Philip H. Jones

April 27, 1937 - August 24, 2024

Philip H. Jones (age 87) passed away on August 24, 2024, at Avow Hospice in Naples, Florida. He was born in Fairmount, Indiana, and graduated from Fairmount High School before completing his college studies at Indiana University.

Phil's first love was broadcasting. As a young boy growing up on a farm, he spent countless hours milking cows. But anytime he got a break from those duties, he "clocked in" at his makeshift radio station. Using chicken coop wire and bales of hay, Phil set up shop in his family's barn and pretended he was an announcer reading the news. At that time, his audience was made up of feral cats and other farm animals -- not exactly the demographic that excites advertisers. However, that passion for broadcasting eventually helped Phil land his first professional job at WTHI-TV in Terre Haute, Indiana, and the most important daily assignment of his career: The County Courthouse. That's where he met his wife of 59 years, Patricia, after noticing her in the Tax Assessor's Office.

After six years in Minneapolis-St. Paul at WCCO-TV, Phil received a call from CBS News. His 32-year career at the network included stops in Atlanta, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Washington, D.C. Phil spent most of those years covering the Jerry Ford White House, Capitol Hill, and stories for the CBS prime-time broadcast 48 Hours.

In 2001 Phil and Pat retired to Naples, Florida where they enjoyed life in "paradise" -- as Phil affectionately called it -- for more than two decades. If there's a quote to sum up Phil's life, it is, "He lived his dreams."

He is preceded in death by his wife, Pat, and survived by his two children: Pamela Hardy and Paul Jones (Stacey), two grandchildren: Sebastian and Sophie Hardy, his brother Tom Jones (Carolyn), his sister Mary Lynn Pitt (Chuck) and numerous nieces, nephews and other loved ones.

The family will have a Celebration of Life service for Phil at First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs in Bonita Springs, Florida, on Saturday, September 14 at 11 a.m. There will be a separate service at Bentley Village Assisted Living in Naples on Friday, September 13, at 3:30 p.m. for Phil's friends in the retirement community to pay their respects.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany’s Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs
9751 Bonita Beach Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Tribute Wall

KS

To all the family: I was 22 and serving as an Assistant Press Secretary in the Office of US Senator John J Sparkman (D-AL) when I met Phil Jones and two other television network correspondents on Capitol Hill. The other two were cordial but only Phil was warm and showed genuine interest in all who spoke to him. Phil walked me back to my office since it was on his way and met other staff members as well as my boss. Everyone was impressed with his kindness as he showed general interest in everyone. He offered to help me enter the broadcasting field which I greatly appreciated but it was not the career path of my dreams.

It is rare to have someone of his stature to take the time to get to know and be willing to help others climb a career ladder.

I will never forget him. A remarkable soul.

Kathleen Sullivan - July 07, 2025 at 02:35 AM

MC

Monte C. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Philip H. Jones.

Monte C. - September 12, 2024 at 10:03 AM

79 files added to the album LifeTributes

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - September 11, 2024 at 04:48 PM

ME

Paul, and family: I'm so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He was an amazing man and leaves such a beautiful legacy for the family. My prayers are with all of you. God bless. MaryAnn Egan

Maryann Egan - September 09, 2024 at 03:51 PM

SG

Obituary for Philip H. Jones. Phil was a very close friend of mine at Fairmount High School. He played with me as a left tackle on the Quaker team. He was one grade behind and graduated in 1955. He followed me to Indiana University and entered the IU school of Journalism. He did not have a car and hitched many rides from Bloomington to Fairmount with me during his freshman year. I was a sophomore and could provide this transportation for him. I had many great memories of Phil. My Dad William R Gaddis sent this to me and I thought I would send this for the family

Sonya Kaye Gaddis - September 03, 2024 at 11:53 AM

PJ

Thank you, Sonya. ❤️

Paul Jones - September 06, 2024 at 01:37 PM

RS

Phil and I were high school classmates and close friends. He and Pat were at my home in Lake Placid a few years ago for a mini-Fairmount High School reunion! I have many memories of Phil in school, but also when he was with CBS in D.C. A talented great person and friend! May God comfort his children and grandchildren in this time of great loss!
Bob Sheets, Lake Placid, FL

Robert C. Sheets - September 01, 2024 at 12:49 PM

PJ

Thank you, Bob. ❤️ Dad loved seeing you from time to time. My sister and I hope you are doing well.

Paul Jones - September 06, 2024 at 01:40 PM

RR

Rhonda R. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Philip H. Jones.

Rhonda R. - August 31, 2024 at 08:25 PM

Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Philip H. Jones.

August 30, 2024 at 07:56 PM

DF

Dave and Jen Foster planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Philip H. Jones.

Dave and Jen Foster - August 30, 2024 at 07:56 PM