



Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel

November 13, 1953 - February 17, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved father, Phil Nagel, who left us unexpectedly at the age of 71. Born in November 1953 in Rensselaer, Indiana, he spent his life dedicated to his parents' farm, his community, and his family, embodying the spirit of hard work and resilience that he learned from his mother, father, and siblings.

We have had the incredible privilege of learning from our father and witnessing firsthand the love and dedication he poured into every aspect of his life. He was always a farmer at heart who loved tractors of any size, believed in sweat equity, and enjoyed the outdoors; he could fix anything and would've given MacGyver a run for his money; he loved card games and anything that challenged his mind, especially Nagel euchre games that also brought out his competitiveness (he was not one that ever let his kids win); he was a steadfast provider who would race across the state from a second job to make a basketball game, and the first to hug you and tell you how proud he was, even when you didn't win. His smarts and talents did not end at just anything mechanical or structural. His incredible voice echoed through the stage at Rensselaer Central, the chapel at St. Joe's, the performances with his barbershop buddies, road trips to college visits in the car, and throughout St. Augustine's church.

Dad spent countless hours providing for his family and never missed an

opportunity to pass down his knowledge to us—all while instilling values of kindness and an appreciation for hard work. Whether it was early mornings filled with donuts and laughter, or evenings spent under the lights of our own basketball court that he built, our home was filled with love and lessons that we will carry with us always.

He was a respected member of the community, known for his willing hands and warm heart. Always ready to lend support to a neighbor in need or just a cup of sugar, his door was always open. His legacy of generosity and friendship to those around him will not be forgotten.

Phil Nagel was preceded in death by his parents, Marie and Louis Nagel. He leaves behind a brother, Louis Nagel, and four sisters, Beth Marcin, Nancy McIntosh, Karen Brunton, and Mary Ellen Crosby; his best friend Kristi Slaby; his three loving children, Kim Boccardi, Eric Nagel, and Janell Haldeman; his 11 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; and a community that will never forget his enduring positive spirit.

We invite friends and family to join us in celebrating his life on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025. There will be a Celebration of Life, where we will share stories and cherish the memories he created with us, at Jackson Funeral Chapel from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm CT, and a mass following at 2:00 pm CT at St. Augustine Catholic Church, with Father Rick Nagel officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to either the Carnegie Players of Rensselaer (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-repair-carnegie-players-future-venue>) or to the maintenance fund at St. Augustine Catholic Church (<https://www.osvhub.com/saugustine-parish/giving/funds>). This reflects his lifelong commitment to the community, keeping music and theatre alive, and his time and talents that were shared with so many.

Rest now, Dad. You will be deeply missed, and your love will forever be in our hearts.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **22**. 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Memorial Mass

FEB **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Augustine Catholic Church
318 North McKinley Avenue
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5351
<https://stmichaelpastorate.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



Jackson Funeral Chapels - February 22, 2025 at 10:27 AM

BW

*What a shock when Ben called me with the news. I have known Phil for. Long time. I sang with him in the Rennselear chapter, when we formed a large chapter and won the district competition then on to Denver in the international competition. The best time was singing with Phil, Larry, Ben and me in the quartet(three longs and a short) what blast that was. Rest In Peace Phil you'll never be forgotten
Bruce*

Bruce Wittgren - February 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM

LR

This is Leo and Alisa Ramer. In Monmouth, Illinois. We last saw phil atbour wedding in 2005 at our wedding at St. MARY'S Cathedral, Peoria, Il. I was Eric's Godfather when he was born in Monmouth. Phil was the world to us!! Music, Church Choir, Choral Dynamics, and a best friend to everyone he knew!!!

Leo And Alisa Ramer - January 29 at 09:34 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*



March 03, 2025 at 02:29 PM



“ *Kim and Eric I was so upset to hear about this. Sending lots of love from Arizona. John Scott*

John Scott - February 26, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ *Nancy, sorry to learn of Phil's passing. In time, may the sadness you feel today be replaced with many of the happy memories you hold in your heart. Wishing you peace. Cheryl Schultz Oreskovich*



Cheryl Schultz - February 24, 2025 at 03:51 PM

EG

“ On December 21st this past year I attended Saturday evening mass at St Augustine's. I had not been there in a couple of years. I didn't need to look up in the choir loft to know whose lovely voice I was hearing. I told my family after Mass that hearing Phil Nagel singing at mass felt like I was being welcomed home. Warm, childlike happy feelings and memories filled my heart in one of those rare moments where all feels right with the world. I imagined that this might be how I would feel entering heaven.

Today I am imagining that Phil is singing with the choirs of angels in Heaven and I will most certainly hear that familiar voice from my childhood welcoming me home to heaven some day. May God bless you all.

