



Philip Andre Brankin

June 17, 1951 - December 20, 2017

PRINCETON — Philip A. Brankin, 66, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, after a six-year battle with cancer. He was comforted in his last hours by his loving family and devoted friends.

Philip is survived by three sons, Anthony P. Brankin (Natalie Mullen) of Manchester, N.H., Evan M. Brankin of Davenport, Iowa, and Patrick J. Brankin of Naperville; and by his devoted and loving wife, Elizabeth Anne Brankin (Cumpton). He is also survived by three stepdaughters, Michele Pettit (James) of Solon, Iowa, Tricia Pinter (Kenneth Kramer) of Princeton and Amy Pinter of Chicago.

Philip is survived by other family, including his brother, the Rev. Anthony J. Brankin, St. Odilo's Parish, Berwyn; his brother, the Right Rev. Patrick M. Brankin, Tulsa Diocese, Tulsa, Okla.; his brother, Joseph D. Brankin (Kristin), Chief of Aurora University Police Department; and his brother-in-law, David Drymiller (Pamela). He is survived by a sister-in-law, Mindy Kissick; a brother-in-law, R. Scott Cumpton (Jill); a sister-in-law, Jody Bates (Joseph); a sister-in-law, Kelly Cain (Marc); and his wonderful mother-in-law, Linda L. Cumpton.

He was preceded in death by his father, Anthony J Brankin (Captain CPD); his mother, Angela (Carioscia); his stepmother, Rita Brankin (Welsh); a sister, Mary Ann Drymiller; and his father-in-law, Robert Cumpton.

He is further survived by seven grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins.

Philip joined Northeast Multi-Regional Training (NEMRT), Aurora, in July of 1986. He was promoted to director in 1992. He had a Bachelor of Arts in History from DePaul University; a certificate in criminal justice administration from Aurora University and a master's degree in human resource management from National Louis University. He was a veteran of 10 years in the active (four years) and reserve components of the U.S. Army, where he was promoted to Captain. Phil also spent 14 years in law enforcement, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. He served on the Board of Directors of three non-profit corporations.

While Director at NEMRT, he received the law enforcement Executive of the Year for 2014 by the Illinois Association of Law Enforcement Executives; the Distinguished Service Award for 2016 by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. While under Philip's leadership, NEMRT received national recognition for its support of the National Guard and the Reserve Components of the U.S. military, including Patriotic Employer Award, presented by the Officer of the Secretary of Defense for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves; Department of Defense Pro Patria Award for outstanding service to the national defense through contributing support of the National Guard and Reserve; Extraordinary Employer Support Award, and nominated for the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award.

In 1987, Philip helped create the Ft. Dearborn Highlanders, a bagpipe band playing in local parades and festivals. But to honor fallen police, fireman and veterans he then helped create the Chicago Highland Rifles, a ceremonial unit with bagpipes, drums and bugles. It was created to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their county and community.

Phil had many interests and hobbies, but the love of gardening and the joy of cooking were apparent. His gardens had a gorgeous display of perennials color from April through November, and nothing could make him happier than being able to prepare meals for his family and friends.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at the St. Louis Catholic Church in Princeton by the most Rev. Edward Slattery, retired Bishop, Tulsa, Okla.; the Right Rev. Patrick Brankin, Tulsa, Okla.; the Rev. Anthony Brankin, St. Odilo's Parish, Berwyn; Rev. Jeffery Stirniman, former pastor; and the Rev. Daniel Gifford, current pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church, Princeton. Burial will be in the Malden Cemetery, Malden.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the Norberg Memorial Home, 701 E. Thompson St., Princeton. A rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to International Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation; St. Jude's; or the charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be left at www.norbergfh.com.

Previous Events

Mass

DEC **28**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Louis Catholic Church
616 South Gosse
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

 Lisa
Hutchin

“ Phil and I met at Ft Campbell, KY when he was the S-4 of my husband's battalion bsck in the late 1970s. He and his wife lived in the same neighborhood off-post and we became fast friends. We used to eat lunch together practically every day at Red's Delicatessen and spin stories about how crazy the Army was. Phil had a marvelous sense of humor and loved practical jokes, but he was always the consumate professional and could be counted on in a pinch. The world is a sadder place without you, Phil. Rest in peace my friend.

Lisa Hutchin - January 19, 2018 at 11:30 AM

 RJ

“ Deepest condolences to Phil's family. Phil was a great supporter and advocate for law enforcement training. He assisted many police departments in their efforts to achieve CALEA accreditation and brought NERMT to the process as one of the first accredited academies by CALEA. He worked tirelessly to improve the law enforcement profession. He was my friend and he will be missed. RIP.

