



## Phillip Earl Mitchell

February 1, 1937 - June 10, 2024

Phillip Earl Mitchell, a beloved member of the Milroy, Indiana community, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2024 at Timber Creek Village. He was 87 years old.

Born on February 1, 1937, in Battle Ground, Indiana, Phil was the son of M. Paul and Gertrude A. Mitchell and the youngest of nine children. From a young age, he exhibited a passion for learning and a deep curiosity about the world around him. This thirst for knowledge led him to pursue a career in agricultural education at his beloved Purdue University, and then he went on to teach in Milroy where he made significant contributions and earned the respect and admiration of his community.

Phil was a dedicated family man who cherished his role as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He married Nancy J. Hedrick in 1961 and cherished his 62 years with her, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and precious memories. Their home was always open to friends and family, and Phil's warm and welcoming nature made everyone feel at ease in his presence. In addition to his commitment to his family, Phil was deeply committed to his community. He served the Milroy community as school principal for 40 years, retiring in 1999, and then went on to serve as a local pastor for Glenwood and New Salem United Methodist churches. He was actively involved in various local organizations and volunteered his time and expertise to make a positive impact. Whether it was coaching baseball, serving time as the UMYF leader, leading the local scouting program,

volunteering as a 4-H leader for 60 years, driving the bus for various school activities and sporting events, organizing community events, or lending a helping hand to those in need, Phil's selflessness and generosity knew no bounds. Phil received numerous awards and recognition for his distinguished service. Some of these include the Indiana Jefferson Award, the Silver Beaver Award, the Indiana I-Star Award, the Rush County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, and numerous others.

Outside of his professional and community endeavors, Phil had a wide range of interests. He loved to play cards with friends, enjoyed getting a competitive game of Scrabble going with his family, researched and documented family history, gathered with his friends on Saturday mornings, organized and volunteered at the local food pantry that he helped start, and devoted much energy and time to the local community foundation. He also had a passion for gardening and spent countless hours tending to his large vegetable garden. Phil loved the outdoors and enjoyed traveling with Nancy to over 30 countries, creating cherished memories that will be treasured forever.

Phil will be remembered for his kind heart, gentle spirit, generosity, and unwavering integrity. He touched the lives of all who knew him and leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, and dedication.

Preceding Phil in death were his parents, siblings and in-laws Marjorie (Don) Heman, Jeanne (Roy) Werner, Frances (Harold) Clifton, Carol (Don) Crookston, David (Shirley and Mary) Mitchell, Floyd Mitchell, Jack Weekley, and Jesse Mae Mitchell, and daughter-in-law Trish. He is survived by his devoted wife, Nancy, his children Mike (Tamara) of Knoxville, Tennessee, Mark of Dallas, Texas, Julie (Dean Leisure) of Arlington, Indiana, Jeff (JJ) of Fishers, Indiana and his grandchildren—Makayla, Brett, Mallory, Isabella, Brooke, and Shea (Andrew). He is also survived by his sister Ruth, his sister-in-law Oveta, and a wide circle of extended family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Saturday, June 15 at Milroy United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Mike Hedrick will

preside. Calling will take place at the church from 3:00-8:00 p.m on Friday. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Rush County Community Foundation, Rush County Community Assistance, or the Milroy United Methodist Church in Phil's memory. Although Phil's physical presence will be deeply missed, his spirit will live on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Moster Mortuary, Rushville, entrusted with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

**Fisher Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

JUN **14**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Milroy United Methodist Church  
114 N Pleasant St  
Milroy, IN 46156

### Funeral

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Milroy United Methodist Church  
114 North Pleasant Street, Milroy, IN, United States, Indiana

# Tribute Wall

GM

“ *What an incredible man!!! He was always a blessing to Peggy and me. We cherish the memories of Phil and Nancy and all their family. Phil was the ultimate servant: of our Savior, Jesus Christ, his family, his church, the school children and families...the list goes on and on. His name should be in the dictionary under “servant leader”! To Nancy and all his family, we are praying for you in this loss. We look forward to reunion with him in the presence of our Lord in Heaven!!*

Gregory and Peggy McGarvey - July 29, 2025 at 11:57 AM

RT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ronda Thompson - June 21, 2024 at 12:00 PM

GS

“ George And Jerry Stamm lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell



george and jerry stamm - June 15, 2024 at 08:17 PM

JL

Thank you!

