



Philip Howard Feather

May 9, 1935 - May 18, 2025

Philip Howard Feather, 90, of Cornwall passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital. He was the husband of Judith K. Feather, with whom he celebrated 63 years of marriage.

Phil was born in Lebanon on May 9, 1935, to the late John W. and Myrl (Corl) Feather. He was a graduate of Lebanon High School (1953), Lebanon Valley College (1960), and Dickinson School of Law (1963). He joined the Marine Corps after he graduated from high school, and he credited the GI Bill of Rights for giving him the opportunity to get a higher education. He often said he repaid the federal government many times over with the taxes he paid on money he never would have earned without that education. He was an attorney from 1963 until his retirement in 2005. Phil was a member of Christ Church United Church of Christ in Annville his entire adult life.

Lawyers were prohibited from advertising when Phil joined the bar, so a senior colleague advised him to get known by running for office. In 1965 he ran an unsuccessful campaign for Lebanon County Register of Wills as a Democrat. Two years later he succeeded in winning an election to serve as a delegate to the 1967-68 Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention. He later served four terms as a County Commissioner (1972-1980 and 1988-1996), including four years with fellow Democrat John Anspach, the only four-year period in Lebanon County's history when Democrats held the majority of commission seats.

He was president of the Lebanon County Historical Society, president of

consistory at Christ Church UCC in Annville, president of the Annville Jaycees, and was involved with Annville Rotary. While at Cornwall Manor he was the chairman of the Patriot Committee and the Building/Grounds Committee. He was the founder of the Annville Billiards Club. He loved spending time with family and traveling. Phil enjoyed playing pool and sailing, and anything to do with politics. He loved to host parties, most notably the annual Swatarii Safari, Memorial Day parade-watching, Super Bowl, and random celebrations just for so. He recently completed a book about his life which is available upon request under the condition that once read the book is given to someone else to read.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Karen M. Feather, son-in-law Michael Schroeder, of S. Annville, two grandchildren, Carolyn Pirtle (Clayton), Mark Wolf, and a great granddaughter Audrey Pirtle, his sister and brother-in-law, Joanne and Bill Foeller of Orchard Park, NY, and his son-in-law, Tom Wolf. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Susan F. Wolf, and siblings, John E. Feather, Sr., Helen M. Templin, Dorothy E. Heilman, Marion Gingrich, and Mildred Feather.

A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 11AM at Christ Church United Church of Christ, 200 S. White Oak Street, Annville. There will be a visitation from 9AM until 11AM at the church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to: Lebanon County Historical Society, 924 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, PA 17042 or Cornwall Manor-Benevolent Fund, 1 Boyd Street, PO Box 125, Cornwall, PA 17016.

Previous Events

Public Visitation

JUN 7. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church United Church of Christ
200 S. White Oak St.
Annville, PA 17003

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church United Church of Christ
200 S. White Oak St.
Annville, PA 17003

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences. My father mentioned Phil several times. I believe they had consulted on ancestry research.

Steve Feather - June 20, 2025 at 05:56 PM

HR

“ I had the honor of playing pool with Phil as an occasional participant of the "Annville Pool League" he was a great player ! I also had the opportunity to interact with him as the group coordinator of Cornwall Manor when they would bring a group to Lebanon Community Theatre, he was a huge fan of the theatre. He will be missed ! I consider myself fortunate to have shared some time with him on this trip we call life. RIP Phil.

Hugh Rooney - May 28, 2025 at 05:07 PM

KF

Thanks, Hugh. He sure loved the pool guys!

Karen Feather - June 05, 2025 at 04:02 PM

PD

“ Phil Feather was a remarkable man with a great sense of humor. He once gave me a piece of advice for county commissioner meetings with the prison board: "Don't eat the food."

Phylis C Dryden - May 23, 2025 at 11:30 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Philip Howard Feather.*



May 21, 2025 at 08:32 PM



“ *Phil, my Main Street teacher for hospitality and hot party action. Onward and godspeed!*

former neighbor Donald Byrne III - May 21, 2025 at 10:25 AM



(written by former neighbor Donald Byrne III)

Donald Byrne III - May 21, 2025 at 10:27 AM



Hot party action! He would have loved that you have that memory of him. He did love a party.

