

Phillip Elmer Hurt

Born Friday, May 13, 1927 *

Died Friday, January 29, 2021

Born in Martinsville, Illinois, to Pearl Edna and Elmer Charles "Tell" Hurt. Phillip was the youngest of 5 children and spent his childhood years in the Martinsville/Casey, Clark County area of central Illinois. As the child of a farmer, Phillip enjoyed playing in the local woods and creek bottoms, rough camping with his friends, fishing, and riding his bicycle for miles on the small farm roads that ran alongside the corn and soybean fields. He met the love of his life and wife of nearly 67 years, Phyllis "Imogene" Adkins in 1944 on a blind date. They married on August 25th, 1946 just after the second world war. He was 19, she was 16. He began his working career at a young age, engaging in myriad of occupations. At age 14 he helped deconstruct a large portion of the oil storage tank farm near Casey, Illinois, he worked in a funeral home, drove an ambulance, hauled gravel, drove a wrecker, drove long haul trucks, and as a young man, he raced stock cars. During his gravel hauling days in the 1940's, his boss, who also loved racing, made sure Phillip was assigned routes that would end near a racetrack so he could race in the evenings. A bad accident and a failed seatbelt resulting in serious injuries, followed by an ultimatum from his wife, ended his racing career just as NASCAR began.

Phillip served stateside in the Korean war at the Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. Once his service ended, he began working road construction. He and Imogene traveled north following the construction work, eventually landing in Plainfield, Illinois where they lived for nearly 35 years. It is here they raised their two children, Phillip Allen and Patsy Alyson. As a now lifelong member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, he spent much of his career working in the City of Chicago doing everything from straightening out the S-curve on Lake Shore Drive to digging tunnels and demolishing buildings. In winter, he worked snow removal at O'Hare Airport. Phillip worked hard, he would be up and off to work by 4:00am. returning home by 5:00pm, to take care of the house, yard, cars, and his children while his wife worked nights. He loved his work, his wife, his children and gave his best to all three. In the 1960's and 1970's Phillip and Imogene were volunteers for the Plainfield Band Boosters. Both of their children participated in band from grade school through high school making for a joint volunteer effort that lasted almost 20 years. Phillip drove school buses to band competitions, helped build the band trailer that was towed to competitions filled with uniforms, color guard and musical equipment; and he helped his wife organize and feed hundreds of kids during the band competitions that were hosted in Plainfield. They helped organize many fund-raising efforts to fund the band's travel expenses and summer band program.

Phillip was also an avid antiques collector and dealer. He was an expert in collectibles and knew the history and value of so many things it boggled the mind. He enjoyed perusing antique shows, shops, and flea markets, he enjoyed the hunt at garage and estate sales, the haggling at the markets. Once retired, he had a large shop where he repaired and refinished furniture and he and Imogene enjoyed traveling with their wares selling them at big antique markets across the country. He and Imogene's home was filled with beautiful, interesting finds and a story to accompany each.

After retirement, Phillip and Imogene returned to the Martinsville/Casey area where they spent many joyous years rekindling old friendships, hosting family dinners and reunions. Phillip was a devoted, loyal

husband who cared for his wife until the end of her life in June 2013 when she succumbed to complications due to Alzheimer's disease. Phillip spent the last three years of his life in Estero, Florida where he lived independently until December 2020.

Phillip goes to heaven leaving behind one child, Patsy Alyson Hurt of Houston, Texas (husband, Donald Verplancken) two grandchildren, Phillip Charles "Charlie" Hurt (wife, Brittany) of Braidwood, Illinois, Onawa Marie Shepherd (husband, William) of Wilmington, Illinois, four great grandchildren, Charles Thomas Hurt (wife, Chandler) of Wilmington, Illinois, Melanie Joanna Hurt of Braidwood, Illinois, Mason Alan Meister of Joliet, Illinois, Joshua Dennis Kucera, Jr. of Essex, Illinois, and one great, great grandchild, Charles James Hurt of Wilmington, Illinois. Phillip is preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Imogene Hurt (DOD 6.13.2013) and his son, Phillip Allen Hurt (DOD 2.5.2005)

A virtual memorial service will be held soon, and once our pandemic has been brought under control we will have a graveside gathering and internment of ashes at Ridgelawn Cemetery, Martinsville, Clark County, Illinois.

* The doctor who assisted with the birth of Phillip was superstitious, so he filled out the birth certificate with a different date. Hence, all official records reflect Phillip's birthday as Saturday, May 14, 1927.