



## Philip K. Widner

April 7, 1987 - October 7, 2024

NORFOLK -- Celebration of life service for Philip K. Widner, 37, of Omaha, NE and Bedford, TX, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, October 18, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church in Coppell (420 S. Hertz Road, Coppell, Texas). A slideshow of Philip's life can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T-8eDMI7kg>. Inurnment will be held at a later date at the Rolling Oaks Memorial Center Cemetery in Coppell, TX (400 Freeport Pkwy, Coppell, Texas). Any flowers ordered will be delivered to the church prior to the service at the church. Philip passed away on Monday, October 7, 2024 at the Norfolk Regional Airport in Norfolk, NE as the result of a plane accident. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the local arrangements.

Our precious son Philip Keith Widner died tragically in an aircraft accident on Monday, October 7, 2024. Our grief is almost unbearable, but we know that he is dancing with the angels. Philip is survived by his parents Danny and Beverly Widner, his extended family and an army of friends.

Philip's notorious reputation for usually being tardy began early in life. He was born seven days late on April 7, 1987, in Dallas Texas. This glorious event answered five years of prayer for a beautiful baby. Philip grew up in Coppell, Texas, surrounded by wonderful neighbors, friends, and his church family at FUMC Coppell. Our family life was special – we had fun, laughed together, traveled and enjoyed being together. It really was a wonderful life! Philip

thrived at school – enjoying sports and academics and had some admiring young ladies.

Philip's world expanded when he followed in his cousin Jake's footsteps and went off to college at Oklahoma State University. There he made many lifelong friends, especially his Fiji fraternity brothers. He never gave up on his OSU Cowboys winning the national football championship! (We're still waiting!) Through the magic of cell phones and texting Phil communicated and remained close with many of his buddies. He was an expert at managing multiple conversations at once! He was also dedicated to his fantasy football leagues.

After graduating college Philip worked in finance and the oil and gas industry. Not feeling really challenged or satisfied he took a leap of faith and began his dream of becoming a commercial pilot. He trained in Arlington, Texas, and went on to become a flight instructor in Oklahoma City. He was blessed to live with his extraordinary Aunt Juju in OKC and had a wonderful instructing experience. He was admired for his skills as a pilot and ability to teach and communicate. He had found his passion! He later flew for cargo companies in Brownwood, TX, and Omaha, NE.

Philip exemplified the phrase "he never met a stranger". He had a kind word for everyone and truly loved his neighbors. And everyone loved him. Philip's great sense of humor kept us entertained and his sarcasm kept us on our toes! He was rather famous for his dancing moves at wedding parties!

A devoted son, he used his Mr. Fix-it skills to keep our home and yard in working order along with all our tech challenges. He loved our family farm in East Texas and spending time with his cousins cutting down trees, fishing and hunting hogs. It won't be the same there without him!

Philip is predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Harold and Mabel Allred, and his paternal grandparents, Martin and Margaret Widner. Besides his parents he is survived by his Aunt Judy Wilkins, Uncle Larry Widner (Susan). He will be sorely missed by his cousins Melyssa Donahue, Josh Hunt (Suzanne), Darlene Widner, Darrell Widner (Kendall), Allie O'Connor (Kelly) and Jake Wilkins (Jamie). He is also known as Unka Phil to his cousin's children - Claire O'Connor, Crawford O'Connor, Charlie O'Connor, J. Henry Wilkins, Wesley Wilkins, Lucy Wilkins and Eli Wilkins, Landon Widner, Karson Widner and Aubrie Widner. AND his bestest canine girlfriend of 14 years, sweet Pepper.

In lieu of flowers you may donate to Pilots N Paws or Coppell Cares at First United Methodist Coppell, TX.

John 14:1-3: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me"

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **18**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Coppell, TX  
420 S Hertz Rd  
Coppell, TX 75019

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stonacek Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Philip K. Widner*



-----  
**Stonacek Funeral Chapel** - November 18, 2024 at 05:04 PM

MW

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Widner,  
I just came across the notice of the loss of your wonderful son, Philip. A year and a half ago, we lost our beloved son who was a pilot for an air ambulance service. His plane crashed shortly after takeoff in Reno, Nevada. He saved so many lives and ended up sacrificing his own. Your son sounds like he was so much like our son, career change, flight instructor, sense of humor and a friend to everyone he met. My husband and I send our deepest sympathies as two people who have lived the pain you are feeling now. God bless you and your family. Keep God close.*

-----  
**Marilyn Walton** - October 26, 2024 at 12:38 PM

BW

*Marilyn, thank you for reaching out. You know what we are going through. I would love to visit with you. My email is bevwidner@gmail.com*

-----  
**Beverly Widner** - November 15, 2024 at 05:23 PM

AM

“ Philip was a bright light at our Arlington flight academy. You could always count on him to lighten the mood even when things weren't going great. He was a truly special person and my favorite that I met throughout my many years at ATP.

