



Edwin "Ed" Lawrence Philbin

May 3, 1936 - February 8, 2024

Edwin "Ed" Lawrence Philbin, 87, joined his loving wife, Eva, and the chorus of angels in heaven on February 8, 2024, following a courageous battle with old age, after relocating to Chattanooga in 2020.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on May 3, 1936, and, following education at the University of North Carolina and University of South Carolina and a tour as a U.S. Marine, he married Eva Margaret Williams in Albany, Ga. on April 23, 1960, where they had three children.

After marrying, Ed attended Florida State University, where he earned a master's degree in library science and quickly became a "rabid" Seminole football fan. His physical appearance was so similar to FSU Coach Bobby Bowden that even Coach Steve Spurrier did a "double take" when he once entered the same hotel elevator before a football game. Not shy, Ed reacted with the traditional tomahawk chop.

Ed was known for his prolific fish stories—some even true, camping and his love of boats. These were wonderful substitutes for golf, which he was passionate about early on, as he shifted focus on hobbies and activities that always included his family. Hunting, scuba-diving, fishing, boating and tennis were many of the things he enjoyed with his family. These were terrific opportunities where he shared his insight, wisdom, discipline, humor and love

with his family. Ed was a member of the Elks Lodge, St. Theresa's Catholic Church of Albany, Ga., and served as commander of the Albany Power Squadron. He also served as an acolyte at Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church in Niceville, Fl.

As a husband, he adored his wife, who indulged his penchant for bigger boats and campers as the family grew, and as a father, his patience, wit, good nature and ability to laugh at himself taught them the importance of humility, hard work and humor. Ed embraced the idea that "you can't push a rope," which allowed his children to explore and discover their passion, regardless of his opinion of their choices.

As a professional, Ed was instrumental in leading the Albany Junior College Library (later known as Darton College) into the computer age as the director of Library and Learning Resources.

Ed had that rare ability to start conversations with strangers and depart as friends. He never held grudges and was quick to offer a hand—whether as a member of the Knights of Columbus or during significant flooding in South Georgia, cooking meals for displaced residents.

Following retirement in 1999, Ed and Eva moved to Niceville, Fl. to pursue fishing and boating full-time.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eva Margaret Williams Philbin; his father, John Patrick Philbin; and his mother, Mary Agnes Maloney Philbin.

Survivors include one daughter, Bebe Marie Philbin Everett, of Chattanooga; two sons, John Patrick "Pat" Philbin, II and wife, Erin, of Herndon, Va., and Edward Lawrence "Ted" Philbin, Jr. and wife, Becky, of Thomasville, Ga.; four grandchildren, John Patrick Philbin, III and wife, Carrie, Kerry Elizabeth

Philbin Sadler and husband, Tim, Edward Tyler Philbin, and Casey Marie Philbin Holman and husband, Jake; and eight great-grandchildren, Jackson Patrick Philbin, Kieran James Philbin, Brooks William Philbin, Brynn Erin Philbin, Finn Michael Sadler, Charlotte "Charley" Marie Sadler, Rory Patrick Sadler and Mads John Holman.

A Memorial Mass will be held at noon on Friday, March 1 at St. Jude Catholic Church, 930 Ashland Terrace in Chattanooga, with the Rev. Charlie Burton officiating. Inurnment will follow the service at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, with military honors.

The family wishes to thank the many medical support staff who cared for Ed during his long journey home. In place of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org).

Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery

Chattanooga, TN

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAR 1. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Jude Catholic Church
930 Ashland Terrace
Chattanooga, TN

Tribute Wall

PB

“ Pam Bowden lit a candle in memory of Edwin "Ed" Lawrence Philbin



Pam Bowden - March 01, 2024 at 06:28 PM

TE

“ From St. Teresa's Catholic Church family, our thoughts and prayers to the family. RIP Mr. Ed and may God's perpetual shine upon you!

Terrie - February 27, 2024 at 09:38 AM

JS

“ Ed and I worked together from 1970 until his retirement in 1999 as faculty members at Albany Junior College, later Darton College. Ed was a friend and excellent administrator who helped shape the college into a quality institution of higher education. I will always remember him fondly as I recall our shared experiences. Blessings and condolences to all the family. Jim Saville

Jim Saville - February 19, 2024 at 10:03 AM

AR

“ Early in his career, Mr. Ed was on the faculty at St. Teresa's school. At that time and place, a man on the faculty was a bit of a novelty. I fondly remember catching a many of footballs from him during PE sessions. He was a fine man and highly respected by everyone that knew him. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to know him many years ago. Rest in peace Coach Philbin.

Al Rakel - February 17, 2024 at 08:11 PM

JF

“ Sorry to hear about losing a Great Seminole
RIP

Jeffrey Field - February 16, 2024 at 09:26 AM

SS

“ I'm saddened to read of Ed's passing. Ed worked with my Mother for years in the Dougherty County library system. I recall her speaking fondly of Ed and the experiences they had doing what they loved, sharing their love of books. Such a quick wit, and a good friend to all.

Susan Dowdell Smith - February 16, 2024 at 08:01 AM

DH

“ Many memories of him at Albany Junior College. May light perpetual shine upon him. Peace and love to the family.

Debbie Hambley - February 15, 2024 at 11:56 AM

MS

I m so sorry for your loss! So many great memories of working with Ed at Albany Junior/Darton College. Praying for peace and comfort as you go through this difficult time.

Martha Snow - February 15, 2024 at 09:00 PM

LW

So sad to hear of Mr. Philbin's passing. He hired me in 1992 to work at Darton College Library as a Library Assistant and was the best boss I ever had. We had many wonderful conversations about God, family and work. And he loved the library at Darton and took such good care of all who worked there. My prayers are with his family. May the perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace. Lidia White

Lidia White - February 16, 2024 at 01:18 PM

BB

What a great guy. One of my favorite customers and his love for Toyota. Always great to see him pull into the dealership as we were going to have some fun and do some dealing. He enjoyed sending his children to me for vehicles.....He will be missed by all who knew him.....

Bryan B.B. Burcham - February 17, 2024 at 04:19 PM

VN

Mr. Philbin taught me science in the 6th grade at St Teresa and I thought he was the best teacher Valerie Janelle Newell

Valerie Janelle Newell - February 20, 2024 at 07:13 PM

SR

Ed Philbin was a great boss and friend. He hired me in 1979 to work in the media department at AJC. For 20 years we talked about Auburn and FSU trying to decide which was best. I was close with Ted, he worked with me as a student aid, (spy)??? not really. We all had fun! God Bless you Ed and your family.

Stan Ryals

Stan Ryals - February 26, 2024 at 04:27 PM

DE

Mr Philbin taught me in the 5th grade at St Teresa's. He was my favorite teacher in grade school. His son, Pat, was taught by my husband, Jeff Edmondson at Westover High School. My husband also coached Pat in tennis. A great man of God. He will be missed! 🙏

Debbie Edmondson - March 02, 2024 at 06:49 PM