



Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr.

February 25, 1939 - March 24, 2024

Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr.

Herb Phelan was born in 1939, the oldest son of Herbert and Marge (Conley) Phelan in Norwalk, CT. The family soon moved to Bronx, NY, where they lived until Herb completed 8th grade at Holy Rosary School in the Bronx where he was taught by the Presentation Sisters, three of whom he affectionately communicated with until 2010. He visited with his 7th grade teacher Sr. Rita the year she celebrated her 105th birthday.

In 1953, Herb moved back to Norwalk, Connecticut, with his mother and younger brothers, Ken, Russ, and sister Patti. Herb joined the Navy in 1956, serving four years as a sonar man aboard the destroyer USS Miller. His four years in the Navy were a fond memory and unique experience in that most of the crewmen stayed in touch throughout their lives. In retirement, this bond of military friendships resulted in a yearly Miller reunion for twenty years where over fifty of the crew and their wives met yearly reminiscing about their youth and pride in serving their country aboard the Miller.

After the Navy, Herb attended the University of Connecticut. He then went to work as an electronics technician with Perkin Elmer Electronics, eventually working in Baton Rouge. In

1964, he came to Houston on a service call with fellow technician T. J.

Cegelski, who set Herb up on a blind date with his sister Maxine in Rosenberg to go to a Cegelski Reunion in Chappell Hill, TX. He loved the kielbasa, the Polish polkas and jokes, and learning "Jak Se Mas." On their third date, Herb proposed and Maxine accepted. They married at Holy Rosary Church in Rosenberg in 1965. He always fondly referred to her as his "child bride" and said he fell in love with Maxine, her extended Cegelski family, Mama Cegelski's Sunday dinners and her homemade pies. Herb had a special love for Maxine's father Max whom he said he respected more than any man he ever knew.

In their early marriage Herb worked as a salesman of analytical instrumentation for Phillips Electronics. They lived in Irving, Texas, where their older son Herb III was born and later in Houston where younger son Michael was born. Herb also was business manager of the OB/GYN Dept of Baylor College of Medicine, and later with Port Financial Co where he was sent by banks to work with companies facing bankruptcy.

Though he spent his childhood in the Bronx, Herb loved Texas from his first visit here, and he loved the small town life of Rosenberg and the friendly people here. He and Maxine moved to Rosenberg in 1972 where he loved the fact that his boys also attended a Holy Rosary School as he had in the Bronx. Herb was active in his parish life as a member of Knights of Columbus 2801, various parish committees, Bazaar Chairman, and with the Holy Rosary Scout Troop.

Herb's love of Rosenberg led to an active role in local politics. He believed that a person best makes a difference politically at the local level. He served on City Council, served as interim City Manager and on many City Committees throughout his life. He always believed that the city will prosper to the extent that its citizens stay involved. He also served as President of Rosenberg Little League several years.

Anyone who knew Herb knew he always had a hobby interest. He built ship models, learned canning from Mama Cegelski, made homemade wine, tooled leather, and took great pride in winning a County Fair Rosette for his handcrafted deerskin vest. He most loved deer hunting and introducing his sons at an early age to the rituals and joy of hunting on a deer lease in Texas. Herb's constant passion in life was reading. His sons said their image of their dad will always be his sitting in his chair, reading a book, probably about World War II history.

Among his greatest joys in life were his yearly car trips in retirement, traveling throughout America to Navy reunions with his "child bride," and his pride in his two sons Herb and Michael who became good men with the help of their wives: Herb with his wife Amy and Michael with his wife Rhonda. The greatest joy in his later life came from his being PoPo to granddaughter "sweet girl" Erica and grandson TJ. He enjoyed watching Erica's soccer games and patiently letting her spend 30 minutes choosing a fingernail polish color on a trip to Target. He enjoyed TJ's baseball games from T-ball to George Ranch High School play, and he loved sharing a hunt in West Texas when TJ bagged a deer bigger than any his PoPo had ever shot. He most loved that Erica and TJ patiently and respectfully listened when he bored them with his stories of his growing up as the Irish kid with his Italian buds in the Bronx, his summers in New Hampshire picking apples with his Grandma Ann, and his days in the Navy when he changed from a boy to a man.

Herb was a Yankee by birth, but a Texan by choice. He could tell the best Irish jokes to his friends at the Bohemian Hill. He treasured his 30+ years of weekly midnight adoration at Holy Rosary with his God, which he called his private talk with the "Big Fella." He loved his family, his country, and his life in Rosenberg. For the last several years, Herb battled health issues

uncomplainingly. God blessed him with a lucid, loving farewell with his family at the end of his struggles. He passed away March 24th, and he will be missed dearly by family and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents Herbert Phelan, Sr. and Marge Phelan, his brothers Ken and Russ, nephew Alan Phelan, in-laws Max and Genevieve Cegelski, and brothers-in-law TJ and Daniel Cegelski.

