



Philip Michael Courtney, 76, known affectionately by many as “Big Phil,” passed away on April 18, 2026, leaving hearts heavy for all who loved and knew him. Born on October 22, 1949, to Jack and Frances (Chinnici) Courtney, Phil grew up on The Hill, where he developed a lifelong pride in his Italian roots and a deep love for his community.

A proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, Phil returned home to build a life defined by service, dedication, and hard work. For 35 years, he owned and operated Courtney’s Heating and Cooling near the Bevo Mill. A fixture of South St. Louis, he earned the nickname “Big Phil by the Bevo Mill,” a reflection of his larger-than-life personality and reputation.

Outside of work, Phil cherished simple, enduring pleasures. In his younger years, he loved boating at the Lake of the Ozarks; later in life, he found joy on the golf course, playing bocce ball, and competing in poker tournaments.

Phil is reunited in peace with his beloved wife of 47 years, Susan Lee Courtney. He is survived by his children, Christy Brooks (Matt), Karen George, and Holly Courtney; his sister, Karen Brengard (Mike); and his five grandchildren, Tristan, Kiereyon, Evan, Cameron, and Parker. Phil loved his family and friends fiercely and will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

SERVICES: a MEMORIAL VISITATION will take place on Thursday, April 30 from 9:00 am until time of MEMORIAL MASS at St Ambrose Catholic Church 5130 Wilson Ave. Burial at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.