



Earl A. Phillips

October 14, 1931 - March 30, 2026

Earl Arvid Phillips, 94, of Huntley, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on March 30, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Earl was born on October 14, 1931, in Crystal Falls, Michigan, to Arvid Phillips and Saima (Rantala) Phillips. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954. After his service, Earl moved to Chicago, where he lived with his aunt and uncle, Mamie and Joe Lucas. It was there that he met his beloved wife, Irene. They were married on September 13, 1958, in Skokie, IL and went on to settle in Roselle, IL and Bartlett, IL where they raised their four children.

Known for his unwavering work ethic, Earl developed a love for logging at a young age in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He went on to build a distinguished career as an excavator, helping shape the infrastructure of the Chicagoland area. His work contributed to major projects including portions of the Dan Ryan Expressway and Randhurst Mall, and culminated in the development of homes within a residential subdivision in Huntley.

Whether operating a road grader or bulldozer, Earl earned the respect of those around him for his persistence and dedication. He played a vital role in laying the groundwork for many factories, roads, and commercial buildings, while also leaving a lasting impact on the natural environment through his

work in fishery and wetland restoration.

Earl applied the skills he learned throughout his life to build cabins in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for his loved ones. He deeply cherished the Northwoods where he was born and raised, and found great joy in hunting and fishing—especially for white-tailed deer and brook trout.

In his later years, Earl was never one to sit idle. He was happiest when chopping wood to heat his home and tending to his large vegetable garden. He took great pride in caring for his land and could often be found on his lawnmower or working on various projects around his property.

Above all, Earl was a devoted family man. Together with Irene, he built a home filled with love, laughter and faith. They were longtime attendees of St. Mary Catholic Church in Huntley. Known for his generosity, kindness, and humorous wit, Earl was also fondly remembered for his daily tradition of gathering with close friends at Allen's Corner Diner in Hampshire, where they enjoyed sharing stories over countless cups of coffee.

Earl was a man who lived, worked, hunted, and fished on his own terms, and he passed away as he wished—at his home, affectionately known as the “poor farm,” surrounded by those he loved most.

He is survived by his four children, Joy Phillips Blocki, Karen (Curt) Elischer, Stephan (Jeri) Phillips, and Eric (Sarah) Phillips; his eight grandchildren, Brooke Blocki, Tara (Ryan) McPhedran, Geir (Erin) Phillips, Ned (Emily) Phillips, Parker (Karlee) Phillips, Matthew (Mary-Kate) Phillips, Hunter Phillips, and Mary Phillips; and his ten great-grandchildren.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Irene; and five siblings, LaVerne Beaver, Marion Phillips, Jack Phillips, James Phillips and Saima

Phillips.

Visitation will be held on Friday, April 17, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 10307 Dundee Road, Huntley from 9:00 am to the start of the funeral mass at 10:00 am. Burial will follow in St. Mary Catholic Cemetery and a luncheon will be held afterwards from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the American Legion, 11712 Coral Street, Huntley.

In lieu of flowers, Earl's family requests that any donations go to St. Mary Catholic Church in Huntley in Earl's name.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

Dean Street
Huntley, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
10307 Dundee Road
Huntley, IL 60142

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Catholic Church
10307 Dundee Road
Huntley, IL 60142

Graveside Service

APR 17. 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

St. Mary Cemetery
Dean Street
Huntley, IL

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Jennifer B. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Earl A. Phillips.

Jennifer B. - April 16 at 08:36 PM

MM

“ Mark M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Earl A. Phillips.

Mark M. - April 16 at 06:17 PM

CC

“ Earl my friend, we shared good times together and made memories, I'll always remember! Breakfast and coffee at Allen's corner, many trips to the Ritchie Brothers auctions. Sharing a story or two along the way. You were an interesting man to say the least. Your life led you in many directions. No matter what the situation you always made the best of it! You will be missed by everyone that had the good fortune of knowing you. Good by for now my friend.
Carl C

Carl C - April 11 at 09:18 PM

LG

“ Louise G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Earl A. Phillips.

Louise G. - April 01 at 02:40 PM