Erin McGraw Gehring - February 23, 2025 at 09:52 PM

KS

“ There has been no one I more looked forward to seeing at Cardinal District conventions than Phil. His warmth and sense of humor were uniquely uplifting. My deepest sympathies to the entire family.

Ken Sauer, Valleyaires Chorus, South Bend

Ken Sauer - February 23, 2025 at 05:58 PM

TF

“ The Ganschow and Mallory Families purchased the Lord's Prayer 44" Sonnet for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.



The Ganschow and Mallory Families - February 22, 2025 at 06:05 PM

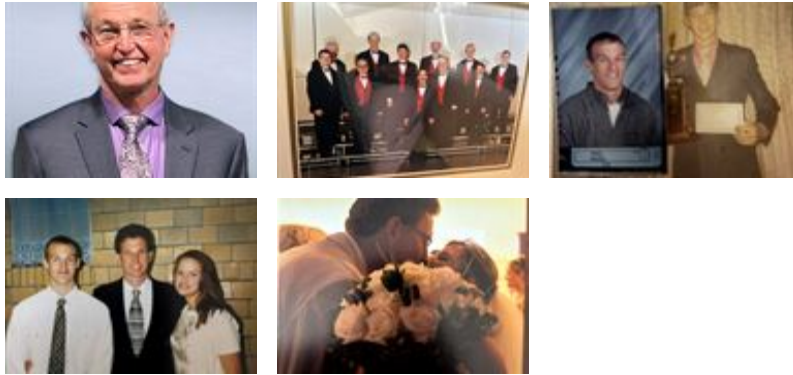
TF

“ The Ganschow and Mallory Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.

The Ganschow and Mallory Families - February 22, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jackson Funeral Chapels - February 22, 2025 at 10:03 AM

SL

“ Suzy Ludington lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



Suzy Ludington - February 22, 2025 at 09:39 AM

ME

“ I met Phil many years ago when I worked at the Rensselaer Library. Always smiling, always friendly, he was a hard-working man who cared about his family and his community. May he rest safely in God's loving arms.

Mary K. Emmrich - February 22, 2025 at 03:02 AM

DM

“ Phil was so easy going and smiled more often than not. It's extremely saddening to hear of his passing. My thoughts go out to his family.

Dalton Mroczek - February 21, 2025 at 11:39 PM

MP

“ Phil was a wonderful human being! He loved his family and his community of Rensselaer. He also loved singing. Phil was a member of Circle City Sound barbershop chorus in Indianapolis. I sang Bass with Phil. He was a very positive and caring person. He was greatly respected and loved in Circle City Sound. Praying for your wonderful family. We will miss you Phil.
Mark Patterson

Mark A Patterson - February 21, 2025 at 11:14 PM

BM

“ My prayers are with you



Barb Miller - February 21, 2025 at 08:46 PM

KM

“ Kyle + Liz McCarthy purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.



Kyle + Liz McCarthy - February 21, 2025 at 06:49 PM

CM

“ My fondest thoughts of St A mass included your dad strumming out a Glory and Praise tune with the rest of the acoustic ensemble. I'm so sorry to hear about your loss, and hope the community outpouring helps you bear your sorrow.

Colleen Mathews - February 21, 2025 at 06:41 PM

LE

I didn't know Phil long, but I always knew who Phil was. He loved his. Community friends and family. In recent months I found Phil to be a kind person, a man who loved life and pursued anything or anyone, that needed a helping hand. Phil had a Spirit about him that few people possess. He was faithful to his God, his family and to his fellow man. Thank you, Phil for who you were, one of a kind.

Lois Evers - February 21, 2025 at 09:54 PM

LL

“ I remember sitting on your lap and throwing out your cards when the adults were euchre. I remember you fixing all the stuff at my mom's house for my high school graduation party. I remember your amazing hugs. I remember you singing Ave Maria at my wedding. I remember you lovingly brag about your kids and grandkids. You will always be remembered. All my love to my cousins, aunts, and uncles. Leah

Leah Lenz - February 21, 2025 at 06:14 PM

MJ

Prayers for all the family! My heart breaks for you. Your father was always so kind and I've never seen him without a smile. So so sorry 🥹

Mary Shipley Jones - February 21, 2025 at 09:20 PM

SD

“ *He will be forever missed. My heart goes out to his Family. Praying for all of you!! Jack & Sherri Donovan*



Sherri Donovan - February 21, 2025 at 01:00 PM

JO

“ *Janice Odom lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel*



Janice Odom - February 21, 2025 at 12:18 PM

MS

“ *Megs, Ty, Mady, Holly, Kit, Stacie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*



Megs, Ty, Mady, Holly, Kit, Stacie - February 21, 2025 at 12:08 PM

SL

“ *Phil was a great a great friend to West Milroy community. He was a great help to us when we got a new mower. Always had a smile and soft gentle encouragement. To his loving family, sorry for your loss! He will live on in you hearts and souls. Susan and Mary Lewis*

