



Phillip Wayne Milam

January 6, 1938 - March 31, 2026

Phil W. Milam was a loving and kind man who embodied character in both word and deed. He lived with authenticity, enthusiasm, and a steady optimism that shaped every day of his life.

Philip W. Milam, 88 years old, passed from this earth on March 31, 2026, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was born on January 6, 1938, to Grace Evelyn (Cotney) and Eugene Holt Milam in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

He often told stories of his childhood as though he had lived a storybook adventure. His family moved frequently for farm work, and his recollections were filled with memories of picking cotton and riding horses alongside his siblings, David and Wilma. Work took the family from Oregon to California and eventually to Oklahoma, where they settled in Heavener. It was there that Phil met his high school sweetheart, Joann, with whom he shared 66 cherished years of marriage and raised three children.

A natural mathematical talent led Phil to study engineering physics at the University of Oklahoma for two years. From there, Phil joined the Air Force in 1959. He was a proud Airman. In December of 1959, he married Jo and began working multiple jobs to support his family. Eventually his math interest earned him a job as a draftsman, a career he committed over 50 years to. His career spanned the transition from pencil and paper to sophisticated design

software, yet his love of craftsmanship remained constant. That passion showed in every project he took on- building a beautifully balanced canoe for his young children, crafting wood derby cars with perfectly placed lead weights for his grandson, and constructing cardboard boats for the Muskogee River Rumba Regatta that were so well built they could be reused. Phil was truly a gifted craftsman with a brilliant, curious mind. Additionally, he held a heart of service. Notable roles included Scoutmaster of Pack 402 and over 40 years as a deacon at Eastern Heights Baptist Church.

Though he enjoyed traveling with Jo visiting Maui, Hawaii; Creede, Colorado; and Branson, Missouri, few things brought him more joy than spending a day on the lake at Greenleaf State Park, especially with his grandkids. From an early age, he was an avid outdoorsman who loved camping, hunting, and fishing, especially alongside his late brother, David. When he craved a bit more excitement, he indulged in wakeboarding and motorcycle cruising-pursuits that satisfied his lifelong need for adventure. Papa passed this love of the outdoors to his grandchildren and great grandchildren, sharing many memorable Father's Day fishing trips with them.

Phil was incredibly active throughout his life. Well into his late 70s, he impressed doctors and friends alike by completing 100 pushups a day and walking a mile each morning- earning him the affectionate nickname "Superman." All that activity worked up quite an appetite, and he held a particular fondness for ice cream, pie, and anything his daughter Karen cooked. His remarkable energy, grit, and determination carried him through his final days. He leaves behind a life well lived and a legacy defined by integrity, kindness, wit, service, and love for his family.

Philip was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, and his youngest daughter, Kristi.

He is survived by his wife, Joann of Muskogee; his daughter, Karen (John) Flusche of Muskogee; his son, Ralph (Terri) Milam of Muskogee; his grandchildren, Ben (Jamie) Flusche of Tulsa, Jill (Levi) Watson of Muskogee, and Grace (Jace) Ogden of Sulphur Springs, Texas; six great grandchildren; and numerous cousins and friends.

Services for Philip W. Milam will be held at 10:30 am on Friday, April 3rd at Eastern Heights Baptist Church in Muskogee, with Rev. James Easley officiating.

Interment will be at 12:30 pm, Monday, April 6, 2026 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Rd
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2334

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Eastern Heights Baptist Church
2401 Haskell Blvd.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Interment

APR 6. 12:30 PM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery
1423 Cemetery Rd
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2334

Tribute Wall

PW

“ Phil worked with my dad who really enjoyed their coffee and annual dinner visits. Praying for the family.



Paula Watkins White - April 04 at 12:33 PM

DM

“ Debbie Myers lit a candle in memory of Phillip Milam



Debbie Myers - April 03 at 12:17 AM

GS

“ I was Phil's roommate in Air Force Aviation Cadet Preflight. I have some photos I will be happy to send. Please contact me at georgepshanks@reagan.com or 972-268-0842.

George Shanks - April 02 at 04:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Phillip Wayne Milam.



April 02 at 09:10 AM