



Robert "Rip" Phipps

February 10, 1949 - November 21, 2024

Robert Gibson ("Rip") Phipps passed away on November 21, 2024 in the loving company of family and friends at the end of a courageous battle against cancer. Rip was born in New Castle PA on February 10, 1949 to Charles Phipps and Mary Louise Gibson Phipps Nolan. He graduated from New Castle High School and received a Bachelor of Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University in 1972, where he was involved in a number of community-oriented projects. He moved to New Haven after graduation, bringing with him his home-grown love of hot dogs and unwavering devotion to the Pittsburgh Steelers. While living in New Haven, Rip perfected Julia Child's recipe for French Onion Soup and honed his considerable skills as a self-employed cabinetmaker. His general curmudgeonly attention to detail, fascination with wood, and life-long love of studying architecture and design served him well in his profession. His sense of aesthetics, artistic talents, thoughtful nature, and commitment to restoration have been lovingly applied in his work, which graces many of the older buildings and homes in New Haven. He also designed and built custom furniture, distinctive for his incorporation of the Japanese and Arts and Crafts styles he admired.

He was predeceased by his parents and his beloved stepfather Thomas Nolan. He is survived by his wife, Patricia King and treasured daughter Margaret Phipps of New Haven, his dear sisters Sue Ellen (Craig) Collins of Asheville, NC and RuthAnn (Michael) Tyson of Hilton Head Island, SC, along with nieces and nephews and his canine companions, Hines, Ben and Lily. He

also leaves behind many, many, many books. Rip nurtured a large network of dear friends over the years through his collective living experiences, his pool league and his involvement as an integral part of a remarkable activity known as Summercamp. For more than 50 years Rip was instrumental in sustaining the success of an annual family camp in Mt Washington, MA. The enduring bonds developed among Summer campers span three generations and are responsible for a large network of deep friendships, including a circle of Rip's closest friends. Rip truly appreciated the gift of community and was an enthusiastic participant in numerous group activities. His passing will be mourned by many.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday December 5, from 4 – 7 p.m., at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT. The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to the multitude of friends and relatives who provided sustenance, company, dog walks and other support during Rip's illness. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Rip's honor to the American Cancer Society, The Connecticut Hospice, or the charity of one's choice. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Previous Events

Calling hours

DEC 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home
3105 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT 06518
(203) 288-7114
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

Tribute Wall

SH

“ I am just now learning of Rip’s passing. I offer my deepest condolences to the family and may his memory be a blessing. Rip and I were close friends and work colleagues 50 years ago in New Haven. I learned so much about carpentry and building from Rip, in part because he was so skilled and in part because I knew nothing to start with. Rip was very patient and, yes, he was a perfectionist which was great for the clients though not always so great for the bottom line. I lived with Rip through his transition from many quarts of Pepsi a day to many quarts of grapefruit juice. He was a creature of habit. We would see each other periodically on my trips back to New Haven. I was sorry he never came out to my new and current home in the Pacific Northwest because I would have loved to show him where so much of the wood came from. I did get to see his latest creations and his shop which we had remodeled so many years ago. He was such an artist and it is fitting that he left so many beautiful things behind to remember him by. I am sad that we had fallen out of touch, but I have certainly never forgotten him. Rest in peace and power Rip.

Steven Hecker - February 12, 2025 at 02:52 PM

JR

“ John R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Rip" Phipps.

John R. - December 23, 2024 at 04:49 PM

CH

“ *My bestest brother-in-law (1974)*



CHC - December 06, 2024 at 09:55 PM



“ *10 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - December 05, 2024 at 10:20 AM

MS

“ *Marco S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Rip" Phipps.*

Marco S. - December 04, 2024 at 05:18 PM



“ 27 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - December 04, 2024 at 03:29 PM

MG

“ *The last time I saw RIP was March of last year on Paul O'Hanlon's deck in Pittsburgh. I guess you never know when the last time is the last time. He was "chosen family" to so many people and it is easy to see why. RIP always made me feel important and seen even when I was just a young kid. He touched a lot of lives and will be sorely missed.*

Michael Garver - December 04, 2024 at 01:02 PM

MB

“ *I'm truly sorry for your loss. It was a privilege to have known him, even briefly. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your daughter during this difficult time.*

Maritza Bond - December 03, 2024 at 02:56 PM

BJ

“ Pat - Irene and I are so sorry for your loss. Rip was one of a kind and, while his "curmudgeonly attention to detail" could be frustrating, the finished product was always worth the wait. Plus, he was so much fun to be around. We are all that much better because of our time spent with him. Irene and Bruce Jacobs

Bruce Jacobs - December 03, 2024 at 11:15 AM

RK

“ I wholeheartedly agree that he perfected French Onion soup! I met Rip just once over 35 years ago, but I've never forgotten that amazing soup and how he labored over it for 3 days! I was properly impressed by the result and his commitment. A fine man too soon gone.

Rainbow Koehl - November 30, 2024 at 07:11 PM

LC

“ We shall never forget Rip's laughter and our memories with him. How James and Rip used to banter back and forth over the Steelers and Patriots. We shall truly miss him.

laura coffey - November 30, 2024 at 12:42 PM

LE

“ Laura, James and Elaine purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert "Rip" Phipps.



Laura, James and Elaine - November 30, 2024 at 12:38 PM

LE

“ Laura, James and Elaine planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Rip" Phipps.

Laura, James and Elaine - November 30, 2024 at 12:38 PM

PG

“ 3 files added to the album Rip at Summercamp



Peter J. Gollon - November 30, 2024 at 08:19 AM

HC

“ Rip was a family friend and like an uncle to me. I shall miss him very much, as will the rest of my family and friends. My deepest condolences to all who knew and loved him.

Heather Burbank Carrano - November 29, 2024 at 11:03 AM