



Dr. Philip Allan Billings

September 7, 1943 - August 20, 2025

Dr. Philip Allan Billings passed away peacefully in his home on August 20, 2025, at the age of 81. He was born in Canton, Ohio on September 7, 1943, to Wilbur and Katherine Billings. He attended Lincoln High School before moving on to Heidelberg College where he forged his educational path and met his future wife, Sue, who he married in 1966. He later earned his master's and Ph.D. in English from Michigan State University in 1974.

In 1970, he and Sue left their friends and family in the Midwest for the small town of Annville, PA. Dr. Billings would be a professor of English at Lebanon Valley College for 44 years, where he shared his love of literature and writing with generations of Lebanon Valley students and was a loyal supporter of the college's athletics and theatre programs. Dr. Billings was the 2007 recipient of the Thomas Rhys Vickroy Teaching Award, and he delivered the LVC commencement address in 2008. The LVC campus became a second home for him, Sue and his two sons, Josh and Dan. He maintained an office on campus in retirement, where he continued to enjoy writing and emailing friends and family until the day before his passing.

Dr. Billings was a published author and wrote two books, *Porches* and *Porches Volume Two*, where he created poems based on recorded interviews of citizens of Annville and combined them with portraits by local artist Dan Massad. A third book, *When We Talk About War*, was dedicated to the stories

of war veterans from Annville and surrounding areas.

A huge sports fan, Phil loved his home state Cleveland Browns and Indians and attended many games during his childhood. He was a high school basketball, baseball and football player at Lincoln High and went on to play football for four years at Heidelberg. He was the rare jock who also loved reading, writing and intellectual pursuits. There was not a day in his adult life when he didn't have a book or magazine in his hand at some point.

Travel was a huge part of his life and he and Sue made it a priority from early in their marriage. They spent a sabbatical in Cambridge, England in 1977 with Josh. Future journeys included the western United States, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Crete, where Phil took a group of LVC students for a semester abroad in 1997. Alongside his love of travel was his love for music. His diverse tastes in blues, country, gospel, classical, folk and rock (often accompanied by the "Canton strut") provided the soundtrack of his life.

Preceding Dr. Billings in death were his beloved parents, Wilbur and Katherine Billings. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sue Billings, his sons Josh Billings (Jennifer) and Dan Billings (Evelyn), his older brother Wilbur Billings (Linda), his younger sister, Barbara Hazelbaker, and his brother-in-law, Richard Sanderson. He also leaves behind five grandchildren (Mason, Cooper, Kellen, Siena, and Lyla). His final 19 years as Pop Pop were some of the best and most important of his life. His love of his grandchildren was beyond words, though he did document nearly every visit with them for many years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Miller Chapel on the campus of Lebanon Valley College on Saturday, September 20th. Visitation will begin at 2:30 p.m. followed by a service at 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Lebanon Valley College or the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

SEP 20. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Miller Chapel at Lebanon Valley College
E. Sheridan Avenue
Annville, PA 17003

Celebration of Life

SEP 20. 4:00 PM (ET)

Miller Chapel at Lebanon Valley College
E. Sheridan Avenue
Annville, PA 17003

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Dr. Billings was one of those people whos wisdom sticks with you for a lifetime. He was a great friend, mentor, and professor. He was one of my first professors at LVC and I am glad that I had many opportunities to learn from him. He was a gifted storyteller and always had a kind word even in the hardest of times. He will always be in my memories.* ”



Chris Klimovitz & Family - September 17, 2025 at 08:55 PM

JR

“ *Jon, Lisa, Nathan & Grace Roca purchased the S weetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. Philip Allan Billings.* ”



Jon, Lisa, Nathan & Grace Roca - September 17, 2025 at 06:02 AM

MF

“ *Mike Itle & Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Philip Allan Billings.* ”



Mike Itle & Family - September 16, 2025 at 07:00 AM

MF

“ Mike Itle & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Philip Allan Billings.

Mike Itle & Family - September 16, 2025 at 07:00 AM



“ Our hearts break for your loss. He always had such a large, warm smile and made everyone feel welcomed and appreciated. I loved how passionate he was about life and his family. He will be missed.

Nanda Mitra-Itle - September 15, 2025 at 09:34 PM

EM

“ Dr. Billings was big part of my four years at LVC. His advice to "model my enthusiasm for literature" inspired me to be an English teacher for 31 years. My prayers go out to his family.

