



# Phillip I. Cunningham

AUG 22, 1924 - NOV 15, 2021



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# Phillip I. Cunningham

AUG 22, 1924 - NOV 15, 2021

**P**hillip I. Cunningham (Big Phil), age 97 of Lewes, DE passed away peacefully at his home on November 15, 2021. He was born August 22, 1924, in Bloomington, IN, son of the late Cyrus Irvan and Anise Louise Bridwell Cunningham.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Sarah Elizabeth Carpenter Cunningham; daughters, Susan Kidd and Janice Cunningham; and two sisters Ellen Piccariello and Margaret Jane Cornwell as well as grandson, Gerald Brown, Jr.

Mr. Cunningham had worked for over 20 years with the Delaware Department of Transportation before retiring as a Traffic Supervisor. In his early years, life was a struggle as his father passed when he was just 11 years old, thus making him the head of the household. He joined the United States Coast Guard during WW II which brought him to Lewes where he met Sarah. He ran the family poultry farm and continued for many years delivering eggs door to door in Lewes from their poultry houses. His devotion to caring for his family would find him also working numerous jobs including, installing television antennas in the area for Bill Soots TV shop, cutting grass at Old Landing Golf Course, working for the Town of Lewes as an electrician, and working at the former Vessels Lumber Yard, typically 2 or 3 jobs at a time.

However, that did not deter him from staying involved with his large family and community. He co-founded the Lewes Little League program. He and 3 other Dad's coached the first 4 teams. He coached the Braves and treated every boy on his team as his own. His first love, like many Indiana boys was basketball, he was the center for his Coast Guard team during his service years. Another sport he was well known for was softball, he was a pitcher for the Lou Ianire's town team, he played at a competitive level until age 56. Later in life he took up golf and played frequently at the Old Landing Golf Club with his family and friends. He built his own clubs as well as clubs for many others. Following Indiana University and their sports teams rounded out his sports endeavors. He loved to talk I.U. sports with his brother Hubert.



## Obituary

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He is survived by his beloved brother Hubert, of Bloomington, Indiana, his children, Michael Cunningham (Bev) Lewes, DE; Rodney Cunningham (Carolyn) of Boca Raton, Florida, Paul Cunningham (Doris) of Lewes, DE, Sally Hrycyk of Lewes, DE whom the family would like to thank for all her loving care and support of their father during the past few years, Jack Cunningham (Cindy) Lewes, DE, Carol Brown (Gerald) Milford, DE; Son-in-law, Rick Kidd; 19 grandchildren who affectionately called him Popeye, 44 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grand daughter.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, 2:30 p.m. at the Lewes Presbyterian Church, 133 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE where friends may visit at the church starting at 1:00 p.m. prior to the services. Burial will be in the adjoining church yard.

The service may also be viewed via live stream by visiting <https://youtube.com/c/LewesPresbyterian>

Memorial contributions may be made to Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963 or to the Lewes Presbyterian Church, 133 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign the online guest book at this site.

Due to the ongoing Covid Pandemic it is highly recommended that social distancing and the wearing of a facemask be considered.



# Events

**Phillip I. Cunningham**

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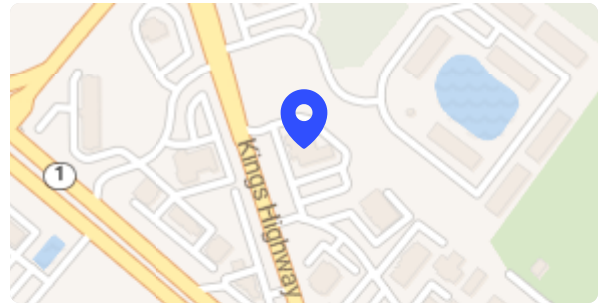
## Flowers

