

Please find below a copy of Phil's obituary:

On December 10 of this year, Philip John Buechler finished this worldly race and began another. While running in Nevada City, California, he was struck by a pick-up truck and expired on the scene. His corporeal remains have been cremated and according to his wishes, the ashes will be scattered in the Pacific Ocean. Born to Lucy Lowden and Franz Joseph Buechler on May 12, 1937 in San Diego, California, Phil led a rich and adventurous life. In 1959 he graduated with a bachelor's degree from San Diego State. Phil began his overseas career with ACCION in Venezuela in 1960 and the International Voluntary Service in Cambodia and Laos in 1963. There, he married Aleta Joanne Barker, from Willow Hill, Illinois, in 1964 and they were married 32 years. In 1965, he joined USAID. Phil's reputable career in the foreign service spanned 30 years during which he worked in at least a dozen countries throughout the world. He served his and other countries with a unique intensity and love.

Ever the athlete, Phil died doing what he loved. He finished the Ironman Triathlon twice, in 1995 and 1997, and ran and organized countless other races around the world. Phil was also a builder with an almost tireless spirit and impeccable work ethic. The house he was proudly building in Nevada City will be finished in his memory. Phil's creative side also manifested in his humorous and touching poetry and the love he gave freely to all those he called a friend.

Phil is survived by one parent, Franz Buechler of San Diego, CA, his mother, Lucy, having preceded him in death in 1987. Other survivors include his brother, Donald Buechler and sister-in-law Sue of Del Mar, Ca., and their two children, Laurie and Jud, his former wife, Joanne Buechler of Mattoon, IL, his son, John E. Buechler of Springfield, VA, and his son, Jeffrey Buechler of Blacksburg, VA. Phil will be missed by all who knew him.

Donations to a memorial fund in the name of Philip J. Buechler can be sent to: Philip J. Buechler Memorial Fund, c/o Citizens Bank, PO Box 1420, Nevada City, CA 95959. The moneys will be used for lighting the newly completed all weather track at the Nevada Union High School. Any additional funds will benefit a project to be determined at The Asheville School in Asheville, NC. Both John and Jeffrey graduated from The Asheville School.

"Phil" is the Latin stem meaning, "love". A fitting name for a loving man.

#### PERSONAL NOTES:

Dad will be missed for a variety of reasons. He always had a wry sense of humor. In the past year or so, those of us who know him well have seen his creative and spiritual side emerge. He always lived on his terms. He taught us life's lessons well and provided for us a wealth of its opportunities. He will always be remembered for his ability to get the job done, no matter the task.

I am Philip's youngest son, Jeffrey. From my father I inherited his love of language and poetry. I'm sure that most of you have experienced the passion and eloquence of his rhymes. He and I shared poems over the years and often they bridged our feelings about each other better than other ways of communicating. Late in 1994 he sent me an e-mail in which he wrote the following in typical Phil prose: "the bottom line is that the gift of giving is the real pleasure in life, whatever you receive in return is extra." Dad's bottom line is that he gave and gave. And although he finished life's race sooner than expected, I can feel everyday in the body and life he gave me, that intense love he is still giving.

Poem [2] -Langston Hughes

I loved my friend.  
He went away from me.  
There's nothing more to say.  
The poem ends,  
Soft as it began,-  
I loved my friend.

1-5-98  
*Jeffrey wrote this at the end of his, John & my 9 day stay in CA tending to Phil's affairs. I feel sad that the boys, at such young ages, have lost their father. It is still difficult to comprehend.*