

David Harold Phillips, 94, of Accokeek, MD died at home of advanced kidney disease on September 23, 2024. He was born September 13, 1930 in Carroll, Iowa to Harold C. and Elsie B. Phillips. He grew up in Sacramento, CA. and graduated from McClatchey High in Sacramento in February 1949. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in Physics in 1954 and immediately went to work at the Naval Research Lab. First in Microwaves and Antennas, then on the Space Surveillance system and the Timation I satellite launched in 1967 – the forerunner of GPS (Global Positioning System).

He and his wife, Ruth, worked as a husband-wife team for 10 years in precision time and frequency. They were most proud to be the World's Time Keeper with the Hydrogen Maser I for several weeks as requested by the U.S. Naval Observatory when they changed to an atomic clock system.

Dave later gave Hydrogen Maser I to the Smithsonian and Hydrogen Maser II to the Navy Yard museum. He retired in the Fall of 1982 to become a caregiver for his mother who had suffered a brain stem aneurysm.

He got his amateur radio license at age 17 and later upgraded to an Advanced license with call letters W3PJM. He received a Secretary of the Navy Award for handling Health and Welfare radio traffic under martial law during the Johnstown Flood.

He was an active leader of Metrovision ATV (amateur television), NRL Radio Club, the Broadcreek Couples Club, the Southern Merry-Landers and the Swinging' Seniors.

David joined the NRL Forum Toastmaster Club in 1964. He was the first NRL Toastmaster to become a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). He was area governor when Toastmasters International voted to permit women to join as members.

David was a longtime member of Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation (DUUC). He and Ruth were married by A. Powell Davies in All Souls Church Unitarian on June 18, 1955. David was DUUC's Endowment Chair for 42 years and Memorial Chair for 35 years. He was a past Board Chair and served on the Board for many years. He sang in the choir and participated in the March on Washington in 1963.

He is survived by his beloved wife Ruth of 69 years, his oldest son David Charles Phillips (Cindy) of Ellicott City, MD, four grandsons John D., Charles W., Michael S. (Martha) and Kevin J. Phillips; step-grandchildren Sarah Blaik (John) and David Blaik and great-grandson David Sullivan Phillips; his sister Alice Loughry and brothers-in-law Edward Dawson and Frederick Dawson. He was predeceased by his sons Richard H. and Walter D. Phillips and sister Paula P. Shaner.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF



Dave Phillips

- SEPTEMBER 13, 1930 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 -

DAVIES UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

Gathering Music

Various

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze - J.S. Bach

Welcome & Centering

Chalice Lighting

Let Us Be Honest with Death - A. Powell Davies

Hymn

#38 - Morning Has Broken

Reading

To Music

Franz Schubert,
Basil Swift (translator)

Music

Suite No. 1 for Cello, "Sarabande"- J.S. Bach

Reading & Memorial Candles

Snow-Bound: A Winter Idyl (excerpt)
John Greenleaf Whittier

Music

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'
Rodgers & Hammerstein

Remembrances

David C. Phillips

Interlude

Remembrances

Ed Dawson & Therman Thomas

Interlude

Video

Excerpts from Dave & Ruth's 50th Anniversary Party
Featuring: Dave Phillips & Alice Loughry

Music

#311 - Let it Be a Dance
Featuring: Dave & Ruth Phillips

Remembrances

Ruth Phillips

Hymn

#34 - Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire
"The Gift of Love"

Closing Prayer

Benediction in Song

#402 - From You I Receive