



## Mr. Philip Anthony Pfeifer

April 4, 1928 - June 29, 2014

Salem, SC – Philip Anthony Pfeifer, 86, husband of Claudette Lucille Couillard Pfeifer, of Salem, SC, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 29, 2014 at Oconee Medical Center surrounded by his children, several grandchildren, and his beloved wife. Philip's friends, Fr. Bernard Okokon of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and Fr. Emmanuel Andinam, blessed his passage to his Heavenly Father.

Philip was born on April 4, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan, where many family members and friends treasure his memory. Philip graduated from St. Joseph High School, University of Detroit, and served our country as a Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Philip worked in various capacities for the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit, Michigan, New Castle, Indiana, and Dayton, Ohio. He retired as a Division Controller.

Philip was a man of deep and abiding faith in his Church and his God. Wherever he lived, Philip was an active and vital member of his Catholic Parish. He loved his family, his many friends, and most of all, his sweetheart Claudette. Philip was a natural leader of any organization fortunate to have him as a member. He rendered thoughtful advice freely, but without judgment or prejudice. Anyone who met and had the opportunity to know Philip considers him an important person in their lives. Each of Philip's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren know they have a special place in his

heart. His passing leaves us empty, but we are much fuller and better people for the joy and privilege of having had Philip in our lives.

In addition to his wife Claudette of 64 years, Philip is survived by his children, Suzanne (John) Burke of Utica, Michigan, Mary Breech and Judy (Ray) Prendeville of Columbus, Ohio, Paulette (Steve) Davis of Salem, SC, Jackie (Tim) Butler Loveland, Ohio, Joe Pfeifer of Salem, SC, and Chris (Kelly) Pfeifer of West Chester, Ohio; a sister, Rosemary Peabody; twenty one grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Thomas Joseph and Margaret Schmeltzer Pfeifer, Philip was predeceased by sisters, Frances Ringel, Eileen Van Schaemelhout, and Patricia LaFaive; brothers, Thomas Pfeifer and James Pfeifer.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Saturday, July 05, 2014 at 11:00 AM at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Seneca, SC. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, August 30, 2014, at 10:00 AM at St. Therese of Lisieux in Shelby Township, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Oconee Geriatric and Palliative Medicine: 501 Keowee School Rd, Seneca, SC 29672.

The family is at the residence.

# Previous Events

## Mass of Resurrection

JUL 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church  
170 Bountyland  
Seneca, SC 29672  
<http://afpparish.org?>

## Memorial Service

AUG 30. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish  
48115 Schoenherr Rd  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
<http://www.stthereseeparish.ws/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Philip Anthony Pfeifer*

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January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *It seems that every day we are bidding a bittersweet farewell to a member of the Greatest Generation, and that is all the more poignant as I write these words.*

*I had the great privilege to be on the staff of St. Paul's Parish in 1996 and 1997. There were several bright lights there, but Phil's was the brightest. He brought me a kindness that was not flashy or called attention to himself, but one that invited me to love God even deeper. I'll always be grateful for that.*

*In the many years since I've been grateful to remain in touch with him. He has always shown that light and his support has meant more than I can express.*

*When I get to Heaven I have a long list of people I want to look up. Phil is high on that list.*

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**Tom Allain** - July 06, 2014 at 01:20 PM

ME

“ Please allow me to offer my condolences to the, Pfeifer family with these comforting words: The pain, the grief, and the feelings of helplessness can seem unbearable. At such times, we need to go to God's Word for comfort. (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) The Bible helps us to understand how God feel about death. You see, God promises, "your dead will live" again. (Isaiah 26:19) I am very sorry for your loss. May God's Word comfort you and your family. Sincerely, Meryl  
~ [crochetmerylsway@gmail.com](mailto:crochetmerylsway@gmail.com)

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**Meryl** - July 05, 2014 at 09:22 PM

BB

“ My limited yet cherished time with Phil Pfeifer and his family left no doubt in my mind that he was a man of abiding faith and principle. He respected everyone and because he led by sterling example, was clearly respected in return.

