



# Phyllis Heppel Valentine

OCT 26, 1947 - MAR 20, 2026



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Phyllis Heppel Valentine

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**P**hyllis “Fifi” Heppel Valentine, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, passed away unexpectedly on March 20, 2026, at age 78 at her home in Memphis.

Born on October 26, 1947 in Memphis, Tennessee, Phyllis was the daughter of Marilyn T. and Philip S. Heppel. Throughout her life she was known for her unfailing kindness, selflessness, wonderful sense of humor, and bright, loving personality.

A lifelong Memphian, Phyllis attended the Hutchison School for 11 years and graduated from East High School in 1965. She attended Mississippi State College for Women and Memphis State University. Phyllis was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, as well as a second mom to countless “kids,” now mostly in their fifties, in Memphis and beyond. She served on the Board of Woodland Presbyterian School for several years. She was baptized at Second Presbyterian Church, and although a member of Woodland Presbyterian Church, she had more recently returned to Sunday School classes at Second Presbyterian. She found unending joy in spending time with her friends and family, especially her children and grandchildren, and all her dear friends and “lunch group girls.”

Phyllis loved her family more than anything in the world. She made sure everyone knew how much she loved them and had an incredible gift for making everyone she met feel that they were special to her. She taught her children how to love and how to show love every day of her life.

She was an incredibly devoted daughter to her mother Marilyn, calling and checking in on her every day, and was by her side nonstop until the end of her life.

Although she did not attend the University of Tennessee, her beloved father, husband, and both brothers all graduated from UT, so she was a die-hard Tennessee fan and an honorary Vol for Life. She was absolutely overjoyed when her grandson Alex decided to follow in the family footsteps and attend UT Knoxville as well. The football watching parties that she and Chip threw were legendary.



## Obituary

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Phyllis was a gifted artist and enjoyed painting for many years. Although she was too humble to brag about her talents, everyone admired her works which hang in the homes of friends and family all over town.

Her happy place was Destin, Florida, the site of many family vacations, and her son's home. She loved going to visit her son and his family there, making fond memories, surrounded by love and the beauty of the ocean.

She gave her time and love to many friends who had health problems over the years, sitting by their bedsides, helping with care of their children, and assisting with anything they needed all without ever asking for any recognition or credit for her devotion.

She was beloved at many Memphis restaurants as she was a dedicated member of several "lunch groups," which she hardly ever missed. She even continued to attend lunch with her mother's friends after her mother's death. She became the designated pickup driver and became a cherished friend to many of those ladies.

She will be greatly missed by her many server friends at the Memphis Country Club. The Taproom and the Terrace will never be the same without her.

Phyllis is survived by her loving and devoted husband George C. "Chip" Valentine, her children Chris Valentine (Lea) and Maryl Smith (Joel E.), grandchildren Alex and Kaki Smith, Joseph and Charlie Valentine, honorary grandchildren Alexis Duncan (Geoff) and Noah Valentine, and one great-grandson, Oliver Duncan. She is also survived by her brothers, Scott Heppel (Carolyn) and Chris Heppel (Cissy) and cherished nephew and niece Philip Heppel and Meredith Heppel Prousnitzer (Gene). She was preceded in death by her parents Marilyn and Philip Heppel.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 1:00pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home with the burial immediately following. Visitation will begin at 12:00.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the charity of the donor's choice.

Phyllis's family is devastated by this sudden loss. We take comfort in knowing that she is resting peacefully in the arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and is with her precious parents. Her



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memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.




# Events


**Phyllis Heppel Valentine**

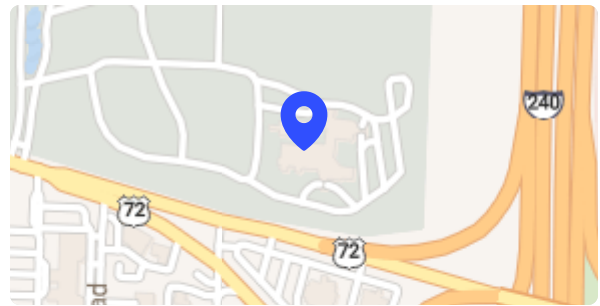
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## Visitation


 **Wednesday**, March 25, 2026

 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT


 **Memorial Park Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119

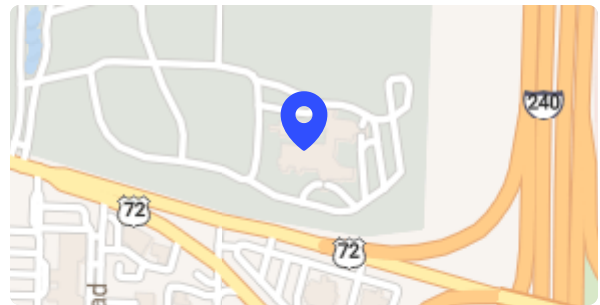


## Funeral Service


 **Wednesday**, March 25, 2026

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home-Riverside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119

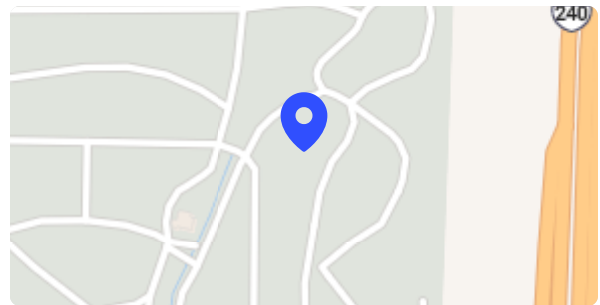


## Committal Service

 **Wednesday**, March 25, 2026

 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119





# Tribute Wall

**Phyllis Heppel Valentine**

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**Alma S.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Phyllis.



March 24 at 1:09 PM



**Alma Spagnola** posted:

From the staff of 1905 restaurant at MCC, we are so sad to lose this beautiful lady. She was always so happy and so considerate. She was a joy to serve. Our sincere condolences to her family, and we are happy to continue serving you in the future. We were all so sad to hear of her passing, but happy that she slipped away peacefully. She deserved to be called home with dignity and peace. Love from Alma, Sophia, Haylei, Cailey, Kayla, Almesha and Jasta. I will plant a tree in her name so that she can continue to spread love to the world

March 24 at 1:07 PM



**Adam Moore** posted:

Thankful for a life well lived, thank you for serving the families of Woodland Presbyterian School as a member of the Board of Trustees. Your legacy still shines bright in the current and future students of Woodland Presbyterian School. Adam Moore, Woodland Presbyterian Head of School

March 24 at 8:54 AM



**With Love, The Magee Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Phyllis.



March 23 at 4:08 PM



**With Love, The Magee Family** sent a Pink Potpourri Bouquet to the Valentine family.



March 23 at 4:08 PM



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**Sherri Steiger** lit a candle in honor of Phyllis.

To Chip? Meryl and Alex my deepest sympathies to all of you. Phyllis always had the biggest smile and laughEWhenever you saw her. She had the biggest heart iofGold always helping and giving never wanting to receiveI will always love and adore her. Our girls went to school Together and knew Phyllis over 55 years , May all the Deepest heartfelt sympathy to all the Valentines but a special deepest hug to Meryl and family with all myDeepest Love, Sherri(Kiersky)



March 23 at 3:21 PM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Phyllis.



March 23 at 8:48 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Valentine family.



March 23 at 8:48 AM



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

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



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