



Dr. Preston John Phillips

September 11, 1962 - June 1, 2022

Dr. Preston John Phillips was born September 11, 1962, to Rev. Paul and Eloise Phillips in Saginaw, Michigan, the 6th of 9 children. Coming from humble beginnings, his work ethic kicked in early with his first job delivering newspapers at the age of 8. Throughout his adolescence, he found many ways to make an honest dollar, from shining shoes to gathering shopping carts at the local department store.

He was caring and selfless even as a child. When the family dog was hit by a car, Preston used all his savings to pay veterinary fees to mend his dog's leg.

As a teenager, Preston moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he completed his secondary education at Fredrick Douglas High School. While in high school, his love for medicine was solidified with an invaluable summer internship shadowing Dr. Sam O. Atkins, a local urologist. Returning to finish up his senior year of high school, he quit the football team to focus on his studies in preparation for one day entering medical school.

Preston began his post-secondary studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he earned 3 degrees in 4 years. Having been raised by a pastor, he had a love for scripture and enrolled in several religious studies courses. He also had a keen mind for math and science and decided to pursue a degree in chemistry. He excelled, of course, and was able to enter the organic chemistry master's program while still in college. Four years later,

he graduated with bachelor's degrees in Religion and Chemistry and a master's degree in Organic Chemistry.

In 1990, he graduated cum laude from Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. While there, he completed research and thesis work in the study of heart disease.

After medical school, he began a General Surgery residency at Yale University School of Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. After his rotation in Orthopedic Surgery, he was smitten. Fellow residents sold him on the idea that "orthopods" were the carpenters of medicine and got to use tools such as hammers, saws and nails to mend bones in the human body. He was indeed sold and was willing to extend his residency into an additional year after switching to Orthopedic surgery.

With a heart for service, Preston founded the Yale Minority Medical Association during his residency. He was concerned about the status of minorities as patients and as clinicians. The organization focused on minority recruitment, mentorship and retention, hosted annual community health fairs, symposiums and a monthly lecture series for its members.

After residency he was selected as the Daniel E. Hogan Spine Fellow at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School specializing in spinal surgery under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Augustus White. With large hands and a determined spirit, he set out to learn the intricate skill of executing surgery on the human spine.

He began his formal career in 1997 as an Associate at Seattle Orthopedic Fracture & Clinic/Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA. In 2005, Preston relocated his family and practice to Tulsa, Oklahoma, accepting a position with Warren Orthopedic Clinic/Saint Francis Health System.

His relationship with his patients over many years and many miles remained consistent. A true servant of God, he did not take his role lightly. He was thoughtful, patient, caring and kind. He invested all his being into every single patient. Each were treated with dignity, respect and as everyone soon learned, appointments were seldom rushed.

Near and dear to his heart was his 47' Bayliner Motor yacht, Almost Perfect II, currently docked in Edmond, Washington. He enjoyed time spent on his boat with family and especially during his annual brothers' trip where there was fishing, crabbing and cruising on the Seattle/Northwest Pacific waters.

He was a jazz aficionado and even performed as saxophonist with adult bands as a teen (with his mom's permission). He also founded a small jazz band during his early college years, before the load of earning 3 degrees kicked in.

A fierce competitor, Preston enjoyed playing tennis and managed to win a few USTA area championships over time. During his rare downtime, he enjoyed playing games and engaging in friendly banter over games like Dominoes or Bid Whist.

To know Preston was to love him. Everyone he encountered was met with open arms and a warm heart. He was indeed the true definition of a gentleman. To quote another, "He was kind, patient and very attentive. He was a mentor, an educator, a leader, a healer with a loving, compassionate and protective soul. Many would refer to him as a gentle giant with an infectious smile that would brighten anyone's day."

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 34 years Melody (Davenport),

son Jarrett Thurman of Austin, Texas, two daughters, Erin Caimille of Tampa, Florida and Elise Victoria of Washington D.C., Siblings Parris (Sandra) Phillips of Conyers, Georgia, Patrick Phillips of Saginaw, Michigan, Pamela (William) Carey of Saginaw, Michigan, Paul Phillips of Kenosha, Wisconsin, Paula (Russell) Terrell of Saginaw, Michigan, Piper Phillips of Las Vegas, Nevada, Phyllis Phillips of Saginaw, Michigan and Philip (Mattie) Phillips of Clarkston, Michigan and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Preston was predeceased in death by his parents, Rev. Paul and Eloise Phillips.

