



Otto Phillips Wood

November 19, 1919 - March 1, 2021

Otto Phillips “Phil” Wood, 101, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away Monday, March 1, 2021 at Parkview Haven in Francesville. Phil was born in Bloomington, IL on November 19, 1919, the son of Phillips Sawyer and Elsie Pearl (Otto) Wood.

Phil moved to Rensselaer from Bloomington, IL in 1936 and graduated from Rensselaer High School with the Class of 1938. He then attended Northwestern University College, Evanston Collegiate Institute, and the University of Illinois.

In 1941, Phil enlisted in the US Army and as it turned out, that was 5 days prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following 12 weeks of Army training, he was assigned to Task Force 6968 for the construction of the ALCAN Military Highway, which is today called the Alaska Highway. After 6 months on this assignment, he returned to Wyoming for additional training. Phil’s next assignment was with the 305th Bombardment Group (H), Eighth Air Force in the European Theater of Operations as a Captain.

Following WWII, Phil married Shirley C. Carlberg, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, on October 5, 1946 and they shared 64 ½ wonderful years and three sons together until she preceded him in death on May 17, 2011.

Phil operated a seed business in Rensselaer for 32 years. He also attained his private pilot's license and took great joy in taking countless people up for their very first plane ride. Phil was a member of the First Christian Church of Rensselaer. Phil was active in his community. He was a James E. West Fellow (Boy Scouts of America), a St. Joseph College Fellow, member of the Rotary Club, Trustee for Benjamin Harris Homes for 30 years, and the first recipient of the Rensselaer Alumni Association's Community Service Award in 1992. Of all Phil's accomplishments, his greatest love was that of his family.

Phil is survived by his children, Richard Phillips (Wendy) Wood of Sutton, AK, Jeffrey (Dianna) Wood, and Bruce K. (Sheila) Wood, both of Rensselaer, IN.; 4 grandchildren, Michael, Sarah, Megan, and Laura; 2 step-grandchildren, Jonathan and Travis; 7 great-grandchildren and 4 step great-grandchildren.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Mary Anne Wood.

As per Phil's wishes, there will be no visitation and only private graveside service for family only. Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer has been entrusted with the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of Rensselaer or the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Weston Cemetery

Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Tribute Wall

LP

“ *Laura Pfoutz lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Laura Pfoutz - September 01, 2023 at 12:48 PM

LW

“ *Miss you, Pops. Uff-da* ☐



Laura Wood - July 29, 2021 at 12:33 PM

JW

“ *Love you Grandpa. I'm so sorry we couldn't make it to your funeral. I'll never forget the days where we would drive down to see you and Grandpa Bruce, and every day you were always there to say "Hello". I remember every single story about you and grandma during WWII. The days you and Grandpa would drive down here to stay for a couple days. Every single time you've waken me up. I've kept you're birthday cards for the past 10 years waiting to see how long it would be. Sadly the day has come. But I'm so grateful that your in heaven, finally relaxing with Grandma, your parents and grandparents. God had gifted you an amazing life. And I couldn't have asked for a better Grandpa to sit with for hours, and hours. I love you, and will always be grateful for the 14 years you gave me.*

Love, Jake

Jake Wood - March 22, 2021 at 04:07 PM

JG

“ *Phil Wood is an outstanding example of the greatest generation. The trait of that generation he best exemplified was his reticence to speak about the war. After all, what he had seen and done was what millions of others had seen and done. He and they each played a small part. He was a quiet man who did not put himself first. If he did talk about the war, he talked about meeting his future wife Shirley at a social for service men before the shipped to England. When he chatted with Rose Marie or me, he wanted to know how our family was and how we doing. He was a gracious and kind man.*

John D. Groppe - March 16, 2021 at 11:36 AM

GE

“ *Phil helped me along with my mother and sister, more than anyone will ever know. He was a friend and neighbor, Love you Phil, see you in heaven.*
Gabriel Edward's of 115 West Thompson St.

Gabriel Edwards - March 14, 2021 at 05:17 PM

LW

“ Love you Gramps. There’s no words to describe my heartfelt gratitude for the support and love that you have shown our family over the years. I couldn’t have asked for a better set of grandparents and was blessed with the absolute best. I’m so happy that Grams escorted you to heaven with her and that you’re reunited with your family. It provides me with extreme solace knowing she was right by your side the entire time and that you’re finally reunited. The two of you are always in my heart and not a day will ever go by that I don’t think of you.

