

Philip Adrian Rees, beloved husband and father, died on May 1, 2023, after a short illness.

Born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on October 19, 1931, Phil was the son of Thomas Hugh Rees and Winifred Flatman Rees. He was educated in the public schools in Manitowoc, graduating from Lincoln High School in 1950. He majored in Art History at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, graduating in 1954. He received an M.S. in Library Science from Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio in 1955, then worked as a Reference Librarian at Union College in Schenectady, NY from 1955 to 1958. He worked as a Librarian at the Museum of the City of New York until 1962, and from 1962 to 1968 was a Readers' Services Librarian at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY.

During Phil's time in New York he sang in the chorus at St. George's Episcopal Church. Here he met Margaret (Peg) Louise Stamm and they began a long courtship. They married in 1970 at St. Mary's Church on 125th Street and she joined him in Chapel Hill where he was the Art Librarian at the University of North Carolina. He was active in the Art Libraries Society - North America from 1973 on and was Chairman of the Art Libraries Society/Southeast Chapter in 1988. He was an Executive Board member of ARLIS/NA from 1991-1993 and Chairman of the Nominating Committee in 1995.

Peg and Phil were congregants and choir members at The Chapel of the Cross Episcopal parish. The church was a rich source of friendship and fellowship. Phil served as the conservator of the chapel and regularly read the Evening Prayer services there. The chapel's architectural history was the subject of his Masters thesis in Art History at UNC in 1979.

Their son David was born in 1972 and his brother Peter was born in 1977. Phil delighted in sharing his love of art, nature, and poetry with his family.

He retired from the Art Library in 1998 and devoted more time to his interests: book collecting, bookcase construction, American art and architecture, gardening, and travel. Phil was a dedicated volunteer at Habitat for Humanity in Orange County and a member of the "Wednesday Crew" for many years. He and Peg spent happy times traveling around the U.S., England, and Europe.

They moved to Carol Woods retirement community in Chapel Hill in 2014 and enjoyed the company of friends, old and new. For many years Phil was the leader of the Carol Woods Saturday walking group, putting his love of nature, wildflowers, and local hiking to good use.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret (Peg) Stamm Rees; sons David Thomas Rees and Peter Matthew Rees; daughter-in-law Alaina Rose Lawson; grandson James Philip Rees; brother-in-law David Stamm; sister-in-law Beverly Stamm, and nephews Mark, Brian, and Peter Stamm.

His funeral will be held at the Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, on Saturday, May 20th