The Family would like to send our heartfelt thanks to Sigma Pi Phi-Epsilon Iota Chapter, Saint Francis Health System/Warren Clinic, John Kelly Warren and Family, Matt Benjamin and the Doubletree by Hilton Warren Place staff, the Tulsa (OK) Chapter of the Links Incorporated, Jay Krottinger and Ryan Tanner, and all who extended fervent prayer throughout this journey.

And to the Most High God, thank you for allowing Preston John Phillips to grace our lives for this short season. We are forever grateful, forever changed.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ James C Weston lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



James c weston - July 20, 2022 at 09:30 AM

BM

“ Bernice McGlothin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Bernice McGlothin - July 07, 2022 at 10:39 PM

CR

“ CRAIG A. MOTEN,Baton Rouge lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



CRAIG A. MOTEN,Baton Rouge - June 27, 2022 at 03:35 PM

AB

“ My deepest Condolences to the Phillips Family 🙏 My heart goes out to You all. Paul, Pam and Piper, I hope that You all find the strength to endure this heartbreaking loss 🙏



Alicia Layton Banks - June 22, 2022 at 02:01 PM

LW

“ Lillie Williams-Grays sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Lillie Williams-Grays - June 21, 2022 at 08:49 PM

LW

“ Lillie Williams-Grays sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Lillie Williams-Grays - June 21, 2022 at 08:48 PM

JB

“ Our most sincerest condolences to the entire Phillips Family

Brian and Jennifer Booker



Jennifer Booker - June 21, 2022 at 10:26 AM

TF

“ The Brazil Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



The Brazil Family - June 20, 2022 at 02:18 PM

CH

“ *The MAISE family would like to express our deepest condolences to the Phillips family during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you 🙏*



Cynthia Maise Hamilton - June 19, 2022 at 10:59 PM

LW

“ *Louis Weems sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Louis Weems - June 17, 2022 at 10:42 AM

LW

“ *Louis Weems sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Louis Weems - June 17, 2022 at 10:36 AM

BW

“ *Bernice Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Bernice Williams - June 17, 2022 at 05:30 AM

BW

“ Sending love and prayers to the family, extended family and friends. Paula, Russell, Ashley you are in our prayers. Bernice Williams and DeMarcus Williams.



Bernice Williams - June 16, 2022 at 07:20 PM

BW

“ Sending love, prayers, hugs and condolences to the family, extended family and friends 🙏❤️ May God comfort each and everyone of you. Bernice Williams and DeMarcus Williams.



Bernice Williams - June 16, 2022 at 04:33 PM

GL

“ Sharing in your sorrow and praying for you.



Glendorah Lawrence - June 16, 2022 at 10:08 AM

PA

“ To the Phillips family...it is with broken hearts that we, the Dottery family, extend our most sorrowful condolences in the untimely tragic death of Dr. Preston John Phillips. We go wayyyyyy back to the projects on Norman street where we grew up right next door to your family of 9 children and our family of 8 children. We were like family and those were happy times. I remember having a conversation with Preston and him sharing that he always wanted to be a Dr.,he never specified what field of medicine he would persue but I felt his sense of desire and tenacity. We don't understand why but what we do know is that GOD is in control. We will keep all of you, along with his wife and children, in our prayers that the days, weeks, months and years along with his memories, will somewhat ease the unbearable pain in your hearts. Thank you Dr. Preston for your accomplishments and contributions to the medical society.



We Love you all,
The Dottery Family

Pamela - June 16, 2022 at 07:49 AM

AT

God bless you, Ms. Pamela and thank you. ❤️

Ashley Terrell - June 20, 2022 at 08:42 AM

DK

“ Deacon Bobby & Thelma (Moten) Kelley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Deacon Bobby & Thelma (Moten) Kelley - June 15, 2022 at 05:39 PM

WH

“ *Walter/Dorothy Harris lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Walter/Dorothy Harris - June 15, 2022 at 09:26 AM

EJ

“ *Prayer to the family Sorry for yall loss from the jackson family 26st sending condolences*



Elaine Jackson - June 15, 2022 at 08:13 AM

DH

“ *Debra Hatfield-Lane lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Debra Hatfield-Lane - June 15, 2022 at 01:39 AM

AT

“ *Ashley Terrell sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Ashley Terrell - June 14, 2022 at 03:17 PM

