



Phillip J. Kneen

July 5, 1921 - August 7, 2015

Phillip J. "Phil" Kneen, age 94, of Washington, died Friday, August 7, 2015 at the Halcyon House in Washington, Iowa.

Celebration of life services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 22, 2015, at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home with Rev. Kitch Shatzer officiating. Calling hours will begin noon Friday, August 21, 2015, at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Interment will take place at the Elm Grove Cemetery in Washington. In lieu of flowers, memorials have been established for: Washington City Centennial Fountain in Central Park, Hospice of Washington County and Halcyon House Good Samaritan Fund. Online condolences may be sent for Phil's family through the web at www.jonesfh.com.

Phillip J. Kneen was born July 5, 1921, in Winfield, Iowa, to Karl and Izle (Heater) Kneen on a farm south of Winfield, Iowa. He graduated from Winfield High School in 1939.

Phil served in World War II in the US Naval Service from 1942 – 1945 as Electricians Mate First Class. He was stationed on an island north of New Guinea. He and his daughters took part in the 2012 Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

He married Marjorie Faulkner on June 21, 1947, in Washington. She passed away December 21, 2000.

After World War II, he graduated from the School of Engineering in Birmingham, Alabama, and worked for Iowa Southern Utilities for a year before buying a refrigeration business for \$500. That was the beginning of Kneen Refrigeration and Appliance which he and Marge operated for over 29 years before retiring in 1976. The store was located off the northwest corner of the downtown square.

Phil cared deeply for the Washington Community. When he saw something that needed to be done, he very often stepped up and got it done. His enthusiasm was contagious. He

loved to promote Washington when visiting other communities.

Phil was very involved in various aspects of the City of Washington, including the United Methodist Church, Washington City Council, Planning and Zoning, Chamber of Commerce, and the Hawkeye Bank Board of Directors. For years he organized the Ridiculous Day Parade.

He was there to help when the Centennial Fountain needed repair and assisted with fundraising and rebuilding of the fountain and the addition of the Christmas lights.

Phil was a Charter Member of the Washington Jaycees and instrumental in forming this group. He belonged to the Noon Kiwanis and then joined the A.M.ers when it was organized, making him a Charter Member of this group also, helping with its organization and many of their projects. For many years he planted, harvested and sold pumpkins for the club. He implemented a project painting house numbers on the curbs of the streets in Washington so that it would make it easier for emergency vehicles to find peoples' homes.

Phil was actively involved advocating the necessity for building the new Washington Junior High in 1962. He was an instrumental force in promoting the need for a municipal swimming pool for Washington over 50 years ago and then was a part of acquiring another new pool in 2000 when the old one wore out.

Phil was an active member of the Isaac Walton League, helping clean up ditches to keep the countryside clean. For years he was a large part in organizing "Fish Day" at Marr Park for handicapped Washington County residents.

He was member of Y's Men and was known as the "Prop Guy" behind the scenes of their stage productions. He also was a part of the group that raised the money and made plans to build the Washington Community Theater in 1976.

In 1977 during the Farm Progress Show in Washington County, Phil and his wife Marge were in charge of all the food distribution to the various vendors during the show.

After retirement, Phil served as volunteer manager of the Washington Chamber of Commerce for four years. He also stepped back into that role in the interim between Chamber directors. Among other things while manager, he implemented a project where Chamber members visited various farmers out in their fields, serving them coffee and doughnuts in an effort to show them that their business is appreciated.

In 1991, he helped make the large stone “Washington” sign on the outskirts of town a reality. During the late 1990’s, he wanted to spruce up the downtown area, so he worked to have concrete planters for the businesses made and coordinated businesses to care for flowers and Christmas trees that filled them. During that time, he also headed up and was one of the volunteers working on the renovations to the main park pavilion in Sunset Park.

While a member of the Washington County Country Club, he constructed the fountains in front of the number 2 green and behind the tee of Hole 5, in addition to the flag pole and wooden entrance sign.

In 2001 he was honored as a Nine Who Cares Volunteer from Cedar Rapids Channel 9.

Phil and Marge moved to Halcyon House in 1996 where he was active in many things there, from starting an aerobics class, conducting “Who’s Your Neighbor” class, making sure all the windows had working electric Christmas candle lights in them, to organizing the Halcyon shower campaign for 200 RAGBRAI riders.

His hobbies included fishing, golfing, string art, painting, playing cards and enjoying his family and friends.

He enjoyed uncountable numbers of practical jokes, being the receiver of many and probably the giver of even more.

Surviving are his three daughters Mollie Forsch of Chesterfield, Missouri, Karla Lance (John) of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Mary Ann Knupp (Marc) of Washington; his very special friend Barb Steele of Washington; seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; one sister Letitia Cory (Lauren) of New London, Iowa; one brother Jon Kneen (Nita) of Ottumwa, Iowa; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, one son, Phillip Jr., in 1961, and brother Kendall Kneen.

