



John Phillip Smith

July 10, 1935 - February 17, 2024

Phil left this earthly life on February 17, 2024.

Phil was born on July 10, 1935 in Kansas City, Missouri. His parents were Edwill Bixler Smith and Ruth Henrietta Jane Price Smith. He was the fifth of six children. Throughout his childhood he lived in Davenport, Iowa; Douglas, Arizona; Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico; Victorville, California and Apple Valley, California. Phil was honored to be the salutatorian at Victor Valley High School, Class of 1953.

Phil received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from the University of Santa Clara in June 1957. He obtained his Master of Science degree from Stanford University in June 1958. He is a member of the engineering honorary fraternity, Tau Beta Pi.

He started service in the US Army, Corps of Engineers in July 1958. He was stationed in France with the 82nd Engineer Battalion. He completed active duty with the rank of 1st Lieutenant in July 1960.

Phil met the love of his life, Georgia Ann Washut, at a Halloween party of the young people's group at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Casper, Wyoming in 1960. Georgia and Phil were married May 26, 1962 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Buffalo, Wyoming. They have celebrated 61 years of

marriage. To this marriage were born three children, Kathryn Ann in 1963 in Casper, Wyoming; Michael Phillip in 1964 in Port Arthur, Texas; and Karla Jane in 1967 in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. They have been blessed with six grandchildren, Ian Blaise Smith, Delaney Louise Smith, Brendan George Smith, Alise Kathleen Swann, Camille Jane Swann and Audrey Ann Swann.

Phil started with The Texas Company (later named Texaco) in June 1957 at Los Angeles Works in Wilmington, California. From there he was assigned to the Texaco refineries in Casper, Wyoming and Port Arthur, Texas. He was transferred to the Texaco Engineering Department in Houston, Texas in October 1964. Thereafter, he was assigned as the Site Construction Manager for the construction of a grass-roots refinery in Puerto Cortes, Honduras. He continued in project management and traditional civil engineering with Texaco for many years. Phil was a registered professional engineer in Wyoming and in Texas, and active in industrial and professional committees for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM), the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Science (ABET). He is Fellow of the ASCE, ASTM, Texaco and Chevron. He retired from Texaco in June 1997 after 40 years of service. In retirement he continued a mentoring assignment with Texaco and Chevron.

Phil's family has lived in the Memorial area for 55 years, and many neighbors have watched him run throughout the neighborhoods for many decades. He started running in 1979 and completed his first marathon in January 1981. As of 2023, he was the oldest runner of the Houston Aramco Half Marathon. For many years, he held the distinguished title of completing the most consecutive Houston Marathons. Overall, he has completed 27 marathons and 15 half marathons. He continued running throughout his lifetime and well into his 88th year.

He was the President of the Nottingham Civic Association where he was responsible for the planting of the oak and pine trees that are still along North Kirkwood Drive. He was active with Georgia in religious education of children at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, and a member of the Parish Council.

He was President of the Westchester High School Booster Club and was inducted into the Spring Branch Athletic Hall of Honor in 1984. He was active and involved in the interests of his family and neighborhood for many years.

The family appreciates your love and support. In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation in his honor to either of the listed organizations:

- The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to provide for secondary educational assistance:

<https://www.archgh.org/schools>

- The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation

<https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/donate>

The Smith family will be present to receive friends Thursday, February 22, 2024 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM with a Holy Rosary being recited at 7:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:30 AM at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Rosary

FEB **22**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

FEB **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall

TM

“ I first met Phil when I got involved with API. Phil was always the one to work on the math questions during the ICP work. He told me that was how he kept his mind fresh. We developed a friendship not only because he was an awesome person but we both had a common interest in the Wyoming Cowboys. I was born in Casper and Phil worked a good part of his career there. Every six months when we got together at ICP meetings we would talk about the Cowboys. Though I shed a tear now for my good friend, I know the Good Lord has Phil busy in Heaven.
Go Pokes!

Terry R. McLane - March 06, 2024 at 02:21 PM

DM

“ Phil was a great friend and mentor to many including me and will be missed. RIP, good friend!

