



Phillip Michael Kabealo

November 15, 1947 - September 11, 2024

Phillip Michael Kabealo, age 76, died Wednesday, September 11, 2024, after a short but brave battle with cancer. Phil was born in Youngstown, Ohio, on November 15, 1947, the fourth child of five to parents Charles and Mary Kabealo. He was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Mary, and by his oldest brother, Charles (Larry). He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Janice (Jeffers) Kabealo, and his beloved children, Lesley (Andre) de Leon, and John (Sarah) Kabealo, and six grandchildren; Calder and Elodie de Leon, and Charles, Henry, George, and James Kabealo. In addition, he is survived by his siblings: Frank Kabealo, Karen Spicer, and Mark Kabealo, plus a host of other relatives.

Phil graduated from Columbus North High School in 1965, and The Ohio State University with a B.A. degree in 1971. He served as an Airborne Ranger and infantry officer in the U.S. Army from 1971-1974, first at Fort Benning, GA, then as part of the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, NC, where he was later assigned to a Special Forces detachment.

When he returned to Columbus, he founded Buckeye Waste Control, Inc. and later was part owner of Logan (Co.) Landfill. He was also president of Kabealo Brothers, Inc.

Phil's greatest love in life was his family, followed by his interests in reading,

photography, politics, and military history. He was a passionate Ohio State football fan who took great pride in sharing that the Kabealo family has had more brothers who played OSU football than any other family. His father, Charles, and 3 uncles, George, John, and Mike played football between 1929 and 1943. The brothers had 2 sisters, Anne and Katherine, who were OSU cheerleaders.

Phil was an enthusiastic and involved participant in the community and in the activities of his children. Along the way, he showed his support to numerous organizations including Dublin Youth Athletics baseball and football, Muirfins swimming, and the Ohio Hunter Jumper Organization. He was an avid member of booster groups that supported Dublin Coffman High School Athletics and Princeton Football. Phil loved watching his children participate in high school cheerleading, horseback riding, football, baseball, and track. He often recalled fond memories of his involvement with these organizations and their participants, as well as with countless neighborhood gatherings over the years. He was especially proud to see the continued strength of the Ohio State ROTC program, as well as to be contacted late in life by the Ohio State Football team as it made broader outreach to the Ohio State ROTC and veteran communities.

Phil will be best remembered as a loving husband, dad, and grandpa with a booming voice and incredible wit. He could either find or create humor in almost any situation, and he played a key role in the lives of a number of young athletes navigating the college recruiting process.

The family asks that friends write down a special memory or humorous situation involving Phil and send it to them via email or mail. In addition, Phil's family would like to thank the incredible team of caregivers at the James Cancer Hospital. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, September 22, 2024 from 1:00-3:00 at Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell. Per Phil's wishes, there

will be no service. In lieu of flowers, friends may donate in Phil's name to support research, education and training, and patient programs related to the prevention and cure of esophageal cancer at: The James Cancer Hospital's Esophageal Cancer Oncology Fund Number: 321902 (<https://giveto.osu.edu/makeagift/details/321902>).

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *A great man. Period. I am grateful to know him. God Bless you and the family. Sorry for your loss.* ”

Steve Cuckler - September 22, 2024 at 11:23 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Phillip Michael Kabealo.* ”



September 20, 2024 at 10:18 AM



“ *Phil will be dearly missed. He was a great husband, father, brother and uncle. We loved his sense of humor and fun he had with all of us kids while we were growing up. With love, Lisa, Tom, Jake, Luke, and Meredith Balek* ”

Lisa Balek - September 19, 2024 at 01:17 PM

BD

“ *Phil was one of a kind! A wonderful husband to Janice and a very proud father to Lesley and John and proud father-in-law to Andre and Sarah and super proud Grandpa to Gus and Ellie and Charlie, Henry, George and James. Phil was a great brother-in-law, always quick with a joke and teller of spicy stories. He shared his barbecue grill skills with lots of us and I have never had a better steak than the one he fixed for a memorable birthday. When Phil made bean soup, which he never divulged the recipe for, he and Janice would personally deliver it to lucky recipients.*

When we girls took our annual Sisters trip, if Janice was driving, Phil made sure the car was serviced, clean as a whistle and gassed up even making sure there was an umbrella in @ door pocket, 1 for @ sister along with good driving directions.

Phil will be greatly missed. My love and deepest sympathy to Janice, Lesley and John and their families. Phil will live on through his kids and theirs and the many nieces and nephews who have their own "Phil" stories. My love to all of you, Barb

Barbara DIPietro - September 18, 2024 at 02:02 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Phillip Michael Kabealo.*



September 18, 2024 at 07:22 AM

WC

“ With love, Mary & Ernie Carducci planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip Michael Kabealo.

With love, Mary & Ernie Carducci - September 18, 2024 at 07:22 AM

ME

“ Mike, Nina and team at EisnerAmper purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Phillip Michael Kabealo.



Mike, Nina and team at EisnerAmper - September 18, 2024 at 01:11 AM

PK

“ Phil was a wonderful brother-in-law as well as a great husband and father. He never knew a stranger and would share his wonderful stories and jokes with all his friends and family. He truly will be missed! Love and sympathy to Janice, Lesley and John at this difficult time. Love, Joe and Patty Karr

patty karr - September 18, 2024 at 12:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip Michael Kabealo.



September 16, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JW

“ Jen Ho, Katie Clarke, and Michelle W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip Michael Kabealo.

Jen Ho, Katie Clarke, and Michelle W. - September 16, 2024 at 03:24 PM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Philip Michael Kabealo, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.
My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Army Veteran, Philip Michael Kabealo, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - September 15, 2024 at 07:52 AM

SN

“ Phil was a great at connecting people! He connected several of us for a story honoring a local Vietnam hero. He never wanted any of the credit. He wanted others to shine. Thank you, Phil <3 Stacia

Stacia Naquin - September 13, 2024 at 06:43 PM