



Philip E. Merilees

September 3, 1940 - March 7, 2018

Philip E. Merilees 77, of Bonita Springs, FL passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

Husband of Micheline V. Merilees; father of Derek P. (Karen Holmes) Merilees of Richmond Hill, Ontario; Scott W. (Mikhaila Jackson) Merilees of Keswick, Ontario; and Andree Michelle Merilees of Frederick, CO. Philip was brother of Katherine (Claude) Turbide, James (Teresa) Merilees, Marcia (Rick) Scocco and Charles (Beverly) Merilees; grandfather of Danielle Jordyn Merilees, Thomas Philip Merilees and Erika Brianne Merilees; step grandfather of Rian (Ed Baker) Knight, Mallory (Kevin Cryan) Holmes, Patrick Holmes and Evan Holmes and step great grandfather of Hudson and Eva Baker.

His funeral will take place at the St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church in Newmarket, Ontario at a later date with burial at the St. John's Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Philip E. Merilees

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ April 14, 2018.

Sigh! I just learned of Phil's passing a few moments ago from a neighbor who knew Phil was a high school buddy of mine. Possibly my "best buddy" at the time. We shared so much back then, including a remarkable hitchhiking adventure from Montreal to Chatham and back, and --- improbably enough! --- a stint in the reserve army regiment of the Canadian Grenadier Guards, and . I'll always remember his great sense of humour and deep generosity. My most sincere condolences to his widow and extensive family.

David Calderisi - April 14, 2018 at 03:40 PM

SH

“ I am saddened and unfortunate in never having met Philip personally.

However, I work, and have worked, closely with his son, Derek, for a good number of years. I count Derek not only as a respected colleague, but among my truest of friends, despite a geographic distance that separates us.

If the personage, the caliber, of a man's children are to be counted as a reflection, and even a measurement of that man, then Philip was indeed among the strongest, tallest and broadest of men!

Philip, thank-you for what you created and instilled, in Derek!

To Derek, Mrs. Merilees and the entire Merilees family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Please accept my deepest condolences for your family's loss. May you be comforted by the outpouring of love surrounding you.

Scott Hibbins (friend & colleague to Derek Merilees).

Scott Hibbins - April 04, 2018 at 09:25 AM

PH

“ I was a Canadian looking for permanent employment in 2001 during the final year of a postdoctoral position at NCAR when John Snow of OU School of Meteorology recommended I contact Phil Merilees to learn about how a Canadian is able to become an American while working at a US government lab. After contacting Phil, he did more than offer me advice; he invited me to consider employment, and give a seminar on my research, at the Naval Research Laboratory in Monterey, California, where he was Superintendent. After the seminar, he treated me to Turtle Bay Mexican food for lunch, to discuss Green Card and US Citizenship procedures for eventual permanent employment at NRL. I decided to accept Phil's offer, and I've been working at NRL Monterey since 2002, first as a UCAR Project Scientist, and now as a NRL Meteorologist. Thank you Phil. I will be forever grateful for the profound impact you had on my career, and life.

Paul Harasti - March 22, 2018 at 04:22 AM

EM

“ I remember Mr. Merilees as a very intelligent, thoughtful, caring man who was extremely proud of his family. He was always at hockey games supporting Derek and I personally envied that. I am sorry that distance and life separates good friends and I send my sincere sympathy to Mrs. Merilees, Derek, Scott, Michelle and their families.

Eric and Anita Mabley

Eric Mabley - March 21, 2018 at 04:20 PM

BW

“ I met Phil on the golf course about three years ago and he was kind enough to invite me to join his "Merilees Group". I am so glad that I joined this fun group of good people. Phil and I became more than golf buddies we became encouragement partners for each other. We talked of our health issues and our golf issues and constantly encouraged each other to not give up, but to face our issues knowing that we might win a small game in life. I only wish that I could have met Phil many years younger. I am so proud to say that Phil Merilees was my friend. Bill Wininger

Bill Wininger - March 19, 2018 at 11:52 AM

MM

“ I love you and miss you, Daddy!

Michelle Merilees - March 17, 2018 at 03:53 PM

MS

“ Philip was a kind and gentle man and will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure to meet him. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family at this difficult time. Our deepest sympathy to all.

