



## Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby

November 14, 1928 - November 23, 2016

Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby of Grasonville, MD, died on Wednesday November 23, 2016, at the Compass Regional Hospice Center in Centreville, MD. He was 88.

He was born on November 14, 1928, in Easton, MD, the son of the late Samuel Whitby and Lillian Porter. He grew up on Wye Island and attended school there until it closed requiring a move to Queenstown. After graduating from Centreville High School in 1945, he started work as a waterman and worked part-time as a carpenter. He enlisted in the Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Germany and then in California. While in California, he married Betty Jane Stevens on January 29, 1952.

After he was honorably discharged, Phil returned to Grasonville and resumed work as a waterman. Phil built a home in Grasonville in the late 50's where he and Betty raised a family and where they resided for the rest of their lives. After several years as a waterman, Phil felt he needed a bigger and newer boat so he built Ja-Da. He improved upon Ja-Da when he built another larger boat, Scorpio.

Never one to sit idle, he decided to try woodworking and carving, as a hobby. He started with replica boats and then branched out into waterfowl projects. He made a variety of waterfowl pieces including ducks, geese, blue herons,

and swans. December was often a very busy month, as he worked hard to finish gifts for family and friends in time for Christmas.

In addition to woodworking projects, he also became intrigued with magic tricks. He started with a couple of tricks and after becoming proficient, he added several more and would use family gatherings to hone his skills in front of a friendly audience. It wasn't long before he started performing as "Phil the Great" for local groups, children's parties, family gatherings, church groups, and retirement communities.

After retiring from full-time work as a waterman he gained employment with Queenstown Bank doing facilities maintenance for several locations. He worked in this capacity for several years before retiring about 10 years ago.

Phil also enjoyed gardening, singing, and playing the guitar and dobro. His tomato garden grew to include 40 plants which produced scores of baskets for the church, friends, and family. He was a member of the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Grasonville and a devoted family man who loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by two children, Jamie Lee Whitby (Lynette Foster) of Queen Anne and Janet Whitby Wright (Gary Robert) of Easton; a daughter-in-law, Debbie Thompson Whitby of Queenstown; eight grandchildren, Allyson, Brian, Courtney, Phillip, David, Tyler, Kelly and Karen; and 12 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his son David Whitby (2009) and his wife of 60 years, Betty Jane Whitby (2012).

A visitation will be held on Monday November 28, 2016, from 6PM to 8PM at the Fellows Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in Chester, MD. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday November 29, 2016, at 11AM at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Grasonville, MD, and interment will follow in

Woodlawn Memorial Park in Easton, MD. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the UMD Memorial Hospital Foundation c/o David Whitby Memorial Fund, 121 Federal Street Easton, MD 21601 or to Immanuel United Methodist Church, PO Box 518, Grasonville, MD 21638.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodlawn Memorial Park

11365 Ocean Gateway  
Easton, MD 21601

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island  
106 Shamrock Road  
Chester, MD 21619  
(410) 643-2226  
[info@fhnfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhnfuneralhome.com)

## Service

NOV 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel United Methodist Church  
102 Schoolhouse Lane  
Grasonville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - November 26, 2016 at 03:50 PM

BB

*I didn't know Mr. Whitby as well as most of his close friends but every time I did he made me feel like I was one of his close friends. From this video and the few times meeting him it really looks like he enjoyed his life and family very much. To those close friends and his family members, you should feel very blessed to have had him touch your life. What a great talented, loving man this was. I just wish I could have been closer to him to be considered a close friend. God Bless you all who had that opportunity to be considered a close friend and family member to him because I know this man touched each and every one of you in a special way. Bo Bryan*

**Bo Bryan** - November 28, 2016 at 10:33 AM



“ *Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ I'm sad to say i did not personally know mr whitby but i knew his children and especially KNEW AND LOVED DING-DONG!!! His passing broke my heart because he was sooo special..and young...so if david got his fathers traits...he was truly special too!!! 😊 (his mom also) prayers..love..laughter in their memory!❤️❤️❤️

Val whaley ivins - November 28, 2016 at 09:59 PM



“ Doug Pierson lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby



Doug Pierson - November 28, 2016 at 12:57 PM



“ Gene & Lynda Palmatary, Centreville lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby



Gene & Lynda Palmatary, Centreville - November 28, 2016 at 09:07 AM

AM

“ *Another local Legend will be truly missed. Mr. Phil has been a wonderful friend and mentor. Sending prayers and hugs to the family.*



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**Ann and Richard Martin** - November 27, 2016 at 05:09 PM

GB

“ *Geoff Karen Barrow lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



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**Geoff Karen Barrow** - November 26, 2016 at 02:22 PM

SW

“ *Shirley Walters lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



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**Shirley Walters** - November 26, 2016 at 02:19 PM



“ *Raymond Dorrell lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



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**Raymond Dorrell** - November 25, 2016 at 04:34 PM

DC

“ *David And June Clark lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



David and June Clark - November 25, 2016 at 03:34 PM

AR

“ *Allyson Rice lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



Allyson Rice - November 25, 2016 at 02:17 PM

AR

*Love you PopPop!!*

Allyson Rice - November 25, 2016 at 02:18 PM

 Kelley Barrow

“ *Kelley Barrow lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



Kelley Barrow - November 25, 2016 at 12:32 PM



“ *Deb Langrell lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



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**Deb Langrell** - November 25, 2016 at 11:22 AM



*A great, great man! Rest in peace, Mr. Phil, job well done!*

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**Deb Langrell** - November 25, 2016 at 11:24 AM



“ *Steven Mccarty lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



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**steven mccarty** - November 25, 2016 at 11:07 AM



“ *Keith Walters lit a candle in memory of Samuel Vernon Phillip Whitby*



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**Keith Walters** - November 25, 2016 at 11:04 AM