



WILLIAM ARCHIE PHILLIPS JR.

August 31, 1935 - May 23, 2018

Outdoorsman, adventurer, television personality, and legendary storyteller Archie Phillips died Wednesday, May 23rd 2018. At the age of 82, he passed the way he wanted: surrounded by family and friends.

How does one begin to capture a life so full? Archie often joked that he had lived three lifetimes, and considering his numerous scrapes with death, an outdoors television show that spanned half a century, and hunting excursions that traversed the globe, it's hard to argue with that.

Archie's adventure began on August 31st, 1935. He grew up in Wylam, Alabama. As a child, Archie worked at his parents' sandwich shop, Phillips' Pantry, where he gained his business acumen and his lifelong love of sweets.

Archie had a love of the outdoors from an early age. As a teenager, he and a friend embarked on a 408-mile canoe trip from Birmingham to Mobile, which lasted 14 days. Archie spent most of his childhood and teenage years involved with Boy Scouts and ultimately became an Eagle Scout. In fact, later in life he was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the Boy Scouts' highest honor. It was in Boy Scouts that Archie developed his lifelong love of

taxidermy, at the age of 12.

In high school, Archie met Sharon, the love of his life, and married her soon after (unbeknownst to their parents). He was 19; she was 15. The two were married for 63 years.

During his time in college, Archie began cultivating his taxidermy business and making steps that would ultimately lead Archie Phillips' Taxidermy to become the largest freshwater taxidermy studio in the United States. He was even kicked out of his boarding house for prepping a rattlesnake for mounting in his bathroom, a feat that was not appreciated by a roommate who mistook the snake for a live one and shot it (along with the bathtub). Through his taxidermy connections and love of the outdoors, he began filming his outdoors television show, *Outdoors with Archie Phillips*, which was broadcast throughout the country and continued on some outlets for over fifty years. Archie was known to pepper his shows with his characteristic Southern aphorisms, such as "hot diggity dog" or "holy mackerel," which were typically uttered during intense bouts with uncooperative bass.

He was a generous soul that would donate his money, his time, and his land to share his love of the outdoors with anyone that was willing. He loved hosting annual dove hunts and 4th of July parties at his lake that were open to anyone and everyone. He also sought to share his wisdom with others and teach them everything he knew. He always challenged and pushed others to succeed and often quipped, "Don't try; do. Try is the weakest word in the English language." He liked to say that one of his finest accomplishments was teaching others what he knew about real estate so they could become their own boss and, like him, could go fishing whenever they pleased.

Archie's love of the outdoors was surpassed only by his love for his family. He involved every member of his family in his adventures, from bear hunting in Canada to alligator hunting in Louisiana to local squirrel hunts and fishing trips. He truly loved entertaining children, and his annual Christmas stories (which included elves in sweatshops and amputee Santas) were a family tradition that were adored by children and adults alike. Known to his family as "Pawpaw" or "Boonie," Archie was a loving husband, supportive brother, caring father, generous grandfather, and the glue that held his family together. He will truly be missed.

Archie was preceded in death by his parents, William and Elizabeth Phillips; his sister, Bettie Sue Jackson; his daughter, Melanie Whaley; and his daughter-in-law, Karen Phillips.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sharon Phillips; his sons, William "Bubba" Phillips and David Phillips (Julie); his grandchildren, Kathy Mckee (Blake), Jenny Yearby (Jason), Stacey Huff (Brandon), Will Phillips, Sharon Phillips, and Wesley Phillips; his seven great-grandchildren; and his brother, John E. Phillips.

In lieu of flowers, we believe Archie would want you to take a moment to give your child, grandchild, or friend a "hug-neck" and take them hunting or fishing. Should friends desire, contributions may be sent to Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Visitation will be held Saturday, May 26, from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. at First Baptist Church of Pleasant Grove. The funeral service will begin at 2:00 P.M. at the Church. Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I remember our rabbit hunts vivedly - Jim Reed


Jim Reed - May 27, 2024 at 07:30 PM

JM

“ I do not want to think that Archie Phillips is now gone but having known him about all of my life, I rather will look back on all of the fantastic memories he has left us with and I will recall all of his stories and adventures he shared, and there are way too many of those to count. He was the true definition of a blessed man and has a family that loved him dearly. He is now smiling down on all of us and fishing with our Great Lord in Heaven.
Thank you Archie for all you have done and for sharing all of your life's experiences.

John McGowan

John McGowan - June 19, 2018 at 02:14 PM

 Tracy
Wallace

“ I grew up watching Archie's outdoor programs on TV with my daddy. It was like a ritual for us every weekend. Little did I know that many years later I would get to meet the man himself... much less be able to call him my friend! I am so honored that my son got to fish with the legend! Archie even taught my boy how to tie a "proper knot". They fished together on the pier at Archie's Place. We enjoyed many of Archie's 4th of July shindigs down at the pavilion! We treasure each and every memory that we were so blessed to make with him! Archie will be sorely missed but NEVER FORGOTTEN!

Tracy Wallace - June 06, 2018 at 06:10 PM

JG

“ Some of the best times of my life were spending time in the outdoors with Archie. He was truly a special person and influenced many people. I will miss his presence.

James Graves

James Graves - June 04, 2018 at 08:03 AM

FP

“ Archie was a fine man.
Frank Patton

Frank Patton - May 28, 2018 at 07:15 AM

JP

“ Archie was a special friend to Jerry and I for many years beginning in Wylam. He got us into buying houses which was a blessing for us. He taught us many things to do and not to do. We also went to First Baptist Church with Archie and Sharon. Our boys were good friends also. Archie will certainly be missed by a lot of people. Praying for Sharon and all the family during this sad time 🙏🙏

Joyce Caldwell Patterson - May 25, 2018 at 05:10 PM