



## James Phillip "Phil" Roberts

October 4, 1940 - September 21, 2020

James Phillip "Phil" Roberts, 79, of New Castle passed away peacefully on the evening of Monday, September 21, 2020 at home surrounded by his family.

He was born on October 4, 1940 in New Castle a son of the late Robert S. and Dula Odeen (Huckeby) Roberts.

Phil attended New Castle Chrysler High School and graduated in 1959. In 1960 he began International Barber School in Indianapolis and started cutting hair with Wilbur's before it transitioned to Varsity Barber Shop on 14th street. Phil co-owned Varsity Barber Shop with Richard Brown, "Brownie", for 46 years before retiring. Phil and Brownie also owned and operated a motorcycle shop from Phil's garage where they would rebuild and repair motorcycles. Phil was elected as City Councilman in 1980 and served until 1990. He was a former member of the Evening Optimists Club and lifetime member of the National Sporting Clays Association.

Phil married the love of his life, Sharon Malone, on July 9, 1961. They enjoyed many things together, especially boating on the weekends with their family on the Ohio River and later travelling for clay shooting competitions. Phil was an avid football fan and served as a coach of New Castle Little League Football from 1971-1974. He loved watching his boys play and coach high school and

college football. Phil and Sharon would never miss a game.

Those left to cherish his memory include his loving wife of 59 years, Sharon (Malone) Roberts; sons, Shayne (wife: Vickie Painter) Roberts of Phillips, WI and Shannon (wife: Lisa Suttner) Roberts of Bloomington, IN; grandchildren, Caitlin (husband: Mitch) Larson of Clear Lake, IA, Thomas Roberts of Salt Lake City, UT, Mitchell Roberts of Madison, WI, Sam Roberts of Bozeman, MT, Lily and Luke Roberts both of Bloomington; a sister, Diann Wooldridge of Muncie; nieces, Kelli Johnson and Kris (husband: Ken) Johnson-Whetsel both of Muncie; great-niece, Morgan Johnson and great-nephew Matthew Medecke both of Muncie; brother-in-law, Stephen (wife: Debbie) Malone and their son Brant Malone of New Castle and numerous cousins and extended family.

Phil always had a tough time with the smells from flowers. In lieu of flowers the family would encourage you to make a memorial contribution to the New Castle Trojan Youth Football or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of life will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2020 at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Pastor Jerry Ingalls officiating.

Friends may call from 2 – 4 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Phil Roberts.

\*\*\*Due to the COVID-19 virus masks and social distancing will be recommended. With the safety of others in mind, please do not attend if you feel any symptoms of illness.\*\*\*



# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **25**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

## Service

SEP **25**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ Sharon, In addition to regular barber visits over the years, I had the pleasure to meet with Phil twice monthly from 1980 - 1988 while we served on the New Castle City Council together and sat next to each other. Phil always greeted me with "How's Doug?" We enjoyed each other's company and "doing the peoples business" of governing. Phil was quite the campaigner and I always thought the barber shop gave him a great advantage over his opponents. Phil was a fine person. .

*We're thinking of you, Sharon, and family. Doug and Jennifer Kinser*

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**Doug Kinser** - October 01, 2020 at 11:35 AM

LW

“ Sharon and Family, We are so sorry to read the news of Phil's passing. Our prayers for God's grace, comfort, and peace are lifted for you all.  
*Lora and Terry Wright*

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**Lora Wright** - September 30, 2020 at 02:34 PM

MD

“ Sharon and Family, We are sorry for your loss and sending you our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, Myron and Nancy Dickerson

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**Myron and Nancy Dickerson** - September 25, 2020 at 10:06 PM

LF

“ Sharon, I am sorry to hear of your husband's passing. You are in my prayers today and in the days to come.

*Barbara (Abrams) Fairchild*

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**Lane and Barbara Fairchild** - September 25, 2020 at 02:44 PM

RR

“ I've known Phil since I was a kid, I got my flattop haircut from him!nHe was a great friend and barber. My two boys got their first hair cut from him and brownie. Sending sympathy to his family, and prayers for God's grace on each of you.



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**Ron Ragan** - September 24, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Phillip "Phil" Roberts.



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September 24, 2020 at 05:17 PM

PE

“ Sharon, so sorry for your loss. You had a wonderful life together and were blessed to be able to share his life. He was such a warm and helpful person. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Phil Eskew

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**Phil and Ann Eskew** - September 24, 2020 at 12:00 PM

DB

“ Phil came over to the station where I worked when he was 13 years old and tell about his shooting. I knew he love to shoot his gun and we would talk about it for some time. R I P Phil may God be with you and the family

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**don brumley** - September 24, 2020 at 10:22 AM

FN

“ From Caitlin's work family at MercyOne NIMC purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James Phillip "Phil" Roberts.



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**From Caitlin's work family at MercyOne NIMC** - September 24, 2020 at 10:16 AM

JW

“ Sharon,  
I'm sorry to hear about Phil passing away. I didn't know Phil much at all but I have always admired the care you always gave him. The personal and professional sacrifices you made, without hesitation, to care for him over the past several years speaks volumes of your love for him. I know you will miss him dearly. Please lean on family and friends during the quiet days ahead. Looking forward to seeing you back at the HOF one day. Prayers for you and your family.  
Judi Warren

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**Judi Warren** - September 23, 2020 at 04:55 PM

RD


“ Phil was one of a kind. He was the king pen of New Castle and he seemed to know everyone as well as all of the citizens knew him. He and his lovely wife, Sharon, were a unique couple that were in love with one another since the school years. Phil will be missed as he was a great communicator. From OLD friends Roger and Renee Dickinson. God bless Sharon, the boys and all of the family.