*Beyond the mourning there MUST be smiles: Phil from heaven looking down on his wonderful family that he loves so dearly, and each and every family member knowing that the fabric of his amazing character will forever be a part of their DNA.*

*Blessings to Claudette and the entire Pfeifer clan.....*

*Bob Buyalos :)  
Columbus, Oh*

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**bob buyalos** - July 05, 2014 at 06:52 AM

BM

“ Dear Judy and Mary,  
What wonderful tributes and memories so many have shared. The two of you reflect his faith and love for others.  
Thinking of you both, sending prayers for strength and peace.  
Xoxox Becki McGrady

Becki McGrady - July 03, 2014 at 01:27 PM

SB

“ I was blessed to have such a wonderful person as my Papa. I will always have the countless memories and lessons I have learned from him. I will forever treasure the time we spent together. Love you Papa.

Shane Burke - July 03, 2014 at 06:01 AM

TB

“ Phil was a perfect model of a Catholic husband, father, and grandfather. We were so fortunate to learn these lessons from him, and his legacy will be passed on to those future generations who are taught his virtues and values. If you are a friend (or even better, a family member) of Phil Pfeifer's, there is nothing he will not do to help you, guide you, and teach you. Thank you, Phil, for all you taught our family through the years, and living the Gospel every day of your life.

Tim Butler - July 02, 2014 at 08:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Philip Anthony Pfeifer.



July 02, 2014 at 07:34 PM

JB

“ I could fill a book with my reminiscence of this great man, my grandfather, and someday I very well might. In the meantime, though, I'll limit myself to this: In my relatively short life, I have not yet encountered anyone so thoughtful, loving, and pious, and I doubt I ever will. In my 20 years, my Papa bequeathed several lifetimes of love, memories, and wisdom that I'll forever cherish. In the wake of his passing, realizing that a man so intelligent dedicated his twilight years to his family and his faith has humbled me greatly. In return, I shall dedicate the rest of my life both to striving for his example, and to keeping his memory alive, both for those who knew him well and for those who never did. Such a great man deserves nothing less.

*Sincerely,*

*Jack Butler*

*PS*

*I feel I must add that this was a reading at mass the day before he passed away (from 2: Timothy 4):*

*"For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.*

*But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

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**Jack Butler** - July 02, 2014 at 03:21 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Jackie Butler** - July 02, 2014 at 03:05 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Jackie Butler** - July 02, 2014 at 03:04 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Jackie Butler** - July 02, 2014 at 02:59 PM

CB

“ Only happy thoughts come to mind when I think of my Papa. He was a leader, a teacher, but most of all, a friend. He impacted the lives of all those fortunate enough to have met him, and he had a way of bringing out the best in people. I know that I always felt special in his presence.

*The story I always tell people about my Papa is that of the elephant room. When Phil was a young boy, he spent a lot of time at the elephant room in his local zoo. The reason he spent so much time in this room was because of the scent. Most people found the scent to be utterly horrific, but Phil adored the smell and kept coming back for more. One day, the zoo announced that they would be closing Phil's beloved elephant room. Devastated, he went into the elephant room was last time and captured the scent in a tightly sealed jar.*

*What makes this story so significant is that Phil kept that jar after all these years. It is currently sitting in a cabinet in Keowee Key next to other beloved items of his, including things that his children and grandchildren and other loved ones have made throughout the years. Phil has always kept the things he loves very close to his heart.*

*My papa is the most selfless man I have ever known, who found joy in making others feel important. I hope to continue his legacy in my own life by living each day a little more like he would have. We all have an angel looking over us, and I know there is an elephant room in heaven. There goes a saint.*

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**Colleen Butler** - July 02, 2014 at 02:48 PM



“ Philip Anthony Pfeifer, my Papa, was a tremendous man. Though it pains me greatly now to look back on the delightful memories made while I and his twenty other grandchildren grew up, how blessed I feel to have had the opportunity to make them. My Papa was a sea (lake) captain, a treasure map maker, a storyteller. He taught me to accept only the utmost respect from other people, but more importantly, to conduct myself in a way that proved I deserved it.

