

Philip R. Patterson

April 17, 1947 - April 15,
2026



Philip Richard Patterson, fondly known to many as Phil, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on April 15, 2026, just two days shy of his 79th birthday. Born on April 17, 1947, in Ottawa, Kansas,

Phil lived a life marked by dedication, service, and love. He was the beloved son of Charles Richard and Bernice Patterson, both of whom predeceased him, as did his cherished nephews, John Sutter and Nick Campbell.

Phil's legacy is carried forward by his five adoring daughters: Angela (Michael) Battles, Sara (Christopher) Bradley, Lisa (John) Heinemann, Emily Patterson, and Kate Patterson. He was the proud and doting "Papa" to six grandchildren—Jack Dale, Reece Carson, Davis Carson, Adalyn Carson, Emma Heinemann, and Carson Heinemann—who will forever remember his unwavering support and infectious enthusiasm at every sporting event and activity. Phil is also survived by his twin brother, Robert (Ardis) Patterson; his sister, Kathleen Sutter; and a host of nieces, nephews, and countless friends whose lives he touched deeply.

A 1965 graduate of Shawnee Mission West, Phil's passion for learning led him to Kansas State University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1973. He furthered his education with a Master of Business Administration from Baker University. He was also a distinguished graduate of the Southern Police Institute, Class of 1988.

Phil's commitment to service was evident early in his life when he joined the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1967 to 1970. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, he bravely served in the Vietnam War and was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Rifle Sharpshooter Badge. His patriotism was a defining feature of his life; he was immensely proud of his time as a Marine, and as an American.

Phil dedicated 25 years to law enforcement with the City of Olathe, where he made a tremendous impact as a detective and police captain. He was a member of the Kansas City Metro Squad and the first recipient of the City of Olathe's Employee of the Year Award. He later served as Chief of Campus Police at MidAmerica Nazarene University from 2001 to 2007. His commitment to safety and community was unwavering, and he was respected by colleagues and community members alike.

An Eagle Scout in his youth, Phil continued his community involvement as a life member of the Marine Corps League and the K-State Alumni Association. He was a past member of the Olathe Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Abdullah Shrine, and the American Legion. A man of faith, he was a long-time deacon and member of Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Phil was a man who never met a stranger. His warm smile and genuine interest in others made him a beloved figure everywhere he went, from grocery stores to doctors' offices. His uncanny ability to remember details and dates made every conversation feel personal and special. He was always ready to lend an ear, share advice, or drop everything to help a friend or family member in need. His love for ice cream and Mickey Mouse was rivaled only by his love for his family and the joy he found in spending time with them. Phil was a mentor to many veterans, forming lasting friendships through VA support groups. He lived his life with a spirit of generosity and kindness, and his legacy will continue in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him.

Phil's life was a testament to the values of service, dedication, and love. He will be deeply missed, but his spirit will endure in the countless lives he touched. His family invites those who knew and loved him to join in celebrating his remarkable life on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 11:00am at Colonial Presbyterian Church (9500 Wornall Road Kansas City, MO). The family will greet visitors at the church before the service at 10:00am. Full military honors will be rendered during the burial service at Leavenworth National Cemetery following funeral services at 1:30pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Second Marine Division Association Memorial Scholarship Fund or Shriners Children's, in care of Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502.

Semper Fidelis, Daddy. We will love you until the twelfth of never!