffering, and death will be gone forever. Isaiah 33:24; 25:8

January 27 at 5:03 AM



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**Mary Berg** posted:

To the family, my heartfelt condolences for the loss of your loved one. As you cope with your loss, may you be comforted by the "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3) that one day, "all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." (John 5:28, 29) May these promises from God's word, the Bible give you comfort now and real hope for the future. My deepest sympathy.

January 26 at 3:50 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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