He is survived by wife Maxine, son Herb Phelan III and wife Amy, son Michael Phelan and wife Rhonda, granddaughter Erica, grandson TJ, sister Patti and husband Jack Suhoza of South Carolina, sisters-in-law Sharon Phelan of Connecticut, Dorothy Cegelski of Richmond, and Anita Cegelski of League City, brother-in-law Ed Cegelski and wife Lynette of Stafford and numerous nieces, nephews, shipmates, and friends.

Services will be held in the chapel of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg on Thursday, April 4th, with visitation starting at 9:30 and service starting at 10:30 with Rev. William D. Bartniski officiating. Burial, with military honors to follow at West Gethsemane Gardens in Rosenberg.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Herb's memory can be made to Holy Rosary Preserving our Faith, 1416 George St, Rosenberg, TX, or a charity of your choice.

Pall bearers are TJ Phelan, Robert Wolter, Bernd Rahm, Troy Burditt, Stanton Nowak and Rodney Blinka.

Tributes and words of condolence may be left for the family at www.davisgreenlawnfh.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home,

3900 B.F. Terry Blvd. (Hwy 59 South @ FM 2218), Rosenberg, Texas 77471,
Phone: 281-341-8800.

Cemetery Details

West Gethsemane Cemetery

3000 1st Street (Hwy 36)
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 341-8800

Previous Events

Public Visitation

APR 4. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 341-8800

Service

APR 4. 10:30 AM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 341-8800

Tribute Wall

JT

“ I only learned of Mr. Phelan's passing this morning. I send belated condolences to Mrs. Phelan, Herb, my old Holy Rosary classmate Michael, and all the family. May his memory continue to bless.

Jeffrey Thames - August 15, 2025 at 10:09 AM

TF

“ The UMCNO Burn Krewe Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr..



The UMCNO Burn Krewe Family - April 03, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr..



April 03, 2024 at 09:55 AM

MC

“ Michael Cegelski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr..

Michael Cegelski - April 03, 2024 at 09:55 AM

RK

“ Dear Sweet Maxine,

My Deepest Sympathy to you and your family in the loss of your husband Herb.

I think of the times we worked together in the kitchen at Bingo. We had fun.

Please take care and May God Bless You.

*Sincerely,
Roberta Kaminsky*

Roberta Kaminsky - April 02, 2024 at 11:03 PM

DE

“ Maxine, Danny and I are sorry to hear of Herb's passing. You and your family are in our prayers.

Debbie and Danny Ewing

Debbie Ewing - April 02, 2024 at 10:05 PM

MR

“ Herb was such a good guy— I will always remember our hunting trips to Fredericksburg and all of the good conversation and even more so, the great food he always served up! Peggy and I are sending our deepest sympathy to your family. Our hopes are that you find peace and love with the lifetime of memories he left you.
Martin and Peggy Ryan

Martin Ryan - April 02, 2024 at 05:11 PM

LB

“ Mrs Phelan - Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. May the Lord bless Herb with eternal rest and peace. Linda, Von, Liz and Boyce Becerra



Linda Becerra - April 02, 2024 at 12:15 PM

RE

“ Very sorry for your loss Maxine, Herb will be missed for sure. Very fortunate to have had the opportunity to have him as a friend. God Bless you and your family. - Fella and Brenda Engelhardt

Raymond Engelhardt - April 01, 2024 at 03:47 PM



“ Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr..



April 01, 2024 at 02:28 PM

FM

“ Forefront Emergency Management planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Herbert Arthur Phelan, Jr..

Forefront Emergency Management - April 01, 2024 at 02:28 PM

JT

“ Mrs. Phelan, I am sorry for your loss. May God bring you peace and comfort in this difficult time.
--Johnny Trlica



Johnny Frank Trlica - April 01, 2024 at 01:28 PM

DA

“ Herb was a wonderfully inquisitive, witty and involved man. He will be missed by so many, both in the community and his loving family. Prayers are with all of you. - Denise Adams

Denise Adams - April 01, 2024 at 09:09 AM

IT

“ All my heart goes out to you Maxine, and the rest of the Phelan family .love Ian Thompson