Austin Murphy - October 25, 2024 at 02:33 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Philip K. Widner.



October 17, 2024 at 07:22 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Philip K. Widner.



October 17, 2024 at 09:56 AM

KP

“ Keith and Kathy Vibbard Perry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

Keith and Kathy Vibbard Perry - October 17, 2024 at 09:56 AM

PO

“ Poppa purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.



---

**Poppa** - October 16, 2024 at 06:09 PM

PO

“ Poppa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

---

**Poppa** - October 16, 2024 at 06:09 PM

DF

“ Deanie Taylor and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Philip K. Widner.



---

**Deanie Taylor and Family** - October 16, 2024 at 04:54 PM

DF

“ Deanie Taylor and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

---

**Deanie Taylor and Family** - October 16, 2024 at 04:54 PM

SC

“ Danny, this is Sandy Carney...I've been retired for 11 years but always remember what a kind and likable man you were. I am so so sorry for your lose.

*The tribute to your beautiful son was heart warming...it would have been a real pleasure to know him.*

---

**Sandra Nan Carney** - October 16, 2024 at 04:50 PM

PA

“ As of this past Monday I am the pilot on Philips old Brownwood - San Antonio route. On Monday several employees of UPS, in Brownwood and San Antonio, and the hotel employees in San Antonio, expressed their sorrow at Philip's passing each saying how kind he was to them.

*Even having never met Philip, I know how he touched those around him with his kindness.*

---

**Paul Antoinette** - October 16, 2024 at 04:23 PM

CC

*I was Philip's 7th grade Language Arts teacher. Philip was truly one of the most congenial, responsible, good-humored, and bighearted young people I ever had the pleasure of teaching. I was blessed to cross paths with him a few times in his adult life, and each time I immediately felt his genuine warmth and goodness. He was a beautiful soul in every way, and the world will be a little dimmer without his spirit. My deepest condolences to the family and all who were blessed to have Philip in their lives.*

*Carson Childress*

---

**Carson Childress** - October 18, 2024 at 08:44 AM

YF

“ Your Oaktree Country Club Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Philip K. Widner.



---

**Your Oaktree Country Club Family** - October 16, 2024 at 03:48 PM

YF

“ Your Oaktree Country Club Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

---

**Your Oaktree Country Club Family** - October 16, 2024 at 03:48 PM

DB

“ Darrell and Regina Bond purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.



---

**Darrell and Regina Bond** - October 16, 2024 at 09:52 AM

TF

“ The Dunham Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

---

**The Dunham Family** - October 15, 2024 at 09:31 PM

TF

“ *The Dunham Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.*



---

**The Dunham Family** - October 15, 2024 at 09:31 PM

JF

“ *Joe Hogan and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Philip K. Widner.*



---

**Joe Hogan and Family** - October 15, 2024 at 07:23 PM

HB

“ *Helen Bell lit a candle in memory of Philip Widner*



---

**Helen Bell** - October 15, 2024 at 07:10 PM

JH

“ *Jim and Cheryl Hightower planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.*

---

**Jim and Cheryl Hightower** - October 15, 2024 at 04:07 PM

JH

“ Jim and Cheryl Hightower purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Philip K. Widner.



Jim and Cheryl Hightower - October 15, 2024 at 04:07 PM

RM

“ Ralph F. Huller MD purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.



Ralph F. Huller MD - October 15, 2024 at 02:54 PM

JA

“ Joni and Amanda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

Joni and Amanda - October 15, 2024 at 11:57 AM



“ Sympathy Gift Vintage Wind Chime - "I Have You In My Heart" was purchased for the family of Philip K. Widner.



October 15, 2024 at 11:57 AM

ML

“ *Martinaire Aviation, LLC purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Philip K. Widner.*



---

**Martinaire Aviation, LLC** - October 15, 2024 at 11:08 AM

TP

“ *A little over a year ago Phillip had a problem with the engine on his plane running rough during cruise so I went flying with him to duplicate it. He flew left seat but had me fly most of the time. He was able to determine that the mixture was too lean when using auto fuel (it was approved for auto fuel) so from then on he knew how to adjust the mixture correctly. He figured it out but still bought me a new monitor for my computer just as a thank you. Phillip was a very fine young man and excellent pilot. I'll miss his sense of humor.*  
Tony

---

**Tony Plant** - October 15, 2024 at 01:42 AM

NK

“ *Nancy Fiorelli, Diane and Bob Klein planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.*

---

**Nancy Fiorelli, Diane and Bob Klein** - October 15, 2024 at 01:21 AM

NK

“ Nancy Fiorelli, Diane and Bob Klein purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Philip K. Widner.



