



## Phillip Reilly

August 10, 1928 - December 31, 2024

Phillip James “Phil” Reilly, 96, passed away on December 31, 2024, peacefully at home, surrounded by his wife and children.

Mr. Reilly was born on August 10, 1928, in Jacksonville, Florida to Raymond and Marie Reilly. The Reilly family moved back to Marie’s hometown of Little Falls, Minnesota shortly after the Great Depression began, and it was there that Mr. Reilly grew up with his sister Mary, and brothers Ray “Bud” and Louie. In Little Falls, the Reilly siblings were surrounded by loving cousins from the Randall and Stiegel families.

Upon graduation from Little Falls High School, and while still a seventeen-year-old, Mr. Reilly enlisted and proudly served in the United States Navy. Following his honorable service, he attended St. Thomas College and then began a 17-year career as an insurance underwriter. While working in Cedar Rapids he met and subsequently fell in love with Martina McDonald, and they were married on October 12, 1957. After brief stops in Illinois and Iowa, Mr. Reilly was transferred to Topeka in May of 1963, and it was there Martina and he raised their six children, residing in the same home for all of his 61 years in Topeka. While in Topeka and shortly before the birth of his last child, Mr. Reilly lost his central vision to a rare eye disease. Being legally blind and no longer able to drive, Mr. Reilly switched careers and spent 24 years working for the VA Hospital.

Mr. Reilly supported multiple youth sports in Topeka. Among those was the Capital City Youth Basketball League, that he cofounded with his good friend Bob Turgeon. He was a past president of the Sunflower Optimists, 1752 Club, CYO, and Most Pure Heart of Mary School Board and was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Elks Club.

Mr. Reilly was a lifelong devout Catholic and because of that, each of his children were the beneficiaries of 12 years of Catholic education. He was an avid fan of the Minnesota Gophers, Vikings, and Twins, much to the chagrin of his enlightened family members. He lived his life in a way that exemplified character, humility, loyalty, integrity, compassion, honesty, and was a fierce defender of the less fortunate. The Reilly family has been blessed to spend their lifetime in his company.

Mr. Reilly is survived by his wife of 67 years, Martina; his children, Tom, Anne (Ron), Jim, Rob (Traci), Mary, Paul (Vanessa); grandchildren, Adam, Conor (Rhyanna), Jenna (Colin), Nathan (Jacque), Luke (Erika), Ryan, Brigid, Mike (Grace), and Jordan; great-grandchildren, Lincoln, Maye, Penny, and two more due in early 2025; and his beloved sisters-in-law, Sally Reilly, Bernadette Reilly, and Betty Naylor. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings; brothers-in-law, Leo McDonald, Dennis McDonald, Richard Tjaden, Jerry Naylor, and Len Super; and sisters-in-law, Margaret Murphy, and Kathleen Tjaden.

Rosary will be prayed at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th Street, Topeka KS 66604, where Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Phillip J. Reilly Memorial Scholarship Fund at Hayden Catholic High School Foundation, 401

SW Gage Boulevard, Topeka KS 66606.

Mr. Reilly's Funeral Mass will be live-streamed on the funeral home's Facebook page, you can follow this link. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063672125244>

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)

The Reilly family recognizes the various caregivers that have provided loving support to our Dad, and we are forever in your debt. You are saints on earth.

# Previous Events

## Rosary

JAN 11. 9:30 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street  
Topeka, KS 66604

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *In 2002, I was fortunate enough to move next door to Phillip and Martina. They instantly treated and reacted to me like we had known each other our entire lives.*

*I've never known, nor met anyone as nice and genuine as human being's then Phil and Martina. Phil was always so nice to say hi, and I can't tell you how many times Martina sent Phil over with something left over from their dinner to give to me to eat. Just a pure heart and act of kindness.*

*I was always amazed all the time of their kindness, their stories they told when they would sit outside on their back porch area, they truly were from a different time, they were a different people that you truly just don't meet or that is around anymore.*

*I was extremely fortunate to have met and gotten to know Phil and Martina. My deepest condolences to Martina and the family in losing Phillip, he was an incredible human being.*

*Douglas Brown-  
next door neighbor to Phillip and Martina*

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**Douglas Brown** - January 30, 2025 at 01:52 PM

TS

“ As one of the founding fathers of CCYBL, Phil sometimes had gym supervision duty. As a young basketball official officiating games I loved it when Phil was on duty. He expected everyone to display good sportsmanship. If a coach or fan so much as uttered one sound of displeasure with a call, Phil would go over and sit by them and let them know that was NOT ALLOWED in his league. That was very much appreciated by us officials. Every league needs a Phil Reilly.