**Friday**, November 19, 2021

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM ET

**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-  
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



## Visitation

**Saturday**, November 20, 2021

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

**Lewes Presbyterian Church**

133 Kings Highway, Lewes DE



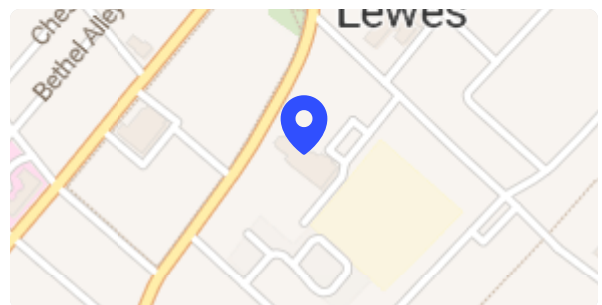
## Funeral Service

**Saturday**, November 20, 2021

2:30 PM ET

**Lewes Presbyterian Church**

133 Kings Highway, Lewes DE



## Cemetery Details

**Lewes Presbyterian Cemetery**

113 Kings Highway, Lewes DE





# Tribute Wall

**Phillip I. Cunningham**

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**Rocky Justice** posted:

Just a great man. One who I looked up to growing up in Lewes. Fond memories of him when I was in Little League. Will always have him in my heart and memories. Mr. Cunningham will be missed.

November 22 at 4:44 PM



**Diana Riley** posted:

Mike, Bev, & all the Cunningham family.....what a wonderful man always portraying a positive image to everyone, but most especially the youth of Lewes. He was a vibrant figure as we all grew up as he & Sally raised such a wonderful family. My sincerest sympathies on the loss of Phil.....what a life well lived. God Bless you all, Diana Riley

November 22 at 1:42 AM



**Linda Mitchell Larrimore** posted:

I have so many childhood memories of the Mr. Cunningham and spending time at his home. He welcomed all of the neighbor kids to his home. God Bless his family.

November 20 at 11:45 AM



**Midge Dinatale** lit a candle in honor of Phillip I..

My condolences to all of the Cunningham family. Midge DiNatale

November 20 at 10:29 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Cunningham family.

November 19 at 4:05 PM





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RS

**Reagan Soots** posted:

As a child growing up in Lewes I was privileged to be surrounded by many great families. The Cunningham's being one of many. My dad and Phil were good friends and whenever I was in the presence of Phil he always made me feel special. Larger than life and so fun to be around. Through the years I thought a lot about Phil and will always have fond memories. My condolences to the family. Just know that Phil positively influenced me and many others through the years.  
Reagan (Reggie) Soots

November 18 at 3:01 PM

RN

**Randy Neill** posted:

My wife Karen and I became great friends with Rick and Sue Kidd, and in turn had the pleasure of getting to know Phil and Sarah and many others of the family. They are a terrific group of people and a very close knit family. I know that you will all miss Phil because he was a big personality and would do anything for you. Phil made a set of golf woods for me and I used them many years. He was also the fastest golfer I ever played a round with. May you all cherish the memories. He was someone that we are glad to say that we knew. God Bless you and Keep you! Randy and Karen Neill

November 18 at 1:39 PM

MF

**Murdoch Family** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Cunningham family.



November 18 at 10:17 AM

JR

**Jim Rosemurgy** posted:

I met Mr Cunningham (Rodney's Father) several times with Rod. He had a great smile, and loved sports - especially IU basketball and Bobby Knight. Much fun to be with and talk to. You could tell he had his priorities straight - God - Family - Friends - Community. That is why it was such a pleasure to meet him; the many members of his family that I met had the same great qualities. He led a great life, impacted many in a positive way, and did much good work. A life well lived. His son Rodney is a dear long time friend. Jim Rosemurgy

November 18 at 7:13 AM



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**Kevin Mcderby** posted:

My heartfelt condolences go out to the Cunningham family as you mourn the passing of Phillip. He was obviously a wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great grandfather and father-in-law. Kevin McDerby

November 18 at 7:01 AM



**Mqry Ann & Charlie Malewski** posted:

Philip always had a smile for everyone. What wonderful family legacy he leaves. 🙏🙏

November 17 at 3:57 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Cunningham family.

November 17 at 11:59 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Cunningham family.

November 17 at 10:49 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Cunningham family.

November 17 at 9:48 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Phillip I. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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