



## Don Phillips

July 10, 1923 - January 23, 2025

Donald Joe Phillips was born at home on Tuesday, July 10, 1923, in Kansas City, Missouri, the firstborn child of Dewey Ross and Irene (Bradley) Phillips. He passed this life at his home in Broken Arrow on Thursday, January 23, 2025 with his wife and family at his side. He was 101 years, 6 months and 13 days of age.

Don's father was a machinist and his mother a housewife. Don graduated from East High School in Kansas City, Missouri in 1941. He attended Georgetown University in Georgetown, Texas. Don was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving during WWII. After attending the Navy School of Music in Washington DC, he was stationed on the USS Nevada from 1942-1948, as the trombone player. Don's Navy Band did a Goodwill Tour at the end of the War to multiple foreign ports including London. He married a Londoner, Diane Hamilton in 1946, and welcomed daughter Sandra Diane in 1947. They relocated to Chicago, but the couple divorced a few years later. Don and Sandy moved home to Kansas City, where Don began working for Safeway Grocery Stores.

After meeting on a blind date setup by co-workers, Don married the former Miss Ralpa Beatty in Independence, Missouri on April 18, 1953. They welcomed daughter Donna Jean. He and Ralpa have been married for 71 years.

Don's long career included being promoted to District Manager, then Retail Operations Manager, and eventually Vice President/Division Manager in multiple divisions including Oklahoma City, El Paso, Little Rock and Tulsa. He later transitioned the stores from Safeway to Homeland Stores in Oklahoma. After retiring in 1989, Don played golf almost daily for 30 years and is proud to say that he made five holes-in-one. Don saw many innovations during his 101 year life, such as modern computers and cell phone technology, which he did NOT embrace! His encouraging words of wisdom to us are, "Do Everything in Moderation – Eating, Drinking and Work; Get Enough Sleep and Be Kind to Those You Meet". Don was recently inducted into the Centenarians of Oklahoma. He was a long time member of Indian Springs Country Club.

He is survived by,

His wife, Ralph Phillips of the home

Daughters, Sandy and husband Rich Alstedt of Georgetown TX

Donna and husband Gary Williams of Sapulpa, OK

Grandchildren , Lindsay Smith and husband Jason Shamblin of Washington DC;

Jessica McWater and husband Bryan Lemmons of Sand Springs; and Devin Williams of Sand Springs

Great Grandchild, Hunter McWater of Stillwater

He was preceded in death by his father, Dewey and stepmother Betty Phillips, mother Irene Phillips, and his three younger siblings; Dorothy Linn, Frank Phillips, and Edward Phillips.



# Cemetery Details

## Floral Haven Memorial Gardens

6500 S. 129th E. Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74012  
(918) 252-2518

# Previous Events

## Viewing

JAN 30. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

JAN 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

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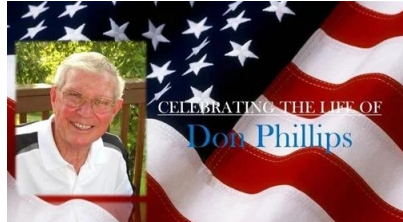
JAN 31. 1:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
[hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com](mailto:hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Don Phillips*



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**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - January 31, 2025 at 01:19 PM

LS

“ *I have had the pleasure of knowing Don & Ralph for the last 13 years. Don is one of the sweetest & most charming men I have ever known with the best sense of humor! I loved hearing all the stories he told about his grocery days and all about his precious family that he adored so much. I will miss him dearly and our talks, it was an honor to know him!*

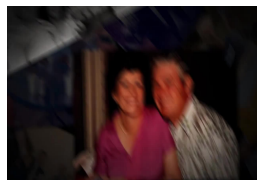
*Lori Smith*

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**Lori Smith** - January 30, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Hayhurst Funeral Home** - January 30, 2025 at 05:10 PM

MA

*What a tremendous tribute to a well-lived, long life. RIP, Don!*

**Marilyn** - January 31, 2025 at 04:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Phillips.*



January 30, 2025 at 03:09 PM

JG

“ *John and Cindy Gladd purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Don Phillips.*



**John and Cindy Gladd** - January 30, 2025 at 11:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Phillips.*



January 29, 2025 at 06:28 PM

MF

“ Michele Reynolds & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Don Phillips.



Michele Reynolds & Family - January 29, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Don Phillips.



January 29, 2025 at 10:38 AM

KH

“ Keith, Sarah, Wally & Graeme Hansen purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Don Phillips.



