



Philip John Ness

January 10, 1925 - May 7, 2020

Mr. Philip John Ness, age 95, of Peachtree City, Georgia, passed away Tuesday May 7, 2020. Phil was born in Orlando, Florida in 1925 and attended schools in Winter Park, Florida. In 5th grade, he met a cute girl named Joyce not knowing that one day she would become his wife of 71 years! Phil graduated from Winter Park High School in 1942 and briefly enrolled at The Citadel before joining the US Army Air Corp Cadet program. He then trained as a flight engineer with an air/sea rescue group before serving in Japan in 1945 as part of the Japan Occupational Forces. Upon his return to the USA, Phil enrolled at Indiana University where that cute girl named Joyce happened to be attending. Phil became President of his Fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon and courted Joyce throughout his time in college. While completing his degree in Business Administration, he married Joyce in 1948 and they started their family. Phil became a Real Estate Developer and successfully developed properties in Florida, but his favorite project was developed on 76 acres he purchased in the North Georgia mountains. Phil named the property "SPRING LAKE" and it became a place of fun and adventure for the Ness family, as well as other Floridians, escaping the heat during summer vacations. In 1963, Phil's adventurous spirit led him to move his family to Australia where they created many memorable family experiences while he worked for Ansett A&A Airlines as an International Sales Rep. After much thought, Phil moved his family back to Orlando in 1968 to reunite with friends and extended family. Phil's final career path led him into Education. He taught many practical skills

to high schoolers in his Business and Distributive Education classes while also coaching the swim team. We remember Phil as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He gave his family guidance along with amazing life experiences and he taught them to value each and every day! Phil will be greatly missed, but his legacy of leadership, love for family, and his adventurous spirit will carry on for generations to come.

Phil is preceded in death by his parents Percy and Helen Ness, wife Joyce Ness who passed in March 2020, a son James Ness, and brother Robert Ness. He is survived by his son John Ness (Martha) of Orlando, Florida, daughters Nancy Jackson (Don) of Peachtree City, Georgia, and Susan Larson (Larry) of Sunset SC; grandchildren Keith Jackson (Amy), Kelly Daniels (Jon), Ken Jackson (Becky), Jennifer Larson, Brintney Levine (Alex), Christopher Larson, Alan Ness; great-granddaughters, Caroline Jackson, Hallie Jackson, and Brynn Levine. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity. Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at www.parrottfuneralhome.com Parrott Funeral Home and Crematory, 770-964-4800.

Tribute Wall

“ A TRIBUTE TO MY DAD

When I think about my Dad among the myriad of great characteristics, the one thing that stands out is DEVOTED. Because of his devotion to his family, I have had and continue to have a future where the stress has been reduced very significantly.

STRENGTH. Without a strong man, others who are self-serving, can try to take advantage of you. Dad stood in the gap and through his strength, our family was protected. God used him in so many ways through the years. For example, who would have the courage to take a young family into the mountains far from civilization where there were moonshiners and bears and carve out a new community? That was part of living for Dad. At one point, Dad had to scare off some moonshiners who were trying to prevent people from purchasing property.

LOVE. Dad was always there for us and his love was demonstrated time and time again. Looking back on the “lectures” we received, we know they were motivated by his love for us. There are many lessons in life to be learned and Dad was bold and unafraid to express those lessons to each one of us children or one of his students. (Dad taught in the West Orange High School, Winter Garden, Florida for 20 years.) He overheard one of his students say, “Here comes Mr. Ness; we don’t mess with Mr. Ness”.

TOGETHER. Dad was indeed a “family man” who planned family vacations and trips around America and Australia. He enjoyed camping and because of this, his family enjoyed seeing much of America and Australia (1964 – 1968). Our family got to do so many things and not long ago, Mom said, “It’s because of you, Dad.”

LEADERSHIP. Dad was a “man’s man and a leader’s leader”. He told me he was a man at age 18. Being president of his fraternity at Indiana University was just the beginning of his long life as a leader in his community.

VISION. Through his vision, a great community was begun in the mountains of North Georgia called "Spring Lake" in 1959. Dad and Mom worked hand in hand to build this community on 76 acres and it is thriving to this day. Spring Lake is still a great oasis in the growing population of the USA. Before that, he and Mom started a subdivision in Jupiter, Florida, called Bermuda Terrace. It is still there.

He was part of "the greatest generation" who saved the world from tyranny. He was in the occupation force of Japan.

How can you express the life-time of a man who gave to his family and his associates the feelings of warmth, affection and welcome with a smile and a positive outlook? Dad knew how to "win friends and influence people" as he was a teacher of the Dale Carnegie course when he was in his early 30's.

We received the sad news that Dad passed on last night at the age of 95. We know he is with Mom in his heavenly home. Dad, you have left us with great memories and a great example. I love you Dad and I will always remember your warm, happy smile and the reality that we, your children, are your treasures.

Through my tears, I rededicate my life to living for my God, my family and the lessons of life you taught us.

Your son, John.

John Ness - May 09, 2020 at 05:53 PM

NJ

Thank you Dad for all the fun adventures you gave us through our childhood. Camping all over the USA in a station wagon, with tent, a dog, and the bare minimum of camping supplies. Those adventures brought us so close as a family. Our 4 year stay in Australia brought many life lessons and experiences in a new land. Thank you for your guidance, unconditional love, and your steadfast support of us, no matter what our endeavors brought along the way. Thank you for bringing us to church and teaching us to appreciate the value in each and every day. Our family was not perfect, but you always led us down the path of honesty, genuineness, kindness, and humility. We knew from our upbringing that we would never regret making positive, wholesome and valued choices in our life. To live with integrity, patriotism, and faith were the foundations of life you instilled in us. Your love for your family will never be forgotten! We love you! Rest In Peace.

*Love,
your daughter Nancy*

nancy jackson - May 24, 2020 at 03:22 PM