David Miller - February 27, 2024 at 09:15 AM

SR

“ Phil had more of an impact on my life than I can properly express. Through knowing him, I learned what it is to be a graceful man. The world lost some light with his passing, but I can only assume that if he touched my life in such a way, there are countless others he influenced during his tenure in our physical world. I rejoice that he is home--and without a doubt left a beautiful and honorable mark on this world

Stan Robare - February 25, 2024 at 09:11 PM

KL

“ I am shocked and saddened by the news that Phil had left us.

Phil was my supervisor for several years in the Texaco Engineering Department Houston. Phil allowed me to come into his team when my previous assignment was ending. Phil introduced me to industry codes and standards on pressure vessels, piping, storage tanks and inspections.

When I worked for Phil, my office was next to his for a few years. I had the opportunity to witness how humble he was, and how well he assisted others on various projects and technical problems.

I am immensely grateful for Phil's role in shaping my professional career. Without Phil's guidance and support, I wouldn't be where I was when the Chevron/Texaco merger came along. I was able to leverage my knowledge planted by Phil and continue my technical path with Chevron successfully.

Last time I saw Phil was in July 2023 when we had our small group BBQ lunch. I had the chance to express my gratitude to him again. And with Phil being ever so modest, he just refused to take any credit. Little did I know that would be the last time I could thank him in person. Phil will be forever missed.

-Ken Leung

Ken Leung - February 22, 2024 at 06:11 PM

HD

“ Phil was one of the first volunteers I met when I started working with API over ten years ago. He was a constant presence, a great source of joy, and a fountain of knowledge. He was the very soul of kindness and loved by our ICP staff as well as the other experts in our team. His love for Georgia was heartwarming and obvious to all. I will miss him greatly.



Holly Decker - February 22, 2024 at 09:13 AM

JO

“ This is John O'Brien the sad news hardly is understandable given the 39 years I knew Phil both at Chevron and API. I look back fondly on many conversations and the things I learned from his wealth of knowledge. Phil always had time to share and his desire to do the right thing was so impressive. Even if he disagreed he had a manner about him that conveyed warmth. In the pressure systems world, he was a tower of integrity and strength that will be sadly missed,

John O'Brien - February 22, 2024 at 12:44 AM

SW

“ This is Sue Smith Watilo, Bob Smith's daughter. I'm so very, very saddened by the news of Uncle Phil's passing. I will always remember his smile and his interest in almost anything around him. His love of learning was so apparent and made him very interesting to talk with. And his love of his family came through in everything he did. I was so touched when he made the long trek to be in Malott, WA at my dad's funeral after he died suddenly. It meant so much to me and our family. I grieve with you all and please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time. May God give you all His peace and ease your sorrow. With much love, Sue.

Sue Smith Watilo - February 21, 2024 at 09:52 PM

ND

“ I met Phil in 2007 when I started attending the API Inspector Certification Committee meetings. That very first meeting I was privileged enough to be placed with Phil on a certification examination validation. Over the years he mentored me on committee work, but more than that Phil mentored me more on a personal level when I was going through some tough times. He really made me think differently about personal issues. His kind heart and truly genuine caring for people. A very respectful and Christian man. Over the years I was blessed to be associated with him. I will miss our conversations and dinners at committee meetings. So sorry for the family's loss. Truly amazing man. He will be missed.

Neil Dagoberg - February 21, 2024 at 09:07 PM



“ 87 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Detting Funeral Home - February 21, 2024 at 03:03 PM



“ 65 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Detting Funeral Home - February 21, 2024 at 01:42 PM

WP

“*Phil and I worked together at Texaco for over twenty years, played fantasy baseball together, and have shared season tickets to the Astros, all for longer than I can remember. Kind and selfless. Loved his family. Really made me check my own attitudes as he demonstrated the Christian life without having to talk about it. Truly one of the finest men I've ever meant. Rest in heaven my friend.*

Bill Preston

William E Preston - February 21, 2024 at 09:13 AM

KS

Thank you Bill.