Eric Mushrush - September 06, 2025 at 05:11 PM

BF

“ To the Billings family- you have my deepest sympathy. To Dan: We had a wonderful year in 5 th grade. You were so intelligent yet had that endearing sense of humor I love. I'd often see your dad at Schwalm's in Cleona with his newspaper. One time your parents , you and I were together and you were at that stage of your life when you found great pleasure high jumping over cars. I remember being in awe of that skill and your parents said, For God's sake don't encourage him!!!! I thought it was hilarious ! You and I were on the same page. Your dad was a gentle man and I know he will be greatly missed.

Betty Forney - September 05, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear this Dr. Billings was a very kind man. I met him at LVC i was a housekeeper. He was a funny man he'd be at the college sometimes before housekeepers. And you'd walk in his room and get surprised. (who gets up that early?)...Dr. Billings! Even after he retired he came to LVC early! Again sorry for your loss, LvC housekeeper.



Debra Reedy Leeper - September 05, 2025 at 01:06 PM

“Where do I even begin to talk about Dr. Billings? There were several of us who were competing to see who could have the most classes with Dr. Billings. I will cherish the photo that we took with him at our commencement.

I can remember every course I had with him:

--American Literature II

--World Literature I

--Film & Novels

--Confessional Poetry

--The Value of Families in Modern American Literature

He was always good about telling stories, especially of his uncle Ross. I can still remember his laugh when he would tell a story! His smile was always a source of comfort in the midst of the challenges we faced as college students.

Dr. Billings was hired by his former professor, Dr. Art Ford. During his own tenure as chairperson, Dr. Billings hired some of the best professors at LVC. Dr. Ford and Dr. Billings were instrumental in building a strong English Department.

On the day of my graduation, I was fortunate to sit next to him during the ceremony. This was because he was a faculty marshal and I was the class president. Little did I know that we would continue to keep in touch via email and sit together at basketball games. I was honored to have him attend my wedding in 2014. I will cherish my visit with him last year in the little office he had in the basement of the chapel. He reflected on his years at LVC, the wonderful students he met, and the distinguished colleagues that he hired!

In closing, I would describe my beloved professor as humble, thoughtful, caring, energetic, and insightful. Thank you, Dr. Billings, for being an excellent teacher, mentor, and friend. You will be missed, but I will think of you often (especially at LVC basketball

games)!

May your memory be a blessing to all!

Chris Rankin - September 04, 2025 at 09:11 PM

PB

“ *I was so very sorry to hear about your husband’s passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.*

I hope that the love and support of those around you bring you comfort and strength in the days ahead. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts, and I wish you peace and healing as you navigate this loss together.

*With sympathy,
Paul Barr*

Paul Barr - September 04, 2025 at 11:08 AM

KH

“ *Dr. Billings was a rare and true gem. With his exceptional intelligence, he had every reason to be a proud man, but there was never a trace of arrogance. Quite the opposite. He led with kindness and humility, and in his gentle voice — that distinct voice with the raspy, warm tone and steady cadence — you could discern his sincerity. Classes with Billings could excite, inspire, and put me at ease, all at once. I’m so grateful that I made my way over to his table at The Vickroy Dinner this past April. I had no way of knowing it would be our final exchange, but what a good and lively chat it was.*

Kendra (Atkinson) Hoffman - September 04, 2025 at 06:29 AM

PC

“ I will always remember Dr Billings. He was my English teacher in 85/86 when I attended LVC as an exchange student from France. I send Dr Billings family my sincere condolences.
Pascale carbon



pascale carbon - September 04, 2025 at 06:08 AM

PD

“ I was looking forward to wishing Phil a happy 82nd birthday on September 7th
He was a dear friend & cherished colleague who will be intensely missed by all who knew him.

Phylis Dryden - September 03, 2025 at 10:31 PM

CG

“ Dr Billings was an exceptional professor. I only had him for one gen ed writing class, but it was one of my favorites. He challenged my writing and gave some really fun assignments that I still remember. For my four years on campus, his kind smile was always a sunny spot to my day! And for years following graduation, his emails to check in on me and my family were SO special. He was truly one of a kind. How blessed I was to have known him! Thank you for sharing your husband, father and grandfather with LVC :) He shared so many wonderful stories about all of you!

Christine Glover - September 03, 2025 at 08:15 PM