I love you both so much.

“Family before all else.”

Uff da, Pops. ☐



Laura Wood-Pfoutz - March 12, 2021 at 10:21 AM

CO

“ What a blessing to have your Dad for all those years. In time may the sadness you feel today be replaced with many of the fond memories you hold in your heart. His life truly is to be celebrated.



Cheryl Schultz Oreskovich - March 08, 2021 at 07:15 PM

PB

“ *Our sincere condolences to the entire family. Phil was a long time family friend and we have many happy memories over the years. He will be missed for sure!*

Olga Prietula and family(Pat & Rick Bell; Mike & Laura Prietula)

Pat Bell - March 07, 2021 at 03:32 PM

MB

“ *Marlene Bilek lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Marlene Bilek - March 06, 2021 at 07:46 PM

KW

“ *Sorry for your loss.
Kathy Castongia Whaley*



Kathy Whaley - March 04, 2021 at 01:47 PM

RP

“ *Ralph And Lisa Pizer lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Ralph and Lisa Pizer - March 04, 2021 at 10:12 AM

LW

“ Louise And Allen Wortley lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Louise and Allen Wortley - March 04, 2021 at 10:01 AM

SW

“ Rest easy Grandpa, we know you are reunited with the love of your life, living in Paradise ❤️



Sarah Wood - March 04, 2021 at 08:10 AM

LK

“ Larry And Judy Koebcke lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Larry and Judy Koebcke - March 03, 2021 at 10:16 PM

RP

“ Phil was such a kind and gentle soul, a true gentleman. We are all saddened and you have my deepest sympathy in your great loss. Phil was always so interested in our son, Jim's learning to fly and being a Navy pilot. He will be greatly missed by this community.



Ruth Paulsen - March 03, 2021 at 08:00 PM

LP

“ God's prayers for comfort during these difficult days!



Lib (Goad) Prohosky - March 03, 2021 at 06:22 PM

JO

“ We are all so saddened to hear of this loss. Phil was such a sweet and kind soul. He was a true “gentleman” and genuinely loved people. He treated everyone with such respect and was so interested in learning about people through conversation. He also is recognized for the years of service he gave to our Country.🇺🇸 We became so fond of Phil over the years and he will be greatly missed by many. In friendship, our sincere sympathy & prayers of comfort go out to Jeff, Bruce, Dick and families.
Sincerely, Janice Odom & family



Janice Odom - March 03, 2021 at 01:57 PM

DH

“ Dale Hitchcock

He was a very great guy and probably one of the most genuine men I have ever met. As I have learned that even the good ones have to go he made a lot of people smile!

Dale Hitchcock - March 03, 2021 at 01:34 PM

DG

“ We were privileged to have lived by Phil & Shirley and our children got to experience their homemade sundae parties. Phil was a very kind and mannerly person. As a young girl I fondly remember him coming to the farm and visiting with mom & dad. Dad & Phil both have November birthdays and they often met for lunch to celebrate. We were also lucky enough to get an airplane ride. It was an honor to have known Phil. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to all of Phil's family. Estel & Deana George & family.

deana george - March 03, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ Deb Campbell lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Deb Campbell - March 03, 2021 at 10:24 AM

RN

“ Rose Nesius lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Rose Nesius - March 03, 2021 at 10:20 AM

BB

“ Phil and I were colleagues--we shared an office and prepared income tax returns for others. But much more than that, Phil, Shirley and their sons were good friends There are precious memories, including the times when our daughters were young, that Phil and "Woody" had us over to their house on Thompson Street for Thanksgiving and/or Easter dinner. Our sincere condolences to Dick Jeff, and Bruce and their families. We will miss Phil as we do Shirley. With heartfelt love, Allen and Bonnie Broussard

Bonnie & Allen Broussard - March 03, 2021 at 10:05 AM

ML

“ Martha Langley lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Martha Langley - March 03, 2021 at 09:48 AM

JM

“ He was the most thoughtful kind person I ever knew. No matter what i needed i could talk to him and he would find me a solution. I really loved our chats. Its a sad day that he is gone.

J.PHILIP MCGRAW - March 03, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ So sorry to hear this news. Phil was a wonderful man and good friend to our family. I think he was the last of our mom's classmates from the Rensselaer Central High School Class of 1938.