*Ray Arthurs
Chief of Police (ret.)*

Raymond Arthurs Jr. - January 04, 2018 at 07:54 PM

 RP

“ My third try on my phone. Phil showed great love and faith in God. I admired him and in those final months I prayed daily that his tough nature would get him through on his terms. I'll miss our exchanges. His family was blessed to have him in their lives as were his friends and the many he touched.

rick pipal - January 02, 2018 at 03:57 PM

KT

“ *Phil showed us all a way of living life to which we could only hope to aspire. I am a better man for having known him. Beth, you and the rest of his 'family' have my deepest condolences. Phil was one of a very rare breed.*

Keith Tomes

Keith Tomes - December 27, 2017 at 05:52 PM

TM

“ *My thoughts of Phil are that he was a friend, a colleague, a professional, a courageous battler, and, most importantly, a good man. He was easy to talk to and a good listener. My close association with NEMRT began with Phil and his leadership and guidance of what has been and continues to be an outstanding Multi-Regional Training Unit that has touched many Police Departments and Police Officers in Illinois over many years. Most of us on the job, now, in the past, and in the future will carry with us an important piece of Phil in what has been and will always be one of our most important tools in law enforcement - professional training. Phil owns a piece of that and our constant striving for professionalism. Like all of us who knew Phil, I will miss him; but I will remember him for his life and professional contributions - and his courage in a battle that eventually took him but not without a fight! Phil will forever be an inspiration. See ya', buddy!*

*Terry A. Mee
Chief of Police
East Dundee Police Department*

Terry Mee - December 27, 2017 at 03:50 PM

GG

“ Phil: you set the standard for Regional Law Enforcement Education and Training and for that our citizens are served in a professional manner. Rest well

george graves - December 27, 2017 at 02:55 PM

KK

“ Phil was very supportive while I was teaching for NEMRT and doing my graduate research. He was especially proud of his military and law enforcement service. He always had the time to listen and offer advice. He was a true professional and devoted family man. Phil was also a man of God.May God hold you in the palm of his hand
Keith Killacky (FBI-ret) (Lewis University-ret)



Keith Killacky - December 27, 2017 at 01:07 PM

RP

“ Phil was such a wonderful person who touched many lives. He was a true friend of law enforcement. Rest In Peace brother

Robert Porter

Robert Porter - December 27, 2017 at 12:44 PM

CM

“ Phil was one of the. Best men I have ever met. We shared a different sense of humor ,a love of people, the love of our Lord and he was tough as nails. I am proud to call him friend.

Chuck Montgomery

Chuck Montgomery - December 27, 2017 at 09:42 AM

CK

“ Please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of Phil. He was a friend to me throughout my career. My thoughts and prayers to his Family.

Chief Frank Kaminski - December 27, 2017 at 09:08 AM

JL

“ I first met Phil in 1989 when I became an instructor for NEMRT. From the very moment we met, I knew I was dealing with a very professional, dedicated and compassionate person. Phil was always so helpful, supportive and a positive influence to me and everyone he came in contact with. I never heard him speak poorly of anyone, he was upbeat even when you knew a lesser person wouldn't be. He was a very brave individual that put everyone else, including his staff, ahead of himself. The law enforcement community has lost a truly dedicated and professional for not just NEMRT departments, but all law enforcement within the entire State of Illinois. His professionalism, loyalty, integrity and faith has been an inspiration to all that had the benefit of knowing and working with Phil. It has been an honor for me to have known and worked with Phil for over 30 years.

My condolences to Phil's family, and may Phil Rest In Peace.

*Jim Linane
Chief of Police
Sleepy Hollow Police Department*

Jim Linane - December 26, 2017 at 02:34 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Philip Andre Brankin.*



December 26, 2017 at 01:22 PM



“ *On behalf of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police I offer my sincere condolences to the Brankin Family on the loss a wonderful person and a consummate professional. I will cherish my time as NEMRT board President working closely with Phil and truly experiencing a tremendous work ethic and a wonderful person. May God bless Phil and the family.*

James Kruger - December 23, 2017 at 09:28 PM



“ *I went to the basic academy with Phil in the 70's and later taught courses at NEMRT. Phil was a dedicated law enforcement professional and a man of the highest integrity.*

*Ray Turano
Chief of Police
Warrenville Police Department.*

Raymond Turano - December 23, 2017 at 06:16 PM



“ *I met Phil at a State Board meeting when I was new to MTU 7. He was made me feel very welcomed to the group. He was a great guy. My thoughts and prayers are with his entire family.
Jean Swan MTU7 Admin Assistant*

Jean Swan - December 22, 2017 at 07:09 PM

MO

“ Phil helped me navigate the MTU system when I first became director of MTU7. Without his guidance I am sure I would have not made it work. He was a perfect gentleman and treated everyone with grace and dignity. Phil will certainly be spending Jesus's Birthday with him in heaven. His friendship was a great gift to all that he knew.

I wish his family peace and solace in the future knowing they will once again be with him in all eternity.