---

**Nancy Fiorelli, Diane and Bob Klein** - October 15, 2024 at 01:21 AM

LM

“ Lew Marx purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.



---

**Lew Marx** - October 14, 2024 at 07:39 PM

LM

“ From: Lew Marx planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

---

**Lew Marx** - October 14, 2024 at 07:39 PM

BE

“ Brian and Richelle Edmonston planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip K. Widner.

---

**Brian and Richelle Edmonston** - October 14, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Philip K. Widner.*



---

October 14, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Our hearts are with you Beverly and Danny, and your extended family. We're so sorry that you've lost your beautiful son Phil, and much too soon. We know he'll be in your hearts forever and a day. Sending our love from Houston, Texas --Patrick & Raquel Donahue and family*

---

**Raquel Donahue** - October 14, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ *Memories of success at the cruise ship casino blackjack table with Phil, Bev, and Dan sitting with Jake and myself...and somehow getting away with yelling “Let’s Get Loud” louder.and louder.and louder with every winning hand. Philliam, your large frame was always trumped by your larger than life personality. Miss you and our random sports/life hack texts incontrollably, pal. Now, rest up til we meet again...need our big man to dominate 3v3 up above when we’re all back together and have an enormous and rowdy cheering section!*

---

**Kelly O'Connor** - October 14, 2024 at 01:42 PM

MM

“ We had the privilege of spending time with Phil recently. We are so thankful for our time together and will always remember that day. We are heartbroken for you, Danny and Beverly, and the rest of the family. We pray that in the midst of your loss, you will feel the comfort of the love of Christ. God bless you all. Love, Billy and Michele Magalassi

Michele Magalassi - October 14, 2024 at 12:08 PM

CE

“ Chris and Victoria Edmonston purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Philip K. Widner.



Chris and Victoria Edmonston - October 12, 2024 at 04:57 PM

CJ

“ Danny, I am so incredibly sorry to have learned this news. I know your faith, and the loved ones around you, will get you through this incredibly difficult time. If I can help in any way, please know that I will.

Craig Jordan - October 11, 2024 at 06:00 PM

NB

“ Nedra Black purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.



Nedra Black - October 11, 2024 at 12:41 PM

CR

“ *Cassandra Rinkel purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Philip K. Widner.*



---

**Cassandra Rinkel** - October 11, 2024 at 11:31 AM

TT

“ *The Aloft San Antonio Airport team purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Philip K. Widner.*



---

**The Aloft San Antonio Airport team** - October 10, 2024 at 04:09 PM

MS

“ *I am a childhood friend of Philip. He was always such a positive good person to be around. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family!*

---

**Michael Stanger** - October 10, 2024 at 11:40 AM



“ *I worked with Philip for a few weeks at Ameriflight before moving onto a new position and in that short time it was easy to see how great of a person he was. He really did fit right in and we were excited to have him around. My deepest condolences to the family going through this loss.*

---

**Allen Denton** - October 09, 2024 at 07:14 PM

LJ

“ Phil was my flight instructor and good friend, I will miss him very much! He was the type of friend that we all need in this life!

---

**LeGrand Jones** - October 09, 2024 at 03:55 PM

TR

“ Philip was my flight instructor during the last half of my training in OKC, OK. He was a great mentor and a great friend. I am terribly sad to hear about his passing. I hope and pray that you all find peace throughout this. I will for sure miss talking to him about flight training days. I wish the best for you all and him.

*Tim Reid*

---

**Tim Reid** - October 09, 2024 at 03:54 PM

CP

“ Philip was such a kind and beautiful soul. He brought so many smiles and will forever remain in our hearts. He was an amazing reflection of Danny and Beverly. Love you and sending thoughts and prayers your way.

*Cheryl Prentice*

---

**Cheryl Prentice** - October 09, 2024 at 12:35 PM

TE

“ Philip always made you feel like you were the most important person in the room. He was very caring and loved his friends and family. We will miss you very much. Rest in Peace Philip.

*Tray Elam*

---

**Tray Elam** - October 09, 2024 at 11:19 AM