



## Phillip Pickett

June 10, 1952 - March 31, 2021

Phillip Pickett, 68, passed away peacefully on the morning of March 31, 2021 with loved ones by his side. A Greensboro, NC native, Phil attended Page High School, Rockingham Community College, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he pursued a degree in acting.

Phil is survived by his devoted life partner of 41 years, Daniel Garrett. In 1996, they opened The Farmer's Wife, an antiques and floral shop, which became a staple of the downtown Greensboro community. Phil never met a stranger, greeting everyone with a show-stopping smile and customary "Yo!" as they entered the shop doors. He was a gifted gardener and designer, cat lover, avid storyteller, passionate supporter of the arts, and talented stage actor and vocalist. For years, he performed in the Livestock Players Musical Theatre where he was able to share his storytelling prowess with so many. His zest for life, sharp wit, and infectious laughter will remain in the memories of all who knew and loved him.

Phil will be missed by many including his brother, Lewis Pickett and his wife, Patsy and their children, Brian and Joe; brother, Timmy Pickett; cousin, Karen King, and her late husband, John and their children, Tracey and Mark; cousin, Doug West; business associate, Stacy Curtis, and numerous loving friends who will take peace in that he is now reunited with his beloved mother Coleen West Pickett, and grandparents, Duncan Douglas West, Sr. and his wife, Mary Belle, affectionately called "Gran".

A celebration of Phil's life and love for his family and friends will be held at a later date.

# Comments

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“ Before I moved to Chicago in 1993 Phil and Dan were a constant in our lives spending many times in their wonderful shop and every Christmas a visit to their home. They know how to throw a great Christmas repast. Also remember wonderful times and all the help restoring our Victorian on Walker Ave. In Greensboro. Sending love and prayers. I

**Ronald Jump** - April 19 at 12:35 PM

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“ I love Phil! He introduced me to his famous peonies while I was living downtown! Such a character who is missed by many!

**Carol Hunter** - April 18 at 10:07 AM

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“ To Dan and Stacy, so sorry for your loss. You three made quite a team

**Spence Miller** - April 09 at 03:29 PM

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“ Other than his example of professional quality stage performance among the many talented amateurs of Youth theatre Phil was instrumental in another part of my life. He introduced me to the Unitarian Universalist church in 1980 and though we lapsed in active service to that community, that gift helped me expand on youthful religious experiences to the many truths and beauties of religious thought in our world in which we may all take part

**David Caudle** - April 08 at 01:58 PM

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“ Phil was a creative , generous man. We adored his work and shared great design and beautiful decor in our home. He was a good soul. The world was better because of him. We will remember him as a jovial talented kind friend. May his legacy live on. Miss you Phil. You were a good living kind man.

**Sarra Kaplan** - April 07 at 08:19 PM

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“ My favorite memory of Phil was that he took my sister to her senior prom in 1970. We met when our fathers worked together many years ago, and we became life-long friends. Rest well now, dear friend. Kathy Dean

Kathy Dean - April 07 at 03:25 PM

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“ Phil & I met in elementary school. We became instant friends ...talked about everything. No judgment. Just acceptance.

I still remember the twinkle in his eyes & how he seemed to light up when he talked about something that was important to him, as if he were in a spotlight sharing positive energy with those around him.

My family moved across town (1967) & we dropped off of each others' radar. Then decades later, (2016), we discovered that he'd been living next door to my sister since 1996!?! How could so much time have passed without knowing that?!?

It wasn't until I ordered some flowers from The Farmer's Wife for my sister's birthday, that Phil asked about the girl w/a first name he remembered from childhood. Imagine that!

I live nearly 2000 miles away almost 45 yrs now. But I never forgot Phil either!

While my first instinct when hearing someone's passed, is to pray for a gentle transition to the other side & comfort for family & friends; I admit, my grief is mostly selfish. "I feel sorry for myself, for living without you in my life... my true accepting & nonjudgmental friend.

I am so VERY PROUD of you!! You followed your heart & pursued your dreams. & shared your authentic self with the world around you!! Lucky/Blessed people!!! & Thank YOU for "being there" for my baby sister, when I couldn't be.

Rest in Peace & may your soul prosper. I can hardly wait til we meet again on the other side & we can catch up! Love you forever!

Nanette Gilbert Chavez - April 06 at 05:44 PM

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“ I remember playing with Phil and his brother Lewis when we were young. they use to live behind us. we had so much fun. my sister and i ran into him a while back. he was so nice. i am so sorry for your loss, Daniel and Lewis and the family. love June Smith whiterker

nelma whiterker - April 05 at 08:20 AM

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“ Phil and Dan have blessed our community with their wonderful talents for design, decorating, and flower arranging for as long as I can remember. I have acquired a number of interesting design objects for my home and collections from their shop over the years, and I enjoy them every day.

My sincerest condolences are offered to his family for the loss of this enormously talented person.

Dr. Dan Heck  
Greensboro

Dan Heck - April 04 at 01:03 PM

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“ Good by old friend. Thanks for the many conversations where we tried our best to grasp the world's problems. You gave me and many in my family and countless friends great joy with your works of art in flowers. My condolence to Daniel and the others in your family. Miss you!!!

