



Steve "Sleepy" F. Phillips

September 9, 1957 - January 20, 2021

Steve "Sleepy" F. Phillips passed away on January, 20 2021. He Served 36 years in the Army National Guard in the 20th Special Forces Unit. He served in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Enduring Freedom, and multiple other deployments. He retired as an E7 Sgt. First Class. He was a husband, father, and Opa. He is preceded in death by his parents Fred H. Phillips and Elaine (Hanson) Phillips and son Jonas A. Phillips. He is survived by his wife of 42 years Emily (Wingard), Daughters Sara (Tommy) Stone, and Margaret (Bob) Hawkins, Granddaughter Audrey Hawkins. Siblings Wanda (Ronnie) Mills, David (Anita) Phillips, Jan Hamrick, and many nieces and nephews. A graveside service will be held January 23, 2021 at 3pm in McCormack Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at www.newhorizonmemorial.com. New Horizon Memorial Funeral Home directing.

Cemetery Details

McCormack Cemetery

McCormack Rd.
Dora, AL

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 23. 3:00 PM (CT)

McCormack Cemetery
McCormack Rd.
Dora, AL

Tribute Wall



“ Steve "Sleepy" F. Phillips

October 05, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. Praying for comfort for his family.

Debbie Lauderdale - January 26, 2021 at 03:55 PM



“ I never met a more dedicated troop than Sleepy. We spent a good many years at Service Company/20th Special Forces Group. He always had a laugh or smile to start the day and didn't seem to know the phrase "We can't do or support that". He was my Best Man at my wedding and a good friend through the years. I will never forget him. My thoughts and prayers are with Emily and the family, may God Bless and keep you all. -Steve Adams

Steve Adams - January 24, 2021 at 11:28 AM

“ Husband, Daddy, Soon to be Opa

Sleepy joined the Army National Guard after the recruiter came by Dora High School where he attended in 1976. By the end of the year, he graduated basic training in Fort Lee, Virginia.

Sleepy and Emily met at Elmore's. He transferred from the Clanton store to the Montgomery location to be the Asst. Manager where Emily already worked. She thought he was in his 30's (an old man), he was only 20. It only took about a month for them to start dating and seven months later they were engaged. By November 1978 they were married.

Sleepy got his name because he could sleep anywhere anytime, you name it, including formation with his eyes open. Most people didn't know a Steve Phillips but everyone knew who Sleepy was. He was known across the country by other units and local businesses who he helped support.

As a member of the 20th Special Forces, he loved jumping from planes as long as he didn't have to pull his own chute. He loved the views on his way down. He served 36 years before retiring in 2012 as a Sgt. First Class then became a Civilian Contractor in the units Property Books Office. He received numerous awards and achievements during his service.

He loved traveling and seeing the world. He has been to Italy, Spain, Germany, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, Kazakhstan and probably most of the United States. Out of all the places he visited, Montana was his favorite. He talked about how beautiful it is up there and how he would love to live there if he ever moved up North. He took his family to Glacier National Park on a trip in 2005 and they've wanted to go back ever since.

He drove way too fast and scared all his passengers. Family,

Friends, it didn't matter. Whether it was 120mph down the Continental Divide, pretending to be asleep while driving a bus full of guys on impossibly tight roads or driving his wife around the back roads of Walker County, everyone was glad when they made it to their destination in one piece. He finally slowed down when he got mid-way into his forties. Then he didn't mind taking his time getting places.

He drove everyone crazy at one point or another, most times more often than not. He had his way of doing things and he let you know if it wasn't the way he thought was best. He always had a bigger picture in mind for you to achieve that we couldn't always see. Ultimately, he just wanted things to be done the right way, not necessarily the easiest way.

He was a lover of Westerns, War movies, Oldies, Bluegrass, exploring historical towns, driving through the countryside for hours. Cookies, Fruit cake, "Snacky-crackies-with-raisin-pits", Mtn. Dew, Blue Jean Jackets, and Jeeps.

He loved making his own words up to songs just to be silly or singing Airborne Jump songs to his little girls. As they got older, he enjoyed waking them up early in the morning to "Roll Out the Barrel" while singing off key. They still aren't morning people and don't care for that song.

He had a love of Jeeps and camping he passed down to his daughters. He made sure they spent time outside, learned how to set up a tent, sent them through Girl Scouts which he was a card-carrying member himself, taught them how to defend themselves, taught them to drive manual jeeps because "you don't drive an automatic, it drives you." Taught them how to work on their own Jeeps, to be self-sufficient, and not be afraid to try something new.

He loved his family and his friends and his country with all his heart. He proudly served them all and would do it all again if he could.

M. Hawkins - January 24, 2021 at 12:21 AM

MH

“ *The great blizzard of '93.*



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 09:34 AM

LB

“ *The most remarkable thing that I will continue to remember about Steve will be that beautiful smile that he gave everybody he was around. That smile literally lit up the world around him like the sun. He seemed to have a big heart and a ready laugh. Our family truly lost a good man but one day we will see him smiling again. I am so sorry for Steve's immediate family and am holding all of you in my heart for your hurt losing Steve to this terrible virus.*

Linda Wilson Bryant - January 23, 2021 at 02:59 AM

MH

“ *He made sure all the jeeps got priority parking and were parked together at our King of the Hill events. All others were told to park further away, lol.*