Keith, Sarah, Wally & Graeme Hansen - January 28, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Don Phillips.



January 28, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Phillips.



January 28, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Emmett L. Smith, Friend 1st; Bug Man 2nd planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Phillips.

Emmett L. Smith, Friend 1st; Bug Man 2nd - January 28, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ Emmett L. Smith, Friend 1st; Bug Man 2nd purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Don Phillips.



Emmett L. Smith, Friend 1st; Bug Man 2nd - January 28, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Don's 100th Birthday Celebration



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 28, 2025 at 10:36 AM

PL

“ Pam and Larry Leibrock purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Don Phillips.



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**Pam and Larry Leibrock** - January 27, 2025 at 03:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Phillips.

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January 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don Phillips.



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January 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM

DW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Donna Williams** - January 27, 2025 at 07:23 AM

TC

“ Tom, Deborah, Sarah and family, Cortland purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Don Phillips.



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**Tom, Deborah, Sarah and family, Cortland** - January 26, 2025 at 07:17 AM

TC

“ Tom, Deborah, Sarah and family, Cortland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Phillips.

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**Tom, Deborah, Sarah and family, Cortland** - January 26, 2025 at 07:17 AM

JG

“ It is with warm memories that I recall Don and Ralpa from many years ago. Although there is sadness at Don’s passing, it is tempered by the gift of his long life...a life well-lived. Sincere condolences to Ralpa and family.

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**Jan Gordon** - January 26, 2025 at 04:03 AM

BF

“ Buzz and Phyllis Mueller and family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Don Phillips.



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**Buzz and Phyllis Mueller and family** - January 26, 2025 at 01:58 AM

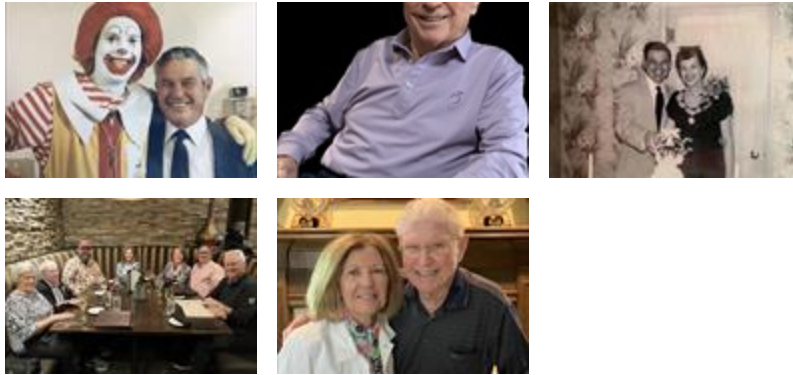
NC

“ Don has been such a joy in my life over the last few months. My friends, family, even a casual conversation with a stranger, got to hear a story or two about my baby, Don and his demure wife, Ralpa. Don is a rare jewel, a wonderful story teller, and knew his produce! Don and I teased, poked fun, and drank Dr. Pepper with the best of them. Being present with him, and his family the last few days has been a privilege, honor, and forever a piece of my heart.

Nicole Hiatt CNA - January 25, 2025 at 10:15 AM

DW

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Donna Williams - January 25, 2025 at 09:19 AM

DW

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Devin Williams - January 24, 2025 at 07:56 AM

DW

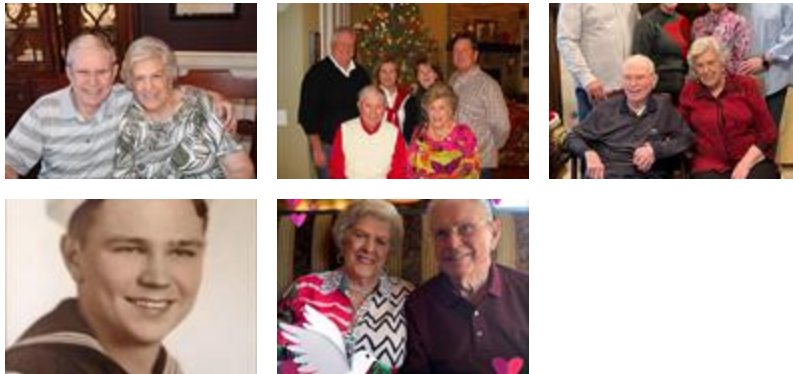
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Devin Williams - January 24, 2025 at 07:51 AM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 23, 2025 at 04:28 PM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Phillips family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Don.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - January 23, 2025 at 04:06 PM