Ian Thompson - March 31, 2024 at 12:29 PM

MO

“ Dearest Maxine and Family
Know you are in my daily Prayers for healing from the passing of Herb !He is Resting In Peace with the Big Man in heaven. Herb will be remembered and missed by many 🙏💙 God's Blessings Mary

Mary Ondrush - March 29, 2024 at 08:53 PM

LF

“ *Maxine, So sorry for your loss. Sending prayers, hugs and love during this difficult time! May God hold and comfort you, the family and friends during this sorrowful time!* ”



Linda Kunz Family - March 29, 2024 at 02:30 PM

BB

“ *Barbie and I loved Herb! It is hard to bare that he is gone. Our sincerest condolences to Maxine and the rest of Herb's family. Herb was the world's best guy and worlds best friend.* ”

Bill and Barbie Benton - March 29, 2024 at 12:34 PM

BF

“ *Maxine my comfort to you and family. I know he will be missed. May he rest in peace* ”



Bernice A. Freudensprung - March 29, 2024 at 12:12 PM

PM

“ *Dear Maxine, we were sorry to hear of your loss of Herb. Aubrey and I pray that God comforts you and your family. Pat and Aubrey Mires* ”

Patricia Mires - March 29, 2024 at 11:25 AM

BH

“ Sorry to hear of Herb’s passing. Haven’t talked to him in years, but he was a friend and supporter on Rosenberg City Council in 1989 when I was asked to help the city out of a financial bind in the midst of a recession. Herb had a great sense of humor, was a skilled businessman and a public servant who wanted only the best for those he served. It was a pleasure to work with him. Rest easy, Herb, and may all those who loved you find peace in wonderful memories. Bob Hebert

Bob Hebert - March 28, 2024 at 08:16 PM

MR

“ I am So sorry to hear this and send my utmost sympathies to Maxine and the entire family.

Marti Robbins - March 28, 2024 at 10:19 AM

SH

“ My thought and prayers are with the family and Maxine, my dad (Bear) and herb were good friends, I always knew where to find him, either at home or bohemian hill. I’ll remember anytime he had car issues we’d pick him up from the hill and go get his little red truck from where ever it was. He will be greatly missed. What a great guy and lots of memories he leaves behind.

Sherry Herrin - March 27, 2024 at 09:37 PM

OH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Maxine and the rest of Herb’s Family. May this wonderful man Rest In Eternal Peace. 🙏❤️🙏
Otto and Alane

Otto & Alane Haardt - March 27, 2024 at 10:45 AM

RS

My thoughts and prayers go to herb's family I think about the times him and I would sit on the back porch with a toddy and a cigar. I will miss those times.

Richard Shea - March 28, 2024 at 03:39 PM

AV

*Maxine (MRS. PHELAN)
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, when I would call your house Herb always answered. Sweet man , both of you made a great couple, I know this is a terrible time to pass through , have faith.
ANITA VILLAGOMEZ*

ANITA VILLAGOMEZ - April 07, 2024 at 07:03 PM

MS

“ *Maxine,
Sending our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. May perpetual light shine upon Herb, and may God grant you all His comfort and peace.
Leroy and Marilyn Stavinoha*



Marilyn Stavinoha - March 26, 2024 at 02:58 PM

RL

my Prayers are with you.

rodger lord - March 28, 2024 at 12:09 PM

DN

*Maxine & family please know are thoughts & prayers are with each of you in the challenging time.
Wrap your arms around each other & hang in & hang on sharing each others strength.
Delane, Ken & Tim Neal*

Delane Meekes Neal - March 28, 2024 at 01:56 PM

MC

*Herb was the most wonderful and positive human beings I have ever known.He will be missed by so many.
Maxine you and the family are in my heart, my thoughts, and my prayers. God bless you all.*

Michael Cegelski - April 03, 2024 at 10:03 AM

ES

Maxine,

*So sorry to hear about Herb passing. He was such a wonderful man.
You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Evelyn Nowak Stein and Family

Evelyn Nowak Stein - April 03, 2024 at 02:16 PM

PT

*Oh, Ms Maxine, you are in our prayers...
Mr Phelen must have done good because every time I saw you, You were the happiest person in the room! Marilyn and I moved to Florida to be with first grand baby... And we have another one coming
Please take care of yourself, with love, Jodarski family, Paula Tyre, Marilyn and Gordon.*

Paula Tyre - May 07, 2024 at 03:00 AM

AM

I just got wind of Herb's passing. He was a great man, friendly, kind, smart and unforgettable. I knew him because my family rented one of his properties for a while. Condolences to his wife and family.

Alexia Moreno - October 16, 2025 at 05:36 PM