



Phillip L. Spigner Jr.

April 16, 1982 - December 21, 2024

Phillip L. Spigner Jr., affectionately known as PJ, was born on April 16, 1982, at Yokota Air Force Base, Japan, to Louise and Phillip Spigner. At the early age of 42, he tragically departed this life suddenly and joined the arms of Christ Jesus on December 21, 2024, at his home in Landover, Maryland. PJ made the decision to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior on April 5, 1996, at the tender age of 13. He continued his Christian walk as a member of St. Mark Baptist Church in Browns Mills, New Jersey. A loving and devoted son, brother, uncle, cousin, friend and soldier, PJ lived a life in which he fully embodied the principles of God's love through his steadfast service and commitment to others.

PJ was raised and educated in the public schools of Pemberton Township, New Jersey. He attended Pemberton Township High School, where he graduated with honors in June 2000. Afterward, he joined the U.S. Army Reserves and began his military journey in September 2000 with basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon his graduation and return home, he began his college studies at The College of New Jersey. However, the tragic events of September 11th led him to withdraw from classes to activate his military service, which included deployments to Kuwait, Iraq (two tours), and Afghanistan. PJ was a deeply dedicated soldier who proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserves for over 20 years. His assignments included international active-duty deployments to Italy and various stateside postings in Missouri,

Arizona, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Texas, and Maryland. Throughout his distinguished military career, PJ received numerous accolades and awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He proudly achieved the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) in June 2024. At the time of his passing, he was employed by the President's Intelligence Advisory & Oversight Boards, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C.

PJ earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice on May 15, 2011, and a Master of Arts in Intelligence Studies on August 1, 2020, from American Public University. In 2003, he was initiated into the brotherhood of Sigma Pi Fraternity, Theta Delta Chapter, at The College of New Jersey. He was also a member of the Order of the Sword & Shield National Honor Society.

PJ loved to travel the world, especially with his favorite travel buddy and cousin, Chieko. His vibrant personality drew people to him during random encounters across the globe. He never failed to turn these chance meetings into lifelong friendships. Two such friendships led to invitations for him to attend weddings in Scotland and Ireland, which he joyfully accepted donning his very own custom kilt! PJ's cheerful smile, infectious laughter, clever quips, and loving sarcasm will be profoundly missed by all those who have shared a connection with him. One of PJ's all-time favorite pastimes was spending his time at the beach. He loved to relax on a comfy inflatable lounge chair, soak up the sun, listen to the waves, and occasionally jump into the ocean for a quick swim. Whether on vacation overseas or back home at the Jersey shore, the beach was truly his happy place.

PJ was also hailed as a "Master Craftsman" by his entire family. He was a self-taught expert in various trades, including automotive mechanics, carpentry, electrical work, and plumbing, among countless others. He loved the challenge of taking any open space and building custom shelving or

drawers to meet your specific needs. His mother and sister would often marvel at his wealth of skills, asking, "How did you learn to do all that?" PJ would proudly share that he made the most of free classes offered by Home Depot and instructional videos on YouTube. His desire to learn and his gift for understanding things on his own were truly his blessings from God. Whenever anyone needed something constructed, repaired or reached out to him for guidance on a project, PJ was always there to lend a helping hand.

PJ's love for his family and friends was immeasurable, and they will cherish the precious memories they have of him for the rest of their lives. He will be eternally loved by his mother, Louise of Browns Mills, NJ; his father, Phillip of Philadelphia, PA; his sister, Meneko Spigner McBeth (Chris); and his nieces, Ingenua, Ilania, Ileigh, and Idalise of Deptford, NJ. He is also survived by his uncles, Harry Wilson Jr. (Maria) of Antioch, CA, and Johnny Wilson (Sonya) of Woodbridge, VA; his aunts, Maria Clarke of Woodbridge, VA, and Jeanette Davis (Robert) of Huntsville, AL; and his special God-sister, Tanisha (Byron), and beloved God-nephews, Brycen and Gabriel, of Georgetown, TX. He will be missed tremendously by his many cousins, with whom he shared an exceptionally close bond.

PJ was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Harry and Sayoko Wilson. He deeply mourned each of them and comfort is received in knowing he was welcomed back into their loving embrace.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday January 25, 2025, at 11:00 am at St. Mark Baptist Church, 545 Lakehurst Road, Browns Mills, NJ 08015. A visitation will commence at 10:00 am to offer the opportunity to pay your respects and extend condolences to the family. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in honor of PJ's exemplary military legacy and his unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers. Immediately following the service, guests are welcome to fellowship

with the family at a repast from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm to be held at the American Legion Post 294, 39 Fort Dix Road, Pemberton, NJ 08068. Known to be the life of any party, PJ relished a good celebration, so please bring all your wonderful memories of him to share with one another and rejoice in the truly magnificent life he lived.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mark Baptist Church
545 Lakehurst Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015

Memorial Service

JAN **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

St. Mark Baptist Church
545 Lakehurst Road
Browns Mills, NJ 08015

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Phillip L. Spigner Jr..*



January 23, 2025 at 03:49 PM



“ *Sending condolences to PJ's family and closest friend. PJ was always a huge positive presence for our fraternity at TCNJ. Rarely saw him without a smile and he was just always there for his friends. He will be greatly missed <3*

Christopher G Snel - January 23, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ *Troy Eden purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Phillip L. Spigner Jr..*



Troy Eden - January 14, 2025 at 10:36 AM



“ *Troy Eden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip L. Spigner Jr..*

Troy Eden - January 14, 2025 at 10:36 AM

AW

“ Admiral James Winnefeld purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Phillip L. Spigner Jr..



Admiral James Winnefeld - January 13, 2025 at 08:36 PM

AW

“ Admiral James Winnefeld planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip L. Spigner Jr..

Admiral James Winnefeld - January 13, 2025 at 08:36 PM



“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

Marshall-March Funeral Homes - January 08, 2025 at 02:08 PM