



G. Phil Roberts

April 14, 1932 - April 21, 2014

Gordon Phillip Roberts, beloved husband, father and friend, passed away on Monday, April 21, with his family at his side.

Phil was born in Gilmer, Texas, April 14, 1932, the only child to Loraine Powers and Gordon King Roberts. Phil's father owned the Chrysler dealership in Gilmer but was also interested in aviation. He had learned to fly from an old barnstormer and owned a Waco airplane. When World War II broke out, that put an end to people buying cars.

The United States was in desperate need of training for pilots so Mr. Roberts, in conjunction with Kilgore Junior College and the United States Government, opened a training facility for navy pilots at Elder Field in Kilgore. During this period of time, he met Walter Beech, founder of Beech Aircraft, Wichita, KS, who also had a training school for navy pilots.

When the war ended, Mr. Roberts went into business with Walter Beech and was awarded the Beechcraft dealership and distributorship for Dallas and East Texas. Mr. Roberts moved his family to Tyler and established a dealership and maintenance facility for Beech Aircraft Corporation at Pounds Field and in Dallas at Love Field which he managed out of his businesses, Tyler Aero, Texas Aviation and Roberts Aviation (now Johnson Aviation) at Pounds Field.

Since Phil was surrounded by aviation, he learned to fly at a very early age and soloed on his sixteenth birthday in a 40 Horse Cub. He had a license to fly before he had a driver's license. Phil graduated from Tyler High School in

1949 where he was on the golf team. He attended Virginia Military Institute in Lynchburg, Virginia. After spending a summer working for his close friend, Jack Bunn's father, who was in the oil business, Phil decided that the oil patch was his destiny and transferred from VMI to the University of Texas in Austin obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology and Petroleum Engineering in 1958. He was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Phil served in the United States Army during the Korean War as a Survey Specialist based at K-8 Air Force Base in Pusan, Korea for one year. The next year he served at Camp Hakata on the island of Kyushu in Japan. The General of the Base saw Phil playing golf one day, was duly impressed, and asked him to wind up his survey job and take over the base golf course which he gladly did.

Phil was employed as a geologist by Trice Production Company in Longview, Texas in 1958. He was transferred to Houston as District Manager in 1961 until 1965 when he became an Independent and started his own company, R.O.M. E. (Roberts Oil and Mineral Exploration). He was a member of AAPG, a lifelong member of the Houston Geological Society and was a founder and President of the Houston Geological Log Library. He was a member of The Petroleum Club of Houston, Memorial Drive Country Club and Westminster United Methodist Church where he married Carrie Anna Crockett McGee, March, 1980, in Houston.

Phil was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church growing up in Marvin United Methodist in Tyler and was a member of the Emerald Bay Community Church, Emerald Bay, Bullard.

In high school and college, Phil was well known for his water skiing ability. Reading a magazine about the 1949 World Water Skiing Championship in France, he was intrigued by the slalom ski but it was not readily available in the U.S. So from the magazine pictures, Phil made his own slalom ski, taught himself how to use it then taught his friends. He liked to tell the story that after a graduation party at Lake Tyler, while wearing a tuxedo, he rolled up his pant legs, skied off the pier into the water on his ski, went around the lake a couple

of times and never got his tux wet.

Phil was a marvelous and innovative cook, an avid hunter and fisherman who taught his family that "if you shoot it or catch it, you clean it and eat it." He as an exemplary father to his two boys and actively devoted his time to their activities and upbringing.

He graciously hosted his friends and family for thirty years at his hunting lease near Uvalde, Texas, where everyone enjoyed his culinary efforts. Phil loved playing golf and snow skiing but his life's passion was flying and he continued to fly until he was 80 years old. The many, many family trips to exciting places will be remembered and cherished by his family and it was with great sorrow that he sold his last airplane last year. The end of an era.

There was never a dull moment when Phil was around because he was always fun, had a marvelous sense of humor (no one could tell a joke like Phil) and had a zest for life. He had impeccable manners and was truly a gentleman. He never complained or lost hope during his three and a half year battle with cancer and was optimistic to the end. He was looking forward to the birth of another grandchild due in June.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon K. and Loraine Roberts, and his grandson, Benjamin V. McGee. He is survived by his wife, Carrie Anna Roberts, Emerald Bay, Bullard; son, Gordon H. Roberts and wife, Kelley, Ft. Worth; son, Andrew B. McGee and wife, Elizabeth, New York, NY.; cousins, Barbara Pinkston, Buddy Nolley, Suzanne Mayfield and his best buddy, Frankie, who was his constant companion at home.

The family will gather together Thursday morning for a private burial, asking God's blessing as they lay Phil to rest at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler next to his parents. A memorial service to honor Phil's life will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at Stewart Family Funeral Home at 1:30 PM with Dr. Darryle Dunks officiating.

A special thank you goes out to Joyce Storey and Yolanda Veezey for the loving care they provided. Memorials may be made and appreciated for The

Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701 or
The Emerald Bay Community Church, 160 La Salle Dr., Bullard, TX 75757

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Mem. Service

APR 24. 1:30 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Carrie Anna, I never knew Phil, but after reading his beautiful obituary, I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to meet him. I am so sorry for your loss. I hope that the many memories of the wonderful times you had together will help you through the rough ones. Coranne has kept me up-to-date about you for quite a few years, and so I know that you had a fulfilling life. You are a lovely person, and so you and Phil certainly must have complimented each other.

My prayers are with you and your family.

Ann Shafer Jeffrey

Ann Jeffrey - April 27, 2014 at 04:10 PM

MW

“ A beautiful obituary for a magnificent man. Carrie Anna, I have thought of you daily. My prayers are with you and all the family. Lovingly, Mary Ann

Mary Ann Wilson - April 27, 2014 at 02:43 PM

TL

“ Trey Lozes purchased the Beautiful Whisper for the family of G. Phil Roberts.



Trey Lozes - April 23, 2014 at 10:26 PM

BA

“ I was the unfortunate one as I only knew Phil for a few years and what a man he was and what a true sensitive man was he. I have never met a man like Phil and never will again but how wonderful it was to say I truly loved this man because of everything he ever said was so interesting and a way of making you feel so special with his way of looking at you when he was talking or listening to you. Some people feel as though they live too long and others not long enough, but if there is a man who did not have enough years in his life it eas Phil Roberts. He never cease to amaze me with the knowledge he had about more than anyone else I have ever had the prililage of knowing and how much fun you friends who knew him for many years learned to love him also. Tupie and I went to school together growing up and she was a perfect match for Phil and I am so happy they had each other when they needed what the other needed and provided. Farewell my friend, I hhope to see you on the otherside. Sincerely, Buck Ashcraft, Harlingen, Texas

Buck Ashcraft - April 23, 2014 at 06:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of G. Phil Roberts.



April 23, 2014 at 03:48 PM

TK

“ The Kings purchased the Peaceful White Lilies B asket for the family of G. Phil Roberts.



The Kings - April 23, 2014 at 12:00 PM

YD

“ *Your friends - Catherine Severin and Marsha Davee purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of G. Phil Roberts.*



Your friends - Catherine Severin and Marsha Davee - April 22, 2014 at 02:30 PM

JB

“ *Jim, Katie, Hilary, Collin, Teresa, Al and Bob purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of G. Phil Roberts.*



Jim, Katie, Hilary, Collin, Teresa, Al and Bob - April 22, 2014 at 02:30 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of G. Phil Roberts.*



April 22, 2014 at 01:59 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of G. Phil Roberts.*



April 22, 2014 at 01:47 PM