JoAnn Reese - March 03, 2021 at 08:05 AM

MB

“ Myles Beeching lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Myles Beeching - March 03, 2021 at 07:58 AM

ST

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all Phil’s family and friends. I remember him so well growing up. My dad, Walter, thought so much of him as we crossed paths with him many times. May the memories of others who touched his life through the years be felt among you now and give you strength and comfort. God bless all of you.

sandy todd - March 03, 2021 at 01:48 AM

DW

“ Don&Gloria Waymouth lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Don&Gloria Waymouth - March 03, 2021 at 12:23 AM

KC

“ Kendell Culp lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Kendell Culp - March 02, 2021 at 11:17 PM

MW

“ Goodbye grandpa. You were the greatest man I've ever known.

Michael Wood - March 02, 2021 at 08:55 PM

RB

“ Praying for all of you as you mourn the loss of your dad and grandfather. Growing up in Rensselaer, I always felt like Mr. Wood was family. Both he and Mrs. Wood included us for some Easter dinners as our extended family was far away. Later it was always a treat to run into Mr. Wood when I was in town. He had a smile and shared his time to catch up in conversation. He will be missed.

ROBIN BRUNTON - March 02, 2021 at 08:09 PM

KS

“ Kevin And Mary Scheurich lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Kevin and Mary Scheurich - March 02, 2021 at 08:00 PM

JB

“ Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Judy Burvan - March 02, 2021 at 07:54 PM

JB

Such a kind, gentle soul...rest in peace with your sweet Shirley

Judy Burvan - March 02, 2021 at 07:56 PM

TD

“ *Jeff and Bruce and family
So sorry for your loss.
Prayers to you
Terri and Eldon Dalton*

terri dalton - March 02, 2021 at 07:46 PM

TS

“ *Tracey And Donna Smith lit a candle in
memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Tracey and Donna Smith - March 02, 2021 at 07:29 PM

ML

“ *We are so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He was a wonderful
man. We always enjoyed talking with him when we were back in
Rensselaer for a visit.*

Mike & Jeanette Leichty

Michael Leichty - March 02, 2021 at 05:28 PM

GB

“ *Gloria Baier lit a candle in memory of Otto
Phillips Wood*



Gloria Baier - March 02, 2021 at 05:27 PM

GW

“ *Glen And Linda Wood lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Glen and Linda Wood - March 02, 2021 at 05:27 PM

HL

“ *Homer And Theresa Lakin lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Homer and Theresa Lakin - March 02, 2021 at 05:12 PM

JS

“ *Judy Siegrist lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Judy Siegrist - March 02, 2021 at 04:58 PM

JS

“ *Phil was such a wonderful individual. I remember him graciously delivering bird seed to my mothers home when she could no longer drive. My sincere sympathy to the family.*

Judy Smith - March 02, 2021 at 04:53 PM

SD

“ I always enjoyed talking with Phil. Phil always took interest in what was happening in others lives. That to me is the sign of a Humble servant.

Rest well Good and Faithful servant.

Job well done.

Scott Deno - March 02, 2021 at 04:51 PM

GW

“ So sorry for your loss. I have known Phil all my life, as he and his family were our neighbors when I was very young. I never ran into him (or Shirley) that he didn't speak to me. A very exceptional gentleman, he will be missed.



Gayla Warran - March 02, 2021 at 04:49 PM

NA

“ Blue sky's and fair winds Uncle Phil.

Neil Armknecht - March 02, 2021 at 04:49 PM

N-

“ Nancy Sheffer -Poole lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Nancy Sheffer -Poole - March 02, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ I was one of the many people who got their first airplane ride from Phil, igniting a love of all things flight in me! When I passed my pilot's test, I called him right after I called my parents. I still have the date stamped note that he sent to me "Hurrah!". He always had a smile on his face. He was one of those rare individuals that treated you like he had all the time in the world to visit! He will be missed by the entire Rensselaer community.

Cindy Stath - March 02, 2021 at 03:18 PM

CS

“ Sorry For Your Loss Thoughts And Prayers.



Cindy Sheffer - March 02, 2021 at 03:04 PM

GS

“ Gary Sheffer lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Gary Sheffer - March 02, 2021 at 03:03 PM

GK

“ Greg Kaufman lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood



Greg Kaufman - March 02, 2021 at 03:00 PM

KM

“ *Kenny & Maureen lit a candle in memory of Otto Phillips Wood*



Kenny & Maureen - March 02, 2021 at 03:00 PM