Karla Swann - February 21, 2024 at 09:30 AM

AD

“*I shall miss seeing him jogging in the neighborhood and on our street at socials. I had the honor of peeking out my windows and seeing his roses bloom or whatever took his fancy. He will be missed by many. I marveled at his young spirit and long legs. My kids would look for him when out and about to see him jogging around in his colorful shorts so effortlessly. Put us all to shame! What a lovely tribute about Phil.*

Amanda Dikdan - February 20, 2024 at 05:43 PM

LC

“ I've known Phil as an Emeritus Chevron Fellow since 2007. He was such an inspiration not only to me but to the many Chevron MET mentees he mentored throughout the years. I loved talking to Phil about running, his faith and mostly his family. I will always remember our run in Galveston on the sea wall where his pace was faster than mine but he slowed down to keep up with me. I had lunch with him last month and am so happy I got this picture of us. You will be missed Phil!!

Fondly, Lisa Costello



Lisa Costello - February 20, 2024 at 09:18 AM

LI

“ I know there are no words that can truly express the pain of losing a loved one, specially someone like Phil. He was a wonderful person and an inspiration for many of us. He was an inspiration for me, seeing the love and dedication he had for running motivated me to make changes in my life. I now run because of him. He will be dearly missed.

Liz



Liz. - February 20, 2024 at 12:36 AM

KS

Liz, your story is so touching. It is the essence of my Dad's energy. Be a positive role model, do things keep yourself both mentally and physically sharp and healthy. Thank you for sharing this inspirational story with us. You came into our family when we needed you so greatly. You have been a blessing to us. Love, Karla

Karla Swann - February 20, 2024 at 01:38 AM

RN

“ *I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Phil Smith for 35 years in the American Petroleum Institute (API). We have probably averaged 8 days per year collaborating on various tasks in API (most often with the Individual Certification Program), and yet I consider Phil one of my best friends.*

His gracious manner and self-effacing attitude belied his depth of knowledge and powerful intellect. He is probably the kindest, gentlest, and make-you-feel-good person I've ever known. We share some great memories of two trips we took to Alaska to promote the then-new Tank Standard, API Std 653 in the early 90's (where he one day tutored me on the wonder of camembert cheese and port wine). His genuine enthusiasm for his engineering craft was evident and contagious as he explained the nuances of the Standard to the attendees.

My last visit with him (just over 2 weeks ago) was a fun walk down his memory lane where he shared some of his best memories, tough assignments, and undying love for his sweet Georgia.

His unforgettable persona and sweet spirit will be with me for the rest of my days.

Godspeed, my friend!

Rick Nichols - February 19, 2024 at 10:16 PM

KS

Thank you Rick. Such a sweet memory of our Dad.

Karla Swann - February 19, 2024 at 10:28 PM

AW

“ Steve and I are so very sorry for your loss. He was such a sweet man! We have been his neighbor on Pinerock for 32 years. Ann Walker

Ann Walker - February 19, 2024 at 07:32 PM

KS

Thank you Ann.

Karla Swann - February 19, 2024 at 09:43 PM

KS

“ I adored him. I miss him so much already. Love you, Dad!



Karla Swann - February 19, 2024 at 06:48 PM

KP

This picture captures the unique and amazing relationship you had with your dad. I'm sending love and prayers to you and your family. Kimberly

Kimberly Poe - February 19, 2024 at 08:19 PM

TR

I could always see how close you & your dad were. A mutual love shared by both. Lots of love and big hugs to you & your family.

Tracy Remlinger - February 19, 2024 at 08:31 PM

ZE

I am deeply saddened to hear Phil's passing.

I first met Phil when I became a Chevron Fellow in 2007. Since then, Phil had been partnering with me on the MET Program. He was the NICEST gentleman I have ever met.

When I learned that Phil was ill, I emailed him at the end of January, he replied on February 6 saying he would not live long but felt good. I replied back with some encouragement but after only 2 weeks did he pass away.

The last conversation I had with Phil was during the pandemic. He told me over the phone with excitement that he ran half-marathon and won 2nd place in his age group. I joked with him by saying "Phil, how many people were in your group, 2 people?" He immediately replied, "oh, no, Zee, there were 8!" I was laughing hard but at the same time could SEE his seriousness.