Murray and Marlene Suherland

Marlene Sutherland - March 16, 2018 at 06:05 PM

PP

“ Pat Phoebus purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Philip E. Merilees.



Pat Phoebus - March 16, 2018 at 03:19 PM

SM

“ I will always remember my hike with Phil up Diamond Head in his 70th year, and that he enjoyed timing himself when completing his Sudoku puzzles. It was a good lesson in how to continually challenge oneself, to never become stagnant. Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs to Micheline and family. I am so sorry for your loss. God bless, Suzanne Magner.

Suzanne Magner - March 16, 2018 at 03:13 PM

PP

“ I was Phil’s Associate Superintendent during the 5 years he served as the head of the Naval Research Laboratory’s Marine Meteorology Division in MONTEREY CA. Those years working for Phil were the happiest and most productive years of my 34 year government career! Phil was a wonderful mentor and outstanding leader who trusted and empowered the people in his organization. I think the first thing he said to us in our management team meeting was “I don’t believe in upward delegation!” Phil was a visionary, a “big picture” executive who succeeded in greatly raising the visibility of our small laboratory within the national and international atmospheric science community. He always gave credit for our successes to the people that worked for him, but I noticed how he subtly planted the seeds for those successes and waited for the ideas to blossom. Phil was an insightful, level-headed, even-tempered leader and genuinely nice man who treated all his people with respect. After Phil left NRL, we remained friends and I could always rely on him to give me mature and thoughtful advice. Fair winds and following seas, Phil. You will be missed.....

Pat Phoebus - March 16, 2018 at 03:03 PM

MS

“ We will miss you so much Phil. An easy going, helpful, kind, wise and gentle soul will never be forgotten. The contributions you made to the world, and to individuals who sought your advice, care and wisdom, are immeasurable. Your time on this earth was well-spent and extremely productive. It's so sad that it was such a short time. Rest in peace dear friend. Our sincerest condolences to dear Micheline and family. Bathe in the wonderful memories of a dear husband, father and grandfather. God bless and know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Our love always, Marilyn and John Schneider



Marilyn and John Schneider - March 15, 2018 at 02:40 PM

JK

“ I enjoyed many rounds of golf with Phil and appreciated his dry humor and his keen intellect. Dorothy and I send our deepest sympathies. Jim & Dorothy Koedyker

Jim Koedyker - March 15, 2018 at 02:36 PM

RS

“ Phil and I worked together at NCAR for many years. He was an excellent scientist and leader, respected by all within NCAR and in the broader national and international communities. We were also good friends, enjoying social gatherings with Micheline and my wife Betsy, and golf occasionally. I extend my sincere sympathy to Micheline and family.

Bob Serafin

Robert Serafin - March 15, 2018 at 12:19 PM

DE

“ I always appreciated our chats when I was a Trustee , thanks for all the good advice, you will be missed.
Denny and Pat Stewart

Denny - March 15, 2018 at 10:34 AM

DI

“ What wonderful neighbors. Philip will be missed. My heart goes out to the family and friends. Prayers for all.

Diana Isaacs - March 15, 2018 at 09:50 AM

BB

“ Dear Micheline, it has been ages since we were all in Richmond Hill and Phil and George were at AES. Our sincere condolences to you and the family.
Barbara and George Boer

barbara boer - March 14, 2018 at 10:46 PM

BF

“ We will miss you.

Bob Frechette
Your Florida friends

Bob Frechette - March 14, 2018 at 04:28 PM

TT

“ I worked for Dr. Merilees between 1997 and 2002 at Naval Research Laboratory, Monterey, CA. While working for him, I learned an important life lesson. One afternoon, we were discussing the shortage of research funds and how to manage positions and projects. All of a sudden, he leaned back in his chair and crossed his legs, gave me an easy smile and said “Ted... just think of the ultimate goal of the Branch.” I was mired in short term crises, worrying to death of what will come tomorrow and completely lost the sight of “the ultimate goal”. Once the picture of the goal was cleared, what to do next was very straight forward. Thank you, Phil.

Our hearts are with you, Micheline, and your family. Ted and Mary Tsui

Ted Tsui - March 14, 2018 at 03:25 PM