"SWO"

Tegan Swoboda

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**Tegan Swoboda** - January 11, 2025 at 08:15 AM

DH

“ Martina & Family: My condolences to all of you in Phil's passing. I remember all of you from my years in Topeka in the 60's & 70's. Phil always had a smile and a happy go lucky manner. Will never forget all my memories of Phil.

Don Heiland, Downs, Kansas

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**Don Heiland** - January 09, 2025 at 05:46 PM

KN

“ Phil was one of a kind and truly a legend in his own right. He was a great example of how we should live our lives. He always put others first and always wore a huge smile every time I saw him in the office. I will miss him but his memory will live on forever

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**Kelli New** - January 09, 2025 at 08:59 AM

DW

“ One of the finest men that I have ever known...Topeka has lost a true treasure.

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**David Welsh** - January 08, 2025 at 08:00 PM

TK

“ I had the privilege of being introduced to both Phil and Martina with being able to distribute Holy Communion to them through MPHM Catholic Church home bound service. I don't feel it's possible to speak to either of them w/o acknowledging both of them from my perspective. I am not sure I have ever met a couple of that many years with whom I was so taken by. The love and joy that came from the two of them was immediate and profound. Their sense of humor & zeal for life was an inspiration to me that will stay w/ me throughout my lifetime. Their love of Christ was abundant and contagious. THEY were my gift. Thank you Phil for your service to country and what an example you gave on how to live as a dedicated father and husband. God bless your beautiful soul!!!!!!  
God bless your beautiful wife and family!  
Troy Kyle, friend and bother in Christ!!!!!!

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**Troy Kyle** - January 08, 2025 at 02:40 PM

LH

“ Martina & family, Phil was an Icon--what a wonderful example of how to live your life. It was an honor to work with Phil for the benefit of Topeka youth in the Capital City Youth Basketball league. God bless his soul in heaven!  
Larry & Jane Hesse

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**Lawrence J. Hesse** - January 08, 2025 at 01:04 PM

LD

“ Phil was a charismatic and fun loving guy. Was always ready to spread joy and share a laugh. He will be greatly missed. Between his up-beat attitude and ability to put a smile on anyone's face, Phil will always be cherished.



Laura Davis - January 08, 2025 at 09:10 AM

LL

“ I'm Liz I was Phillip's Aide ever since the first day I saw him he had his big contagious smile, he was one of a kind so sweet he will be truly missed and I'll cherish his sweet smile forever and to his kids and wife I'm with you guys always.

Liz Labrador - January 07, 2025 at 06:36 PM

NP

“ So sorry to hear the passing of Mr. Reilly. He was a neighbor and friend. I drove Phil to investigate motel business opportunities after his basic blindness. Phil attended many of my Pony League baseball games. Such a kind giving person. Miss him for sure. May God bless this special person in my life.

neil patch - January 06, 2025 at 10:49 PM

RS

“ To the Reilly Family,  
We were very saddened to hear of Mr. Reilly's passing. He was always a great friend, a wonderful supporter, and a joy to visit with. He always brought a smile to our faces when we saw him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Rick and Kathy Strecker

Rick and Kathy Strecker - January 06, 2025 at 08:34 PM

GL

“ My condolences to the family. Phil was an important mentor and supportive friend. The way he lived his life is inspiring.

Greg Laird - January 05, 2025 at 07:23 AM

FG

“ Our sincere condolences to the whole family. We have many happy memories of Phil, specially when I drive him around looking for a possible new motel business. Then there was the time he, Martina and I think some of the kids chipped in the help me with my doctoral research. What a wonderful friend. God love you and embrace you.

Frank and Yoshi Gerner - January 04, 2025 at 06:53 PM

SM

“ So enjoyed working with Mr. Reilly. Quite the inspiration and wonderful example of a husband and dad. Sorry for your loss.

Suzanne Meier - January 03, 2025 at 11:49 PM

MD

“ Great memories of Mr. Reilly coaching our Capital City Youth Basketball team. He was a great mentor. Praying for the Reilly Family. Mike Dinkel



Mike Dinkel - January 02, 2025 at 10:07 PM

MS

“ *Condolences for your family. Goodbye uncle Phil 🙏*  
*Michael Super*

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**Michael super** - January 02, 2025 at 05:40 PM