PP

Uncle Preston loved you too ❤️. Love Mommy

Paula Phillips-Terrell - June 14, 2022 at 04:26 PM

AT



Ashley Terrell - June 20, 2022 at 08:43 AM

JC

“*Julia Childress-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Julia Childress-Johnson - June 14, 2022 at 02:03 PM

DT

“*Dwight/Shalanda Akins Houston Tx. lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Dwight/Shalanda Akins Houston Tx. - June 14, 2022 at 09:56 AM

JK

“*Janice Kemp-Anderson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Janice Kemp-Anderson - June 14, 2022 at 09:39 AM

BC

“ *Bobbie Crosby-Locke lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Bobbie Crosby-Locke - June 14, 2022 at 09:29 AM

VP

“ *Prayers for the Family - Hoping that soon all the happy memories you have with/of Preston will help comfort you*

Vyethel Kemp Peterson - June 14, 2022 at 09:19 AM

DF

“ *Deborah Finch lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Deborah Finch - June 14, 2022 at 05:38 AM



“ *Estrella McRae lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Estrella McRae - June 14, 2022 at 02:11 AM

DM

“ *Doloris Mixon sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Doloris mixon - June 14, 2022 at 01:07 AM

DM

“ *Doloris Mixon sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Doloris mixon - June 14, 2022 at 01:06 AM

DM

“ *Doloris Mixon sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Doloris mixon - June 14, 2022 at 01:04 AM

DM

“ 🙏 *To Pam and all of the family; you all have my deepest condolences !!*



Doloris mixon - June 14, 2022 at 01:03 AM

DM

“ *Doloris Mixon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Doloris mixon - June 14, 2022 at 12:53 AM

AZ

“ *Prayers and condolences sent from our family to your entire family.*
💕💕

Albert & Frances Ham Zackrie - June 13, 2022 at 11:21 PM

DM

“ *Derrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Derrell Martin - June 13, 2022 at 11:18 PM

DK

“ *Prayers To The Family 🙏🙏 GOD Is Your Strength He Will See You Through. 🙏🙏*



Deacon Bobby & Thelma (Moten) Kelley - June 13, 2022 at 11:00 PM

VB

“ *Velissa Batts lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Velissa Batts - June 13, 2022 at 10:26 PM

BR

“ *Brenda Ryan sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Brenda Ryan - June 13, 2022 at 09:41 PM

DJ

“ *Doris Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Doris Jones - June 13, 2022 at 09:38 PM

WB

“ *Walsezetta Bennett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Walsezetta Bennett - June 13, 2022 at 08:07 PM

WB

“ *Walsezetta Bennett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Walsezetta Bennett - June 13, 2022 at 08:06 PM

WB

“ *Walsezetta Bennett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Walsezetta Bennett - June 13, 2022 at 08:05 PM

PL

“ *Pauline Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Pauline Lawrence - June 13, 2022 at 06:50 PM

MP

“ *Our deepest condolences to the entire Phillips Family* ❤️🙏

Deacon Charles & Share' Patrick



Mrs. Share' Patrick - June 13, 2022 at 06:37 PM

DH

“ Dorothy Haire lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Dorothy Haire - June 13, 2022 at 02:11 PM

BE

“ BettyPruitt-Daily sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



BettyPruitt-Daily - June 13, 2022 at 01:13 PM

BE

“ BettyPruitt-Daily lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



BettyPruitt-Daily - June 13, 2022 at 01:12 PM

MW

“ condolence to Dr. Preston John Phillips may the Lord comfort you during this heartfelt time.



Minister Barbara Weston - June 13, 2022 at 12:30 PM

BE

“ BettyPruitt-Daily sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



BettyPruitt-Daily - June 13, 2022 at 11:19 AM

SS

“ Sue Surles-McDole sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Sue Surles-McDole - June 13, 2022 at 10:39 AM

JP

“ My sincere condolences to the Phillips family and friends. You are in my prayers.



Janet F. Phillips - June 13, 2022 at 09:54 AM

JC

“ Judge Terry L. Clark lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Judge Terry L. Clark - June 13, 2022 at 08:28 AM

JC

“ James And K. Renee (Moten) Curry sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



James and K. Renee (Moten) Curry - June 13, 2022 at 06:42 AM

CW

“ Cathy Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Cathy Wilson - June 13, 2022 at 06:15 AM

DS

“ May The Joy of The Lord be your strength. I pray your grief be short and your joy much longer with memories of your beloved, Dr. Phillips. Sincerely Donna Shipman and Brewer family ❤️🙏❤️