I will miss Phil dearly, he was not just a mentoring partner with me, he was my mentor! I have learned so much from him during the years.

Rest in peace, Phil.

Zee - February 20, 2024 at 01:36 PM

SM

Phil was perhaps the most caring and sharing person I've ever known - I will always remember and treasure the many lengthy telephone conversations we had over the past few years, discussing in depth the non-fiction books we had read and the latest on-line classes he was taking (he knew I didn't understand most of what he said but he wanted me to share it with me anyway!) He explained to me many times "Sue, I've got to keep healthy so I can be here for Georgia--that's my job, that's what I do. That's why I want to keep running and learning." And we'll all remember his reading always involved taking copious notes -- pages and pages of notes so he could refer to them when he wanted to. And he was SO proud of his family and their accomplishments! Gotta just mention one more thing Phil "tried" to teach me -- how to hand-catch flies -- a feat he learned while he was in the service. There is SO much to remember that which was Phil. He was a good man -- he has earned his place in heaven.

SUE MYERS - February 20, 2024 at 03:46 PM



Our first neighbors in '82 and friends to this day. Prayers with the family.

Bill Turpin - February 20, 2024 at 08:20 PM

JP

These beautiful comments from so many business colleagues, neighbors, friends, and family reveal even more about Phil's outstanding personality than I knew before. He will be remembered by all of us in Charity Guild of Catholic Women as Georgia's biggest cheerleader. You could see the love and pride in his eyes when she accepted the role of chairperson for a major capital campaign for our organization. He was right by her side, cheering her on, encouraging all our members, with his "can do" spirit.

In later years he always made sure Georgia could attend Charity Guild events and we were delighted to see them both, the last time at our Centennial Ball in October 2022. He was in his tux, right in the mix, greeting people, always with a smile on his face, a gentle spirit with a friendly and open demeanor.

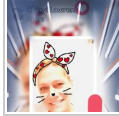
I will miss Phil and his kindness to me personally but am encouraged knowing that the angels are welcoming him into paradise. May he rest in peace. Jean Phillips

Jean Phillips - February 20, 2024 at 08:29 PM

MH

As I read these tributes to Phil and his life, I see the man I came to know for these many years. He was a truly Good Man and yes, Jean, the Angels are welcoming him to paradise. His loving care of Georgia was beautiful to witness. The last time I saw them both was at a daily Mass in which they were given a blessing by Father on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. It was beautiful. He will be missed. Rest in God's peace, Phil. Mary Grace Hume

Mary Grace Hume - February 20, 2024 at 10:41 PM



What a beautiful photo of the two of you and a special memory for you and him you are fortunate to have such a wonderful father and his love molded you to be the woman you are so he is always with you I hope y'all are doing ok during such a difficult time. My heart and prayers go out to you and all the family please extend my condolences to everyone

*Much love
Cheryl Lawrence*

Cheryl Lawrence - February 20, 2024 at 11:35 PM

GH

All though I was only privileged to know Phil and work with him on the API Inspector Certification Committee for about 9 years I felt like I have known him my entire career. Truly one of the nicest men I have ever met. Phil could talk in very technical terms and make you feel like it was your idea. What a great man and I am much better professionally and personally for knowing him. He will be remembered for his math checking of calculations for the API exams and especially for his stories of the squirrels taking over his back yard. I offer my condolences to the family and hope they can get some comfort in knowing how many lives this great man touched outside his family.

Grady Hatton

Grady Hatton - February 22, 2024 at 06:25 AM

KH

I had the pleasure of meeting Phil through the Fellow's mentoring program at Chevron in 2010. After I changed jobs, I continued to see him at API meetings. Phil always had a smile and an encouraging word. He was a true mentor and role model. My condolences to the family.

Krista Heidersbach

Krista Heidersbach - February 22, 2024 at 10:09 AM

EC

I met Phil in the mid 90s as a young engineer and a new member of what is now the API SCAST committee. He was always knowledgeable and kind to me and everyone. A true scholar and gentlemen. My condolences to his family.

Earl John Crochet - February 22, 2024 at 11:11 AM