Susan and Mary Lewis - February 21, 2025 at 11:12 AM

DB

“ I first met Phil on May 28, 2023. I know this because it was my first night with Circle City Sound. He quickly became a colleague and mentor in the bass section, and I became his student. I listened to him carefully because his insights were always worth hearing, and his songs were worth singing. He had a gift for communication, along with warmth and compassion for others, conveyed through his big smile. He possessed a unique ability to provide honest feedback that helped us all become better people. Recently, he told the group, "A member missed rehearsal the other night. Who among you from the chorus called that individual?" This is just one example of how much he cared about everyone, seemingly more than himself. He was our Chapter Chorus - Circle City Sound President, and I was proud to watch, hear, and see him fulfill that role. On Monday evening, I looked to my right and saw the reality of him not standing in his usual spot, and my heart ached for him. The chorus will never be the same for me without him. He was always there for me, the new guy, and for all the other chorus brothers. I will never forget how proud he was to drive his white Corvette in the 2024 Indy 500 parade, nor will I forget how happy he was then and each time he sang with his brothers. When Andrew, Phil, and I finished our numbers at the October 2024 contest, none of us perceived this as his last contest. How sad it will always be for me to see Phil's riser buddy Paul on my right and not have Phil standing and singing between us. I don't know how to finish this other than to say to anyone: "We all feel so fortunate to have known Phil. All his barbershop chorus buddies are sad and will never stop missing him.”



Dennis Mishler - Barbershopper - February 21, 2025 at 12:22 AM

EE

“ *Ericka, Jason, and Amelia Elijah purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*



Ericka, Jason, and Amelia Elijah - February 20, 2025 at 11:50 PM

PW

“ *Pamela M Wanieck lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel*



Pamela M Wanieck - February 20, 2025 at 10:24 PM

DW

“ *Dave And Becky Walter lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel*



Dave and Becky Walter - February 20, 2025 at 09:34 PM

MB

“ *Myles Beeching lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel*



Myles Beeching - February 20, 2025 at 08:01 PM

VZ

“ We are so sorry to have to say goodbye to Phil so soon. He was a shining light in a dark world.

Phil's on stage performances with the Carnegie Players were always entertaining. He had great timing and a wonderful sense of humor that shown through his characters.

Off stage, Phil was friendly, quick with a smile, and a quip to make you laugh. He will be greatly missed.



VERONICA L ZENNER - February 20, 2025 at 07:07 PM

KD

So sorry to hear of Phil's passing. What a wonderful ,talented, giving person he was. I always enjoyed Directing Phil in so many Musicals and plays for Carnegie. Always a joy and will be missed greatly!

Karen Kelley Dugan - February 20, 2025 at 11:52 PM

TB

“ *It breaks my heart to hear this.
Mr Nagel and his kids were a part of mine and my sister's childhood memories, and growing up in the Bomber high school sports-world you always knew he would be there at the games to offer a supportive high-five, a congratulations, or an encouraging word!
What a great man.
Rest in peace Mr Nagel...*

Tara Burman - February 20, 2025 at 06:44 PM

RM

“ *The Northern Union barbershop chorus is the reason I met Phil. We had some great times practicing in Knox and our trip to Denver for International contest. Phil was a great guy. I send my condolences to you all as your celebrate a Life, well lived.*

Randy McGriff - February 20, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*



February 20, 2025 at 06:03 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*

February 20, 2025 at 06:03 PM

ML

“ *Martha Langlely lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel*



Martha Langlely - February 20, 2025 at 06:03 PM

LK

“ Larry And Judy Koebcke lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



larry and judy Koebcke - February 20, 2025 at 05:51 PM

HT

“ Wonderful man. Always smiling and didn't know a stranger. He will be deeply missed.

Harley Tomlinson - February 20, 2025 at 05:38 PM

MR

“ Sad, sad news and Phil will be dearly missed in the choir loft at St. A. I know the angels will appreciate his humor, kindness and ability to find the harmony line and sing it with gusto. This is a huge loss for our parish family and the Rensselaer community. My deepest sympathies to his children and grandchildren, of whom he was SO proud!

Maggie Bahler Rizzio - February 20, 2025 at 05:33 PM

IC

“ I've always looked up to Phil. I first met him on the set of Sherlock Holmes in 2023. He was naturally hilarious, and inclined to leave you smiling with his wit and charm. I have either performed with or witnessed the magic of his innate showmanship in four shows with The Carnegie Players. And the entire time, he always knew my name, and greeted me warmly. This was the effect I believe he had on everyone. He was an awesome guy, and he was taken far too soon. This is a tragedy, and he will be sorely missed by all those that had the privilege of meeting him. You were a mentor and friend to all, Phil!