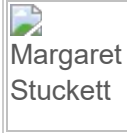
Donna Shipman - June 12, 2022 at 10:29 PM

 Margaret Stuckett

“ Margaret Stuckett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



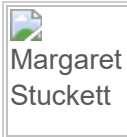
Margaret Stuckett - June 12, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ Margaret Stuckett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



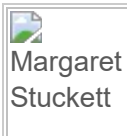
Margaret Stuckett - June 12, 2022 at 10:02 PM



“ Margaret Stuckett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



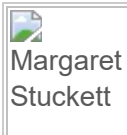
Margaret Stuckett - June 12, 2022 at 10:01 PM



“ Margaret Stuckett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Margaret Stuckett - June 12, 2022 at 10:01 PM



“ Margaret Stuckett lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Margaret Stuckett - June 12, 2022 at 10:00 PM



Margaret Stuckett

“ *Margaret Stuckett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Margaret Stuckett - June 12, 2022 at 09:58 PM



YW

“ *Yvonne Weathers sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Yvonne Weathers - June 12, 2022 at 09:12 PM



YW

“ *Yvonne Weathers sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Yvonne Weathers - June 12, 2022 at 09:12 PM



DL

“ *Deirdra Lenoir-Ford lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Deirdra Lenoir-Ford - June 12, 2022 at 08:48 PM

NG

“ *Nina Gardner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Nina Gardner - June 12, 2022 at 07:50 PM

SH

“ *Stephanie Hall sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Stephanie Hall - June 12, 2022 at 07:21 PM



“ *Yvette Wofford lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Yvette Wofford - June 12, 2022 at 06:45 PM

CC

“ *Cheryl Cooper sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Cheryl Cooper - June 12, 2022 at 06:15 PM

YS

“ Yvonne Sanders lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Yvonne Sanders - June 12, 2022 at 05:58 PM

BL

“ Condolences to the family. Know that we're praying for your strength, and may God continue to bless you Paula and Russell, and the rest of the family. Berlin & Bobbie Lockhart



Bobbie Lockhart - June 12, 2022 at 05:56 PM

CC

“ Cheryl Lynn Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Cheryl Lynn Carpenter - June 12, 2022 at 05:24 PM

BM

“ My deepest condolences to the Phillips family. I pray that during this difficult time you can find peace and comfort knowing that our Lord and Saviour has prepared a room for your Preston. May God's grace and mercy comfort you.

Heartbroken 💔🙏🙏

Tiny

Beverly L Madlock - June 12, 2022 at 03:56 PM

DM

“ Deatte McGlothin sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Deatte McGlothin - June 12, 2022 at 03:26 PM

PL

“ Sending Prayers and Deepest Sympathies to the Phillips family! God please give this family **STRENGTH! AMEN!** Homeboy from Saginaw 10th St. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏💜



Peggy Lawrence - June 12, 2022 at 12:53 PM

KS

“ *Kathy Shaw sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Kathy Shaw - June 12, 2022 at 10:53 AM

RB

“ *Love you always my play brother* 🍷



Rosette Blakes - June 12, 2022 at 07:09 AM

AB

“ *To the Family I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the Family during your time of bereavement. May God be with you all.*



Angela Bradley - June 12, 2022 at 12:19 AM

WS

“ *Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Willie Earl & Carrie Thomas, Sr. - June 12, 2022 at 12:14 AM



“ Condolences 🙏🙏🙏



Charline Bodiford - June 11, 2022 at 09:34 PM

JA

“ Josephine Alexander lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips



Josephine Alexander - June 11, 2022 at 08:53 PM

DA

“ Preston was our precocious paper boy back in the early 70's in BV. I also was a classmate of Parris and later Pat and I were neighbors for years. What an extraordinary family. Preston was a standout. Prayers are perpetually going to God on his family's behalf. The Lord will see you through. 🙏

Dempsey Allen - June 11, 2022 at 08:11 PM

IC

“ PRAYING FOR THE PHILLIPS FAMILY AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME 💕🙏🙏🙏💕



IRMA CHISM - June 11, 2022 at 06:27 PM

OT

“ *Olivia Tatum Taylor lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Olivia Tatum Taylor - June 11, 2022 at 03:52 PM

SF

“ *R.I.H Dr. Phillips 🙏 Prayers for The Family*



Sonny Moten & Family - June 11, 2022 at 02:33 PM

FJ

“ *Felicia Jones lit a candle in memory of Dr. Preston John Phillips*



Felicia Jones - June 11, 2022 at 11:57 AM