Philip Dean Whitson

February 16, 1942 - November 12, 2021

Philip Dean Whitson, age 79, of Albia, passed away on Friday, November 12, 2021, after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Phil was born February 16, 1942, to Cecil and Alberta (Sebben) Whitson in Albia. He married Diane G. Smith of Avery at the Albia Methodist Church on December 30, 1967. To this union, 2 children were born, Cheri and Chris.

Phil attended Albia High School. After school, he worked various jobs in Albia and then Chicago where he was drafted into the Army in 1964. He served during the Vietnam War as an MP before being honorably discharged February 11, 1966. Phil worked 30 years + 1 day for John Deere in Ottumwa.

Phil was a lifetime member of the NRA, the American Legion Post 136, and the VFW of Ottumwa. He was an avid outdoorsman who liked fishing and bow, turkey, and pheasant hunting with his favorite dog, Spook. Phil had the gift of being able to fix or build anything. He was always willing to help friends or family anytime, even if he had to give you a little nudge. Always ornery, even with his illness, he liked to joke and keep his nurses on their toes.

Phil is survived by his wife of 53 years, Diane; daughter, Cheri (Jim) Kasella of Elmhurst, IL; son, Chris (Gia Tornabene) Whitson of Albia; grandchildren, Charlie and Olivia Kasella; siblings, Larry (Phyllis) Whitson, Carolyn Plum,

and Wayne Whitson, along with a large number of extended family and friends.

Phil is preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Alberta; brothers, Jerry and Steve Whitson; and a brother-in-law, Jim Plum,

The family would like to thank all the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff who cared for Phil during his 3 ½ year battle.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Phil's family present throughout to greet family and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Pastors Dennis and Teresa Miller co-officiating. Burial with military honors provided by the American Legion O.B. Nelson Post #3 and VFW Post #775 of Ottumwa will follow services at Oak View Cemetery in Albia.

A memorial has been established to the Welcome Home Soldier Monument in Albia.

Cemetery Details

Oak View Cemetery

602 2nd Ave.
Albia, IA 52531

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **16**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
https://www.tharpfh.com/

Funeral Service

NOV **17**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
https://www.tharpfh.com/

Tribute Wall

Philip Dean Whitson

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM

Philip Dean Whitson

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM

Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 16, 2021 at 08:05 PM

Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 16, 2021 at 09:34 AM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 16, 2021 at 09:15 AM

Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 16, 2021 at 01:09 AM

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 15, 2021 at 02:28 PM

AI

Anson Industries purchased the Large Basket Ga rden for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

Anson Industries - November 15, 2021 at 02:16 PM

HS

Our thoughts and sympathies are with your entire family. -the HAVEN team

HAVEN Staging - November 15, 2021 at 01:37 PM

Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 15, 2021 at 01:37 PM

Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 15, 2021 at 01:34 PM

AC

All the DeMoss cousins purchased the Divine Pe ace Bouquet for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

All the DeMoss cousins - November 15, 2021 at 08:52 AM

AM

Sending love Cheri, Jim, and all. No words. PK and I will donate to the following in your Father's name. His service to our country is beyond appreciated. https://www.welcomehomesoldiermonument.com/ Sending tons of love and hugs from California

Amy Morse - November 14, 2021 at 07:19 PM

JA

Diane and Family,
I was sorry to hear about your husband and father. My thoughts and sympathies are with you.

Jan Allison - November 14, 2021 at 06:26 PM

WF

With Love, The Weseloh Family purchased the P eaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

With Love, The Weseloh Family - November 14, 2021 at 06:25 PM

Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 14, 2021 at 03:29 PM

EM

Earl and Doris McDonald purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

Earl and Doris McDonald - November 14, 2021 at 01:10 PM

LW

Diane, Cheri & Chris.
It seems like after Larry and I was married Phil was always around. He was the best baby sitter around. When his mother and I went shopping he would watch our kids. He would rock them in a rocker and still be doing it when we got home, even tho they were a sleep. He also watched them early in the Morning when I took the mail run to Blakesburg. Phil and I shared a Birthday too, Feb. 16th. We will really miss him. So rest in peace Phil because you were always on the go. Larry & I will miss you.

Phyllis & Larry

Larry & Phyllis Whitson - November 14, 2021 at 11:47 AM

Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 14, 2021 at 11:33 AM

WW

Diane, Cheri & Chris and our family,
Even though we knew this time would one day come, it doesn't make it hurt any less.
He carried his pain with more strength and dignity than anyone I've known. But, that is who he was. You gave him such loving support through his illness, for our family, thank you so much.
Anyone who knew my brother, knew family and friends were the most important thing to him. He must be so happy to see all our family and the friends we have lost. You wouldn't be able to get a word in! Can't you just imagine?
Now, we have to carry the pain as he showed us how you do these last years.
Rest in peace, brother, until we see each other again.

Wayne Whitson

Wayne Whitson - November 14, 2021 at 09:44 AM

JG

Thinking of you. Phil was a great guy and classmate. Cherish your memories.

Johneta Goodwin - November 14, 2021 at 07:48 AM

DP

Diane and family..... I am so sorry. Our sympathies and prayers are with you.

Diana Parson - November 13, 2021 at 09:02 PM

JV

Jerry & RoseA Vestalr lit a candle in memory of Philip Dean Whitson

Jerry & RoseA Vestalr - November 13, 2021 at 07:59 PM

JE

Our sincere sympathy and prayers for Phil's devoted family. Rest in peace Phil....life well done.

Jerry - November 13, 2021 at 08:03 PM

Ed Mcginn lit a candle in memory of Philip Dean Whitson

Ed Mcginn - November 13, 2021 at 07:43 PM

Rest in peace phil. May you rest in heaven with the lord

Ed Mcginn - November 13, 2021 at 07:48 PM

Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 13, 2021 at 07:14 PM

Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 13, 2021 at 07:03 PM

CS

Our deepest sympathy to Phil's family in the loss of your loved one!

Love and Prayers, Ed and Chery Scieszinski

Cheryl Scieszinski - November 13, 2021 at 06:36 PM

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Philip Dean Whitson.

November 13, 2021 at 04:37 PM