Isaac Calhoun - February 20, 2025 at 04:54 PM

PE

“ A dear friend with so much life left to live, taken too soon. You will be dearly missed. Rest in Peace, Phil.



Paul Ellingson - February 20, 2025 at 03:42 PM

DE

“ Have known Phil since high school.....obviously choir! He had such a beautiful voice that he continued to share with everyone! A gentleman, greeting everyone by name and with a smile. Will miss him.....



Deb (Rose) Ellis - February 20, 2025 at 03:42 PM

JS

“ It was my honor getting to know Phil the last few years. He was our "Handy Man" at St. Augustine School. He could fix anything. I personally enjoyed our chats. He had a great sense of humor, a kind voice, and was a great role model to our students who loved him dearly. Phil loved sharing pictures and stories from his visits with his children and grandchildren. He was a very proud of them all.

He will be greatly missed by his school family at St. Augustine.

Rest in peace Phil

Juli Simmons

Juli Simmons - February 20, 2025 at 03:32 PM

CG

“ Cathy Prohosky Goin lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



Cathy Prohosky Goin - February 20, 2025 at 03:20 PM

PS

“ I will never forget you, my friend. You always had my back. We sang in church together, musicals together, Barbershop in Rensselaer, and with Circle City Sound together. Music is what kept us together. May you rest in Peace and sing with the angels.

Peter Schulenburg - February 20, 2025 at 03:12 PM



“ He will be missed. May God hold him in his loving arms and bless and watch over his loved ones. Amen



Kimberly Hudson-Nagel - February 20, 2025 at 03:08 PM



“ The Pearson Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.



The Pearson Family - February 20, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ The Pearson Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.

The Pearson Family - February 20, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ Jim And Sandy Miller lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



Jim and Sandy Miller - February 20, 2025 at 03:06 PM

RS

“ Thoughts and Prayers to your family, it was always a joy when we seen Phil. God’s comfort and may He give you many precious memories.

Roger and Vicki Steffen - February 20, 2025 at 02:59 PM

HS

“ From my very first barbershop event, Phil always was so welcoming to me, always, always there with his big smile and a big hug! We will miss him!

Heidi Spence - February 20, 2025 at 02:32 PM

JB

“ Three years ago Phil came to my daughters showing after she passed away from covid. I thought that was so kind and I

Jane Bailey - February 20, 2025 at 02:31 PM

DH

“ Debby Hopp sent a virtual gift in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



Debby Hopp - February 20, 2025 at 02:20 PM

DS

“ Debby Hopp , With Deepst Sympathy lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel



Debby Hopp , with Deepst Sympathy - February 20, 2025 at 02:14 PM

DS

“ *Debby Hop Anderson , With Our Deepest Sy lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel*



Debby Hop Anderson , with Our Deepest Sy - February 20, 2025 at 02:11 PM

JC

“ *Have known Phil for about 30 years. Was with him in barbershop singing and over the past 7 years with the Carnegie Players. If you needed help with something, he would always be there. He put alot of time and passion into the renovation of Carnegie's building, He was a friend and my life is better for it.*

Jay Covill - February 20, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*



February 20, 2025 at 01:52 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.*

February 20, 2025 at 01:52 PM

TR

“ *In memory and honor of a wonderful person. My condolences to the entire Nagel family. I am so very sorry for your loss.* ”



Teresa J Rishel - February 20, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.* ”



February 20, 2025 at 01:45 PM

JM

“ *Jerry Miller lit a candle in memory of Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel* ”



Jerry Miller - February 20, 2025 at 01:38 PM

JE

“ *So many memories of Phil. From singing barbershop, sharing the stage in Carnegie productions, and a ride in his "new" Corvette. He taught me so much about theatre and barbershop. I am going to miss him so much. Rest in Peace my dear friend.* ”

Jim Earnest - February 20, 2025 at 01:33 PM

ED

“ I'm sorry to hear this.
I first met Phil on the RCHS Swim Team.
I'm sure he will be missed.
My condolences to the Nagel family.

Ed Davisson - February 20, 2025 at 01:30 PM

GB

“ Gloria Baier lit a candle in memory of Phillip
"Phil" R. Nagel



Gloria Baier - February 20, 2025 at 01:26 PM

DH

“ Dale Huhn lit a candle in memory of Phillip
"Phil" R. Nagel



Dale Huhn - February 20, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Phillip "Phil" R. Nagel.



February 20, 2025 at 01:22 PM

CH

“ I will forever miss his vibrant smile, warm hugs, beautiful voice and generous spirit. He was so proud of his children and grandchildren and never missed an opportunity to share a picture and latest achievement.

Rest in peace, dear Phil.

Cathy (Nagel) Hanna - February 20, 2025 at 01:21 PM

JB

“ Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of Phillip
"Phil" R. Nagel



Judy Burvan - February 20, 2025 at 01:13 PM