Roger Dickinson - September 23, 2020 at 03:49 PM

MS

I loved Phil Roberts! He was a very special man. Sharon, Shayne and Shannon have the same special qualities as Phil. I coached the boys through high school with Phil's help. later I hired Shannon to coach with me at Marion. I love this family and pray for God's strength to help them through this trying time.

Love,

Coach 

Mark Surface - September 24, 2020 at 03:52 PM

JP

“ Hello Sharon and Family, Although I did not know Phil that well, I know how much you and family cherished his life with all of you. Jan and I send our deepest sympathies to you. I really miss seeing you around the HOF, Sharon, as I have spent much time there the last few years, especially this year and next as President. Personal blessings to you and family during this tough time. Sorry I cannot be there in person Friday but will be thinking of you. Look forward to seeing you very soon. Jerry Peirson, President IBHOF

Jerry Peirson - September 23, 2020 at 03:22 PM

JM

“ Rest in peace Phil. I miss getting my hair cut and talking cars and motorcycles in the mid 60's before I moved from indiana.

Jack May - September 23, 2020 at 01:52 PM

FJ

*Sharon and family may our Lord God Heavenly Father be and Abide with you all. We will miss him. From Frank, Tom, and, Clint*

Frank wolka Jr - September 23, 2020 at 05:59 PM

JP

“ I just lost a great friend.

Jim Perkins - September 23, 2020 at 11:00 AM

GG

“ Sharon and family, My prayers and caring thoughts are sent to you at this sad time. May god give you peace... Grace Lord Galvin

grace galvin - September 23, 2020 at 10:44 AM

MN

“ Phil was a wonderful gentleman, a great barber and a friend. God's Blessings to Phil and all of his family.

Michael Neal - September 23, 2020 at 10:14 AM

CJ

“ Our condolences to the Roberts Family! Phil was a great friend and will be sorely missed indeed 😞

Curt and Lisa Jackson - September 23, 2020 at 08:53 AM

LJ

“ Linda & Monty Johnson lit a candle in memory of James Phillip "Phil" Roberts



Linda & Monty Johnson - September 23, 2020 at 07:21 AM

DH

*I will always remember my first haircut. Phil, my second cousin, had the honor and he continued cutting my hair until I left for the military in 77'. He always had the latest happenings, going on in New Castle and we all will miss him very much. RIP my friend.*

David Hukeby - September 24, 2020 at 10:08 AM

DL

“*Dear Sharon and family, I'm so sorry to hear of Phil's passing. My condolences to you and yours.*

*Dave Laird*

Dave Laird - September 23, 2020 at 03:43 AM

BS

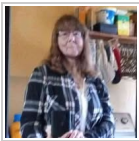
*Sad news. My condolences. He was always such a friendly face to see.*

Becky Skinner - September 23, 2020 at 11:18 AM

GK

“*Sending our love to Sharon and the family. So many good memories of our times shooting and visiting together.*  
*Lance and Gwen Kettering*

Gwen Kettering - September 22, 2020 at 09:58 PM



“*My memories are of Phil cutting Dads hair and the get togethers with you (Sharon) and Phil with Mom and Dad & us We all had Great Times <3*



Jonni Lumpkin - September 22, 2020 at 08:49 PM

FM

“ Fred Marion lit a candle in memory of James Phillip "Phil" Roberts



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**Fred Marion** - September 22, 2020 at 07:49 PM

MR

“ Phil cut my hair for many years at Wilbur's and the Varsity and would always talk to me about the memories he had of my Dad when I would see him out in town. Rest in peace Phil

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**Mike Ragan** - September 22, 2020 at 06:11 PM

TC

“ The congregation of St John Lutheran Church purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Phillip "Phil" Roberts.



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**The congregation of St John Lutheran Church** - September 22, 2020 at 05:39 PM

JE

“ Phil and Brownie cut my hair many times...I always enjoyed my visits to Varsity Barbershop..

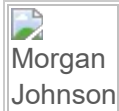
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**Jerry Eaton** - September 22, 2020 at 05:15 PM

JN

“ I enjoyed taking care of Phil when he was in the hospital. Gave him lots of breathing treatments. I enjoyed the conversations with his wife and sister. Rest In Peace Phil.

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**Janie Norrick** - September 22, 2020 at 04:27 PM



Morgan  
Johnson

Thank you so much for taking such good care of my great Uncle! I truly appreciate you and all that you did for him. Thank you so much ❤️

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**Morgan Johnson** - September 22, 2020 at 09:04 PM

JM

Rest in peace Phil. Miss those days in the mid 60's getting a hair cut and talking cars and motorcycles.  
Jack May

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**Jack May** - September 23, 2020 at 12:14 PM

DN

Our thoughts and prayers to Sharon and the family. Phil assisted and touched many people. Thanks for assisting the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Dave & Julia Nicholson

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**Dave Nicholson** - September 23, 2020 at 03:15 PM