



Samuel Hudson Phifer

September 4, 1923 - April 6, 2018

Samuel Hudson Phifer, of Frankfort Ky., departed this world on April 6 following a brief illness. He was 94.

Left to honor his long life and treasure his memory are his wife of 24 years, Mary-Dean Cook Phifer; son Bill Phifer of Phoenix AZ; daughters Virginia Phifer (Nicki Wilkerson) of Atlanta GA, and Caroline Fults (Jeff) of Largo FL; stepchildren Sharon Sanders (Steve) of Central SC, Don Parris (Sheri) of Lomagna, Italy, Debra Guess (Greg) of Bagdad KY, and Ann Estill (Donnie) of Frankfort KY; grandchildren Justine, Elizabeth, Sara, Sam, Seth, Dylan, Austin, Cadence and Tristan; four great-grandchildren; far-flung nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. William E. Phifer and Mary Jim Hudson Phifer; wife Olga Tridnyoka Phifer; siblings Dorothy, William, Kenneth, Cameron and Mary; and granddaughter Sasha.

Sam was born September 4, 1923, in Lewes, Delaware. At age 7, his family moved from Port Jervis NY to the Bronx in New York City, where he lived until he entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving during WWII as a Radio Technician.

Sam graduated from New York University in 1948 with a BA in Economics,

and earned his Masters of Arts in English Literature from the University of South California Graduate School in 1949.

Early on, Sam worked in New Jersey as technical writer, and later personnel director, for the engineering firm Design Service Company. In 1956, Sam became part of an elite team recruited by Norden-Ketay Corp.

Sam ultimately transitioned to New York City's retail industry, first at JC Penney, where he worked directly with Mr. James Cash Penney in management training.

In 1965 Sam joined Allied Stores, the second largest retail chain in the U.S. that included Jordan Marsh, Stern Brothers, Bon Wit Teller and Bon Marche. He rose to Corporate and then Executive Training Director, responsible for the company's 30,000 employees. At Allied, Sam also administered the B. Earl Puckett Fund for Retail Education, successfully creating authoritative retail libraries in 300 colleges around the U.S.

Sam retired from Allied in 1986 and a few years later moved to Lexington, KY, to join his daughter Virginia. There, he met and married Mary-Dean. Together, they travelled on assignments to Egypt and then to northern and western Russia, where Sam worked under the International Executive Service Corps as a volunteer, lending his human resources expertise to companies in need of managerial and privatization guidance.

Sam served on the boards of School of Retailing at NYU, City University of New York, Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, and Purdue University in Bloomington IN; as President of the NYU Alumni Association; on the Advisory Board for the Education Management Corporation in Pittsburgh; as Chairman of the Board for the Art Institute in Atlanta; Chairman of the Donovan Program at the University of Kentucky; and on the board of the United Nations Association in Lexington KY.

As impressive as Sam's professional career was, he was greatly loved and admired as husband, brother, Dad, stepdad, Grandpa, GrandSam, as uncle and as friend. He especially adored the company of his grandchildren, and was very proud of each one. He will be missed beyond words.

Family and friends will gather at Grove Hill Cemetery, Shelbyville KY, at 11:00 a.m. on May 11 for a memorial service and celebration of how Sam touched us all. Memorial gifts may be made to the Paul Sawyer Public Library, 319 Wapping Street, Frankfort KY.

Cemetery Details

Grove Hill Cemetery

458 Mt. Eden Road
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

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458 Mt. Eden Road
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Tribute Wall



“ *My sympathies to the families. Mr. Phifer was always kind and gracious when I had questions concerning the Phifer Family History.*
Rita Daniels, Michigan.

Rita A Daniels - April 09, 2019 at 09:26 AM