Mike Oyer

Mike Oyer - December 22, 2017 at 05:03 PM

WH

“ Phil was always supportive of my efforts teaching for NEMRT. His positive demeanor and friendly manner made me and others feel important and needed. My condolences to his family, as well as his extended past and current family at NEMRT.

*Bill Hominick
Park Ridge Police, ret.*

William Hominick - December 22, 2017 at 04:01 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Philip Andre Brankin.



December 22, 2017 at 03:39 PM

RW

“ Phil was the consummate professional. I had the honor of serving on the committee that hired Phil at NEMRT and I knew immediately that he would be an excellent addition to the staff. Later I worked closely with Phil after he was promoted to Executive Director. He was an outstanding leader who brought the organization to a higher level. He was both a leader and mentor to everyone at NEMRT. Phil was a man of high integrity and moral fiber. He was a credit to his family and professional law enforcement. I was honored to know him.

Robert J Warner
Chief of Police (ret)
Batavia Police Department

Robert Warner - December 22, 2017 at 03:19 PM



The Phil Brankin I knew was kind and approachable as a friend and leader of NEMRT. There were times I asked him for assistance in finding a new instructor for a current topic in law enforcement training, and other things; He never hesitated, then or any other time, to help, while directing the numerous training classes NEMRT conducted each year. There's folly in the question, should anyone dare ask; Is law enforcement better for the efforts, creativity and professionalism of Phil's direction? Yes, of course it is better. But Phil would humbly respond and credit his hard working staff. Phil was courteous, unselfish, respectful of people, and stern in his advocacy of NEMRT. Yet, he didn't turn down an invitation to live doing the things he loved, cooking, reading and gardening, among others, while his deep faith and love of God sustained him. His life, success and generosity can be seen in the many friends and colleagues he has. I'll end with a salutary line, I think references Phil, from the poem ABOU BEN ADHEM "I pray thee then. Write me as one that loves his fellow-men." Bless you Phil. Rest in Peace.

George Burnetti - December 25, 2017 at 01:57 PM

BC

Thank you Phil for being a great inspiration and leader over your years with NMERT. It was a pleasure attending meetings with you. Rest in Peace.

*Lt. Barb Clish
Brookfield Zoo Police Dept.*

Barb Clish - December 25, 2017 at 03:55 PM

DC

Phillip A. Brankin, "Phil," to his friends, did not play the pipes, nor did he play the drums, but his contributions were, and at the very least, equally important to all who were ever in any of his Honor Guard and Pipe Band formations.

He was an absolutely grand Sergeant Major!, in first The Fort Dearborne Highlanders and then The Chicago Highland Rifles; and both bands formed to honor all veterans.

And, for those ultra-important areas of Dress, Deportment and Drill, some may have, on occasion, approached his level of complete expertise, but none ever surpassed; and all brought about with a quiet and knowing word, to insure the very best possible turn out, and the very best possible performance.

Part of his career began in the 502nd Parachute Infantry, and then continued on in the training of Law Enforcement Officers at the North East Multi-Regional Training Center, in Aurora, in 1986, and then in his becoming its Director in 1992.

Many local, state, federal and international law enforcement officers, and many pipers, drummers and honor guard members have greatly benefited, and over these many years, from his keen though kindly eye, and his rock-solid belief in, and his knowledge of, excellence in training, and in performance.

He shall be greatly missed, and long remembered.

DC/CHR

David Cormalleth - December 26, 2017 at 09:51 PM



Cynthia
Doyel

Mr. Brankin was a wonderful man to work with in my capacity as secretary to Chief Rose (Mundelein PD). He was always in pleasant on the phone and took the time to say hello. My condolences to his family and friends.

"Seashells remind us that every passing life leaves something beautiful behind."

Cynthia Doyel - December 27, 2017 at 11:52 AM

JA

Phil made his mark while on this earth, and shall not be forgotten by those whom he touched personally or professionally. Rest in Peace.

Jan Allen - December 28, 2017 at 01:01 PM

JB

Working with Phil was a privilege and an honor. A consummate professional, Phil was a caring, honorable, and the epitome of integrity. Phil will be missed, but the positive impact he had on all of us will live forever in the thousands of law enforcement officers he helped train. God Bless you Phil and the fine work you accomplished!

*Chief Joel Brumlik
Winthrop Harbor Police Department*

Joel Brumlik - December 28, 2017 at 06:14 PM

DM

My condolences to Beth and all of the Brankin family in the loss of one of the finest gentlemen that I've ever met. I've felt it a great honor to call Phil a "friend" since I first met him 10 years ago at NEMRT. It was always a highlight to my day if I could catch him in the office. He made every visit a special, personal pleasure. He set a high standard as a fine Christian gentleman. He will be greatly missed by all. May he rest in peace with our Lord.

Don Costello - Smoketree Office Manager

Don Costello - Smoketree Office Manager - December 31, 2017 at 08:19 PM