Tom Jones

Dr. Thomas O. Jones, Jr - April 04 at 08:41 AM

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“ Phil and I met when we were teenagers and though years would pass between seeing one another, his boisterous laugh and bear hugs were imprinted in my memory. Those memories, his roguish wit, his creative soul, and genuine kindness will live on in my heart. Until we meet again, dear friend.

Heli Koppel Benson

Heli Koppel Benson - April 02 at 01:57 PM

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“ The stage is silent. The audience is eerily quiet too. Searching the stage for our "bigger than life" friend, partner, brother and uncle.. Soon the pain will give way to bittersweet memories and joy and laughter of the loud laugh, boisterous southern tales, and latest gossip. Care and concern for his family, both blood and chosen! Hope to one day see you backstage Phillip for another part and another good play! J  
Warren

Warren Kessler - April 02 at 11:00 AM

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“ Phil became a delightful fellow Thespian when I first met him at auditions for Greensboro Parks & Recreation's Youtheatre in their first production of "Once Upon a Mattress". Phil was cast as the King, and appreciative of everyone's part, including the Stage Crew's. His support and recognition of everyone's contribution to all the subsequent Livestock Players productions will always be a shining example of Phil's kindness to all.

**Julia Lochra** - April 02 at 10:29 AM

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“ I've known Phil since 1980 and we did so many shows together including cabarets he put together with Ben Lupo. I hope they are together now-planning more shows together. I've laughed, I've cried and he would always tell me to put lipstick on because I told him that was what my mother would tell me to do while she was in Hospice just before she died. So he said he'd take over for her and remind me to wear my lipstick. He was that kind of smiling, caring, funny man. I'll miss him always.  
Pam Murphy

**Pam** - April 02 at 01:48 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of knowing Phil when I was very young. Then many years later during my customer service work at FedEx I reconnected with him through his business and his designing of flowers. I am so sorry for your loss. I am so glad I knew him. He was a blessing to us all.

Martie Hanner Roberts

**Martie Hanner Roberts** - April 01 at 11:32 PM

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“ My heart goes out to Phil's family and many friends. Phil was the first person I met when performing with The Livestock Players as he affectionally referred to as "The Group". He was a dear friend, constant cheerleader and his home on Church Street that he shared with his Grandmother was home away from home for many, including me. We shared the stage together many times and shared dreams together moving to California with two other theatre chums. Over the years I would drop by the shop when in town to catch up and reminisce. "The Group" has lost a principal player and dear man.

**Ken Campbell** - April 01 at 09:37 PM



“ Phil and I spent a lot of time together in the 1970ies doing shows at Livestock Playhouse in Greensboro and going a lot of places together. He was the most fun person I have had the pleasure of knowing and his infectious laughter and sense of humor will stay with me always. He was a talented actor and musical theatre vocalist and he he sure had the eye for flower designs. My fondest memory of Phil was going to see "Jaws", the movie, on a double date with another couple and we got so scared we screamed out loud in the theatre and Phil ducked under the seat! We laughed till we cried, as did everyone around us! That was what it was like to be out with Phil Pickett! Hilarious, always.....You will be missed, my long time friend. I will never forget you and the times we shared. Love to your family.

**Joyce Kernodle** - April 01 at 05:39 PM

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“ Phil, a downtown character who is dear to my heart! I had not seen Phil in recent years but I will never forget the twinkle in his eye!

**carol hunter** - April 01 at 05:31 PM

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“ Phil's light has gone out and the world is just a bit dimmer, but his love of life and of people and art shine on gloriously. Rest in peace, my friend.

**Juan B. Fernández** - April 01 at 12:51 PM

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“ Phil and I had many adventures together, both onstage and off stage. We could talk about theater we would laugh about life I learned a lot from Phil. Will have one of the most infectious Labs I've ever heard in my life what are you allowed to made me laugh. We've been a short time together living in New York. We moved up there together and little did we know the Son of Sam was living right across the street. That was the kind of luck that we had when we were together. I will miss him terribly. My heart goes out to Daniel and his family.

**Juan B. Fernández** - April 01 at 12:44 PM

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“ Phil was one of my dearest friends for over 40 years; besides performing together, we also both served on the Historic Preservation Commission. His personality and humor filled whatever space he was in, and everyone he met became a permanent friend. I hope Daniel and all of Phil's family will remember that his effect on people was joyous and lasting; he will be missed by so many.

**Thornton Edwards** - April 01 at 12:27 PM



“ Phil was a talented performer on stage, a designer without parallel along with Daniel, a live wire even as his health and mobility left him. He was a true friend to so many diverse people. making each one feel special

**Phillip Saylor** - April 06 at 07:39 PM



“ Though we have not been in Greensboro for many years Phil and Daniel were ever present in our lives and will always be remembered. We could always count on them to give every occasion and every space that perfect final touch, be it a showroom or a dining room, when their masterpieces arrived it was finished and magnified exponentially. For me as a neighboring property owner, the beautiful garden along the railroad tracks will be his legacy. I hope it will remain there and be cared for in his memory. Daniel and Stacy, I know his great spirit will be with you as you continue your work amongst many wonderful memories and the love and support of your friends, family and loyal customers.

Ellen and Rudy vanThiel

**ellen vanthiel** - April 14 at 04:52 AM