Cemetery

Elm Grove Cemetery

Washington, IA, 52353

Events

- AUG
21

Calling Hours

12:00PM - 07:00PM

Jones - Eden Funeral Home

116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353
- AUG
21

Family Receiving Friends

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Jones - Eden Funeral Home

116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353
- AUG
22

Celebration of Life

02:00PM

Jones - Eden Funeral Home

116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

Comments



“ My sympathy to Phil's entire family. I so enjoyed visiting with him and he was always ready with some advice. I will never forget the first time I met him....I had been at the Chamber for about a week, when in came this guy I didn't know (Phil). He walked in to my office and said, Ok, doll, you don't know me but sit down because I am going to tell you what the h___ you need to be doing here. AND HE DID :-). He gave so much to the Washington Community and he will be missed!
Susan Wellington

Susan Wellington - August 22, 2015 at 09:50 PM



“ With love, Bryan and Carol Perrin and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Phillip J. Kneen.



With love, Bryan and Carol Perrin and family - August 21, 2015 at 05:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Phillip J. Kneen.



August 20, 2015 at 02:04 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip J. Kneen.



August 20, 2015 at 01:46 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Phillip J. Kneen.



August 18, 2015 at 06:15 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip J. Kneen.



August 18, 2015 at 06:04 PM



“ So sorry to lose Phil! I really enjoyed visiting him and knowing him! What a spark plug for this community! What a supportive parent! I'm so glad I was privileged to know him.

Jean Macenski - August 18, 2015 at 03:08 PM



“ Karla and John and
The Entire Kneen Family....

Our hearts are with you all as you go through these tough days of losing of your Dad and Grandfather....Phil's loss is one that will be hard for everyone to get past because he has been such a huge influence in the lives of everyone in your family and in Washington.

One of the benefits of living in a smaller community is that people interact more with each other and that interaction builds deep relationships with those people. Washington's Citizens that have interacted with your Dad and Mom (and Grandparents) were enriched because of that interaction.

Phil and Marjorie Kneen have been in the center of Washington's "Success Story" for many decades. We can all remember their commitment to Washington's forward progress and the energy with which they went about helping in every aspect of town. It didn't matter what the project was, they were always there to be part of it and to do whatever it took to make the project go successfully forward. They were "Team Players".

I personally will always remember Phil's great big smile that he proudly and graciously gave to everyone he encountered. His demeanor was always one that I thought said "This is a happy man" and I do believe he was happy. He shared that "Happy" with everyone...It was like a personal gift from him to another person.

The legacy Phil and Marjorie Kneen have left behind is a good one. Family, Friends, Pride and Dedication To Their Community are wonderful ways to be remembered. I know we will always be proud to say "We knew them" as we know you'll always be proud of them too for the "Gifts of Happy Life" they gave all of you.

You have lots to be proud of.

Take care of yourselves and get plenty of rest.
We'll be thinking of you all in the times ahead.

Love and Best Wishes,
Rick and Jane
Lampkin
(And All Your Friends From The WHS Class Of '69)





“ Mollie and family,

I am so sorry to hear of your Father's passing. You were blessed with two loving parents. May your memories comfort you.

Susan Mitchell Sanders

Susan Mitchell Sanders - August 17, 2015 at 05:43 PM



“ So sorry to hear we have lost another good man from the old neighborhood. Always enjoyed our conversations at Halcyon House. Mollie, Karla and Mary Ann thinking of you during this sad time and hoping you find comfort in your memories. Dick & Jo Greiner

Jo Greiner - August 15, 2015 at 05:22 PM



“ It just dawned on me that it was Phil's brother Jon that my son Rick Johnson worked for. Sorry for this error, but Rick also enjoyed Phil when he came to Tish's house also.

Irene Johnson - August 13, 2015 at 01:53 PM



“ Phil hired my son, Rick Johnson, while he was attending Indian Hills College. Rick was so thankful for the job. Both my sons worked for Lauren Cory on the farm and saw Phil many times there. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Irene Johnson - August 13, 2015 at 10:55 AM



“ Mary Ann, Karla & Mollie,

I'm so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I have many fond memories of your dad, not only from the many times I spent the night at your house and being on swim team, but also when we rode in the Ridiculous Day parade for Kneen Refrigeration wearing polka dotted paper dresses and a pigtail on top of our heads. He was a good man. I will miss seeing him at Halcyon House. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Patsy (Poopsy) Porter

Patsy Porter - August 12, 2015 at 02:42 PM



“ Mollie, Karla, Mary Ann and families. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as you gather to remember this gentle, fun-loving and wonderful man. I learned many valuable lessons from your dad and always enjoyed seeing him around town. He was such a big part of Washington and 'we' are all better for knowing him and benefiting from his service to this community. Barb, you are also in my thoughts and prayers. I'm so happy that you and Phil enjoyed a good number of years together. May God Bless you all and the time you have together to share your memories. ~Loree

Loree Stogdill - August 12, 2015 at 09:20 AM



“ Tari Speece Deiters lit a candle in memory of Phillip J. Kneen



Tari Speece Deiters - August 11, 2015 at 02:45 PM



“ Mary McCarthy lit a candle in memory of Phillip J. Kneen



Mary McCarthy - August 11, 2015 at 12:47 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Kneen family. I'm sending good thoughts and prayers your way. Phil was beloved by all who knew him.

Sincerely,

Mary McCarthy

Mary McCarthy - August 11, 2015 at 12:49 PM