Karen Feather - May 21, 2025 at 12:21 PM



We will be in Maine on June 7 so cannot attend the memorial service, but know that our thoughts, prayers, and appreciation for Phil's legacy of humor and outgoing charm will be remembered fondly. Happy hours here at Cornwall Manor will not be the same without him. He was certainly the party animal.

Valerie Knisley - May 27, 2025 at 01:43 PM



Thanks, Val. I'm so glad you had the chance to get to know him.

Karen Feather - June 05, 2025 at 10:53 PM

MH

“ Great memories of Phil and family from election planning meetings to Christmas Eve parties and more. RIP Phil and most sincere condolences to the entire Feather family!

Michael Hynum - May 21, 2025 at 10:21 AM

KF

Thanks, Michael.

Karen Feather - June 05, 2025 at 10:54 PM

RS

“ Oh I'm so sad to hear this. So glad he recently celebrated his 90th with family and friends.
His sense of humor lifted me up many times.
A truly good man who gave his heart and soul to serving others, his community, and his country.
We will miss you Phil!

Roselyn Sinclair-Urban - May 21, 2025 at 09:47 AM

KF

Thanks, Roselyn.

Karen Feather - May 22, 2025 at 02:12 PM

NB

“ Nancy and I express our deepest sympathy to Judy and family. We always enjoyed being in the company of the Feather family. Bill enjoyed the friendly political discussions he had with Phil . We can truthfully say Phil was a good man and part of a great family. God Bless.

Nancy/Bill Brackbill - May 21, 2025 at 07:29 AM

KF

Thanks, Nancy and Bill.

Karen Feather - May 22, 2025 at 02:11 PM

CW

“ *My sincerest condolences to extended Feather family. Few know that Phil served as a board member to the Lebanon County Conservation District during his tenure as County Commissioner. Few also know that he was on the cusp of bringing Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to Lebanon County. He traveled with me as a Conservation District representative to Penn State Land Analyses Lab to review the capabilities of this new revolutionary computer information system which the Conservation District would then present to all County department heads and commissioners in the courthouse. Rest in peace Phil. A live well lived! Chuck Wertz, Lebanon*

Charles Wertz - May 21, 2025 at 07:15 AM

KF

You're right, Chuck, I had no idea he was so involved with the Conservation District. Thanks for sharing.

Karen Feather - May 21, 2025 at 10:25 AM

GK

“ I will always be grateful to Phil and the whole Feather family for the kindness they showed me. Being a friend of Sue’s, I was invited to the Swatari Safari outings and parties as well as other gatherings. That’s where I learned that some parents are actually fun to hang out with and that Democrats are a helluva lot more fun than Republicans. I was honored that Phil used to refer to me as “the son that he never had” until he got a son-in-law to take on that duty. This summer, I plan to grab an inner tube and a Yeungling, and dip my hiney in a creek in honor of Phil. Thanks, Phil, for all the Lagers and the fun times.

Galen Kreiser - May 20, 2025 at 05:26 PM

KF

Aw, Galen, he would be so touched to be remembered as a fun parent! And he would be proud if he had something to do with your political thinking. I was so lucky to have him as a dad.

Karen Feather - May 20, 2025 at 08:17 PM

LF

“ Sweet Phil I will never forget all the fun and laughs we had when you would come to the Wellness office you will definitely be missed my last words to you were" drink your water"

Linda Field - May 20, 2025 at 04:36 PM

KF

He so appreciated the care and concern you and your co-workers showed him. Thank you for everything you did to take care of him.

Karen Feather - May 20, 2025 at 08:16 PM

CM

I worked under Phil as Director of the Lebanon County Emergency Management Agency. He was a great person and a very caring honest man. I had a lot of respect for him and we kept in contact over the years. Rest in peace my friend. Clyde H Miller

Clyde Miller - May 21, 2025 at 03:50 AM

KF

He had a lot of respect for you, Clyde. He was proud of the work of your agency.

Karen Feather - May 21, 2025 at 12:23 PM

GH

I also worked with/for Phil while with the county. Even when we were on different sides of an issue I always respected him and it was evident he respected my opinion. He showed a real love for his community, something we need more of. My condolences to the family.

Gary Heuer - May 22, 2025 at 10:08 AM

KF

Thanks, Gary.

Karen Feather - May 22, 2025 at 02:11 PM