

Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home

426 Main Street • Great Barrington • MA • 01230
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In Memory Of Philip J. Reilly

Mr. Philip J. Reilly, 73, of Baldwin Hill in Egremont died Thursday, April 5, 2007 in Wayne, New Jersey, where he moved two weeks ago to be closer to his family.

Born in Brooklyn on October 5, 1933, he was the son of Farrell and Mary V. Molloy Reilly. He graduated from Manhattan Prep High School and attended St. John's University in New York City.

In his youth Phil was an extremely talented athlete and an Eagle scout. At Manhattan Prep, he was on the varsity basketball team, the cross country team and the swim team. He continued playing basketball after high school, and played for the Navy, the Marine Corp and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

A naval veteran, Phil enlisted in the United States Navy in 1951 and was assigned to aviation. He was a 3rd class petty officer when he was honorably discharged in 1953.

Phil attended the Port Authority Police Academy, and served as a police officer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey before moving into aviation in 1956. In 1962, Phil was awarded the Port Authority Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service by then PA Chairman Austin J. Tobin, after he ran into a burning building in Elizabeth, New Jersey and safely helped the occupants evacuate. He spent 33 years with the Port Authority in airport operations at Kennedy and Newark International Airports, where he met every President from Johnson through Reagan and many other dignitaries throughout his career. He was Airport Operation Manager of Newark Airport when he retired in 1989. Phil then worked at the Barnstable Airport in Hyannis, Cape Cod as a manager before retiring in 1995.

He married his wife, the former Joan M. Tenny on August 20, 1955 at St. Jerome's Church in Brooklyn, New York. The couple lived in Brooklyn before moving to Howell Township in New Jersey. In 1967 they moved to Point Pleasant Beach in New Jersey where Phil was a little league coach and the Assistant Scoutmaster to his sons' scout troop # 6. In 1989, they made their home in Barnstable, MA before moving to Egremont in 1995. The couple were married for forty-six years when Joan passed away on July 16, 2002.

In Egremont Phil was very involved in the community. He served as the water commissioner for the town of Egremont from 1995-2001 and was a twice elected selectman for the town, serving as chairman of the Select Board until he resigned for health reasons in January 2007. He also was on the Advisory Board for Elder Services of Berkshire County for many years.

Throughout the years Phil's true passion was always aviation. He loved everything about airplanes and flying and had his pilot's license for many years.

He is survived by his three sons, David J. Reilly and his wife Maryclaire of Ringwood, New Jersey; Robert F. Reilly and his wife Sheila of Long Beach, Maryland; and John P. Reilly and his wife Jill of Midlothian, Virginia. He also leaves his seven grandchildren; Meghan, Brian, Michael, Connor, Logan, Shannon and Kaitlyn.

Liturgical Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at ten o'clock at St. Peter's Church in Great Barrington, conducted by Rev. William Murphy, pastor. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Egremont.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 9, 2007 from two until four and seven until nine at Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.