When I was a small girl my Papa started to call me Hephzibah. Though I am sure he once told me how my nickname originated, many years have passed and all I could remember is that it came to be after a Bible Study. On the day he passed, I looked it up. Hephzibah, in its direct Hebrew Translation, means "in her I delight." You see, my Papa had this incredible ability to make any person he met not just feel, but KNOW they were an important part of his life. Every single person he encountered was better for it. But I, & my siblings, & our family, we were the truly blessed ones. He gave us his everything.

My Papa was so full, & spending 24 wonderful years in his presence has made me so full of love.

To a man who is greater than words: Philip Anthony Pfeifer, My Papa. A Saint.

We are forever yours &, when I close my eyes & listen, I can hear you singing our song.

Now you really have the voice of an angel.

"She's my Annie, I'm her beau. How I love her, don't you know. Soon we'll marry, never to part. Because Little Annie Butler, is my sweet heart."

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Annie Butler - July 02, 2014 at 02:40 PM

EB

“ *Papa was a true original. He was such an inspiration to all who knew him and he will be deeply missed. I feel so lucky to have had my wonderful grandfather in my life for almost 40 years. Love to you all. I wish I could be there with you. Love, Erin*

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**Erin Burke** - July 02, 2014 at 02:29 PM

CB

“*My Papa, my teacher, but most of all, my friend. Only happy thoughts come to mind when I think about my grandfather. He had a way of making every person he met feel special, and I know that he impacted the lives of all those who had the pleasure of meeting him. I am incredibly thankful for everything Phil Pfeifer has given me throughout the years, and I wouldn't trade my memories with him for gold.*

*The story I tell most about my Papa is that of the elephant room. When Phil was young, he loved the way the elephant room at his local zoo smelled. Most people thought the smell to be utterly horrific, but Phil absolutely loved the scent. One day, the zoo announced that they were closing Phil's beloved elephant room. He was devastated. In order to preserve the scent he loved so much, Phil captured the air in the elephant room in a tightly sealed jar.*

*The part that makes this story so significant is that my Papa kept the jar after all these years, and to this day it is still sitting in a cabinet in Keowee Key. He actually let me smell the jar once. The cabinet displays things that are important to him, including items made by his children and grandchildren throughout the years.*

*My Papa is the most selfless man I have ever met who finds great joy in helping others and making them feel important. I hope to carry on his legacy through my life by trying to live each day a little more like he would have. I know that there is an angel watching over all of us, and I know there is an elephant room in heaven. There goes a saint.*

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**Colleen Butler** - July 02, 2014 at 02:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Philip Anthony Pfeifer.*



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July 02, 2014 at 11:42 AM



“ *I worked with Phil for several years at the Chrysler plant in Dayton, Ohio. He was a man of deep character and integrity. He was very well respected. I offer my sincere condolences to the family.*

*Richard G. Beck*

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**Richard Beck** - July 02, 2014 at 11:32 AM



“ *I met Phil less than a hand full of times, however meeting him impacted me more than most people I have known for a life time. His love of Chris was reflected in his devotion to his wife, his family, and all those around him. Phil was so joy filled and made me happy to be around him. It was a privilege to talk with Phil. Phil truly walked with God and lived his faith.*

*2 Corinthians 5:7  
For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

*Amy Backscheider*

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**amy backscheider** - July 02, 2014 at 10:24 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Mr. Philip Anthony Pfeifer.*



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July 02, 2014 at 09:11 AM



“ *How lucky I was to grow up across the street from the Pfeifer's. Spent a lot of time in the Pfeifer house and cherish all my memories. Mr and Mrs Pfeifer s home was the home most would dream of growing up in. Playing pool with Mr P., calling me Minnesota Skinny and letting me win...great times. He was what I believe is one of the last true gentleman I was privileged to have in my life along with my father in law. Truly blessed to have known him and will always hold a special place in my heart. Heaven just gained another Angel. LOVE always. ...your Kimmy.*

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**Kimberly Nelson-Masar** - July 02, 2014 at 01:17 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Steve Davis** - July 01, 2014 at 06:13 PM