Julie Leisure - June 17, 2024 at 11:03 PM

SC

“ I can't say enough about Mr. Phil Mitchell. He was not only the principal at Milroy School where our children were blessed to have had him the entire years they attended school but a very dear friend throughout the years. One of my memories is he would love my sun tea in the summer months. Whenever we would run in to one another, he would say, I will trade you your sun tea for my garden tomatoes. This is just one memory of many. He definitely was a legend and will be remembered forever by so many. Hugs and prayers to family 🙏🥹



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Sally&John Collyer - June 14, 2024 at 04:15 PM

CP

“ Phil Mitchell has always committed himself to seeing and finding the best in everyone. I personally owe everything that I have been given a chance to become in life to him. Phil Mitchell when I came to Milroy School in 1986 truly stepped up and accepted a challenge that not many people would have had the heart to take on for himself. The challenge of helping a young boy that was well on his way to prison or worse. Had it not been for the love, patience, kindness and commitment to find the good in all people, I wouldn't still be in Milroy today. Married to the love of my life, college educated, two beautiful daughters and a love for my community that many believed was not possible for me. Everything that I have been blessed to have today all simply because of Phil Mitchell believing it was never too late for me and the sacrifices his family made to allow him to commit his time to giving me a chance in life. Also to loving and teaching me what is possible when you put your heart and soul into it. Always keeping focused in believing you are worthy of anything you want to have in this life. I know that hours spent believing that I could be who I am today was also hours his family committed and sacrificed not having with him home at times with them and allowing Phil to be a positive influence on my life and my families life throughout everything good and bad the past several years I have needed him and his love for god. Phil will truly always be loved, missed and never forgotten in our hearts and memories.

*Christopher R. Philpot*

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**Christopher Philpot** - June 14, 2024 at 03:14 PM

MS

“ *Mark, Heather, Chris & Jenny Siemers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Phillip Earl Mitchell.*



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**Mark, Heather, Chris & Jenny Siemers** - June 13, 2024 at 10:54 AM

MD

“ *Mike and extended family, Prayers are with yo during this time. A life well lived to the fullest.*

*Mathew 25:21*

*The verse "Well done, good and faithful servant" is spoken by the master to a servant who has been faithful with his talents. The parable's point is that God expects people to use the talents he has given them faithfully and in godly ways.*

*From the Domogala and Riccio family.*

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**Mark Domogala** - June 13, 2024 at 10:54 AM

JL

*Thank you for your kind words!*

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**Julie Leisure** - June 17, 2024 at 11:03 PM

EF

“ *Edna Earle Wetzel & family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Phillip Earl Mitchell.*



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**Edna Earle Wetzel & family** - June 13, 2024 at 09:59 AM

EP

“ Engineered Profiles planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip Earl Mitchell.

Engineered Profiles - June 13, 2024 at 09:41 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Phillip Earl Mitchell.



June 13, 2024 at 09:41 AM

AA

“ April Abrams lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell



April Abrams - June 12, 2024 at 07:58 PM

SB

“ Phil was a truly great, giving man. All who were privileged to know him have been blessed. He is someone never to be forgotten and loved. Blessings and deepest sympathy to the family. Love, Fred, Sharon, and Douglas Brown

Sharon Brown - June 12, 2024 at 11:34 AM

RP

“ 1 file added to the album photos



Rechele Puckett - June 12, 2024 at 10:14 AM

JL

Thank you, Rechele!

Julie Leisure - June 17, 2024 at 11:02 PM

RC

“ RON D CAMERON lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell



RON D CAMERON - June 12, 2024 at 09:04 AM

JL

Thank you!

Julie Leisure - June 17, 2024 at 10:59 PM

MF

“ Matt & Donna Fenneman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip Earl Mitchell.

Matt & Donna Fenneman - June 12, 2024 at 08:50 AM

MF

“ Matt & Donna Fenneman purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Phillip Earl Mitchell.