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 01:44 AM

MH

“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 01:42 AM

MH

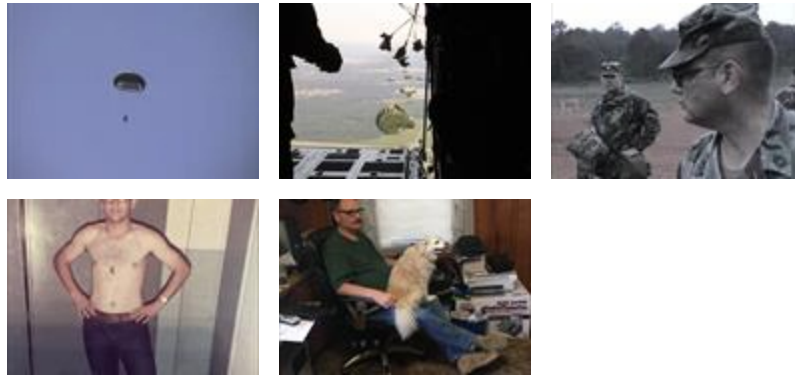
“ 23 files added to the tribute wall



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 01:39 AM

MH

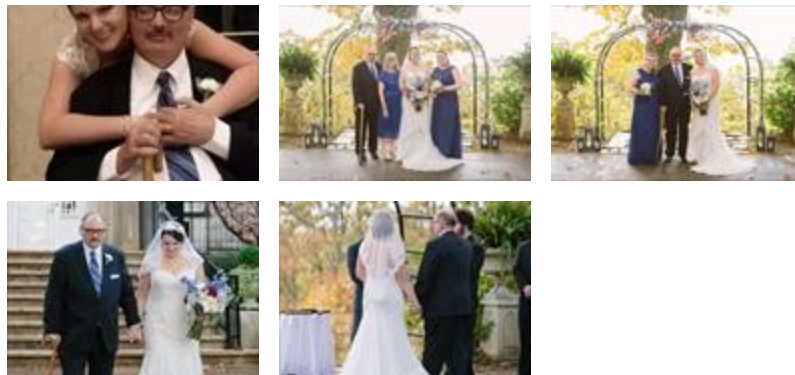
“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 01:36 AM

MH

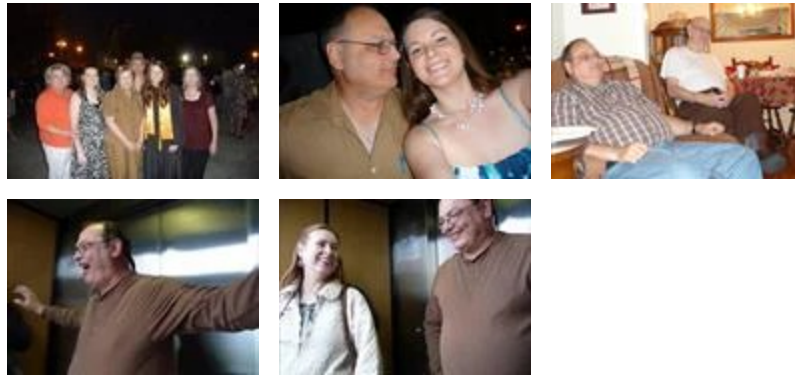
“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 01:01 AM

MH

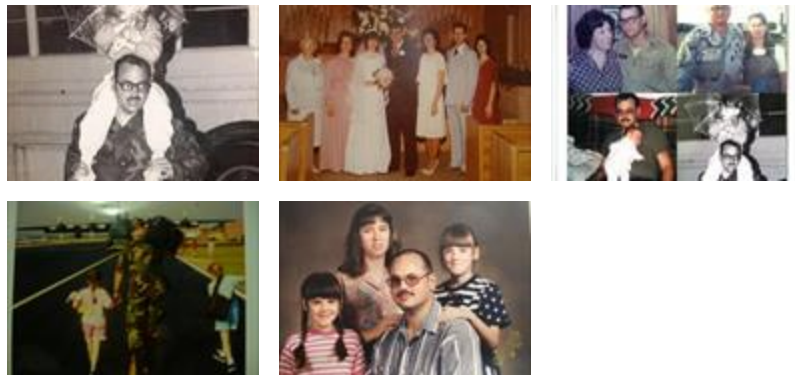
“ 24 files added to the tribute wall



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 01:00 AM

MH

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



M. Hawkins - January 23, 2021 at 12:58 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steve "Sleepy" F. Phillips.



January 22, 2021 at 10:19 PM

CC

“ I worked side by side with Steve “Sleepy” for the last 10 years. Sleepy was one of the kindest, giving and hardest working person, Soldier I have had the pleasure of knowing and working for. We met 40 years ago and 34 of them was with the 20th Special Forces Group Airborne. But above all he loved his wife Emily and his two girls! God bless Steve I know I’ll see him again someday! Loved you buddy! And I will truly miss you everyday!

CW3 CharlieTrucks - January 22, 2021 at 09:33 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steve "Sleepy" F. Phillips.



January 22, 2021 at 09:24 PM

LG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Linda Garrison - January 22, 2021 at 08:04 PM

DC

“ Doris Wingard Crain sent a virtual gift in memory of Steve "Sleepy" F. Phillips



Doris Wingard Crain - January 22, 2021 at 07:35 PM

DC

“ Steve was a most special brother-in-law. He was totally devoted to his Family and Country.
Laughter and funny pranks seem to be the best medicine he gave to our families...and his Love.
We miss you, Sleepy 😴

Doris Wingard Crain - January 22, 2021 at 07:31 PM