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**Matt & Donna Fenneman** - June 12, 2024 at 08:50 AM

RJ

“ Phil was a tremendous support during my time at Milroy. Working together for Monday Mania and Wacky Wednesday kids was such a joy.  
Rev. Bill Jackson

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**Rev. Bill Jackson** - June 12, 2024 at 07:38 AM

JL

*Thank you, Bill!*

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**Julie Leisure** - June 17, 2024 at 10:59 PM

RM

“ Phil was so nice and generous to all! So sorry for your loss! Prayers going out for each of his family members and friends and community!



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**Rhonda Schneider Maupin** - June 11, 2024 at 09:10 PM

JL

*Thanks, Rhonda!*

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**Julie Leisure** - June 17, 2024 at 11:00 PM

AL

“ Allan & Cristi Leisure lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell



Allan & Cristi Leisure - June 11, 2024 at 09:08 PM

JL

Thanks!

Julie Leisure - June 17, 2024 at 10:58 PM

MW

“ Phil was a wonderful man. He was the school principal when I went to school. My Dad Tom Harker thought the world of him! I seen Phil a few years back and will always cherish that memory! Prayers for his family. Melody Harker Welsh

Melody Welsh - June 11, 2024 at 09:03 PM

JL

Thank you!

Julie Leisure - June 17, 2024 at 11:00 PM

JV

“ Jerry and Debbie Vale lit a candle in memory of Phil.

Jerry and Debbie Vale - June 11, 2024 at 08:35 PM

EP

“ Nancy and family I am very sorry to learn about Phil We we were classmates at Purdue I remember some good times Our thoughts and prayers are with you. He was a good person Ed and Nancy Pollock

Ed Pollock - June 11, 2024 at 05:30 PM

NA

“ Natasha lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell



Natasha - June 11, 2024 at 05:30 PM

SP

“ Had my parents died earlier,Phil and Nancy were going to take me in. I love them dearly ! He was my principal and mentor. His level of professionalism was extraordinary. Many people are missing him. Nancy and the family have many friends to lean on

Sherry Emmons Ponsler - June 11, 2024 at 04:32 PM

JJ

“ I did know Phil as well as other members of his family, but I do know this. Phil was a dedicated Christ-follower. He was an outstanding principal. He and Nancy raised a wonderful family. Phil was a phenomenal community leader. It was an honor to have met and been around Phil.

Jim Johnson - June 11, 2024 at 03:32 PM

SD

“ *Mr. Mitchell was the principal at Milroy when I was there grades 1-4. He always had a warm smile to share with the kids & staff. He was committed to his position, and cared about all of the teachers & children and it showed. For me the privilege of knowing Phil & Nancy all of these years is an honor . He will forever be in our hearts. Phillip Mitchell is a hero.*

Sherry Dunaway - June 11, 2024 at 02:50 PM

CD

“ *I remember seeing him standing in the hallway each day as I entered the school. He was such a strong figure representing Milroy Elementary School. We were lucky to have him as a principal for so many years.*



Carla Nugent Deckard - June 11, 2024 at 02:38 PM

DR

“ *DonMarcia Rolfe lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell*



DonMarcia Rolfe - June 11, 2024 at 02:37 PM

JN

“ *Jane Niccum lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell*



jane niccum - June 11, 2024 at 02:37 PM

KG

“ A candle was lit in memory of Phil Mitchell.  
Prayers for the family. Dick & Kay Goddard.



Kay Goddard - June 11, 2024 at 02:26 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Phillip Earl Mitchell.



June 11, 2024 at 02:21 PM

MW

“ Mike McKanna and Carolyn Wyatt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in  
honor of Phillip Earl Mitchell.

Mike McKanna and Carolyn Wyatt - June 11, 2024 at 02:21 PM

KG

“ A candle with lit in memory of Phil Mitchell. Prayers for the Family...

Kay Goddard - June 11, 2024 at 02:14 PM

CS

“ *Cindy Vandeventer Sever sent a virtual gift in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell*



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**Cindy Vandeventer Sever** - June 11, 2024 at 01:09 PM

BA

“ *Bill Alsman lit a candle in memory of Phillip Earl Mitchell*



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**Bill Alsman** - June 11, 2024 at 12:04 PM

TF

“ *Phil Mitchell touched many children's lives during his time as a great principal of Milroy High School in a positive way. I am glad all three of my children went to school at Milroy under his leadership. Phil did so much for the Milroy Community and will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy and his beautiful family.*

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**The Price Cox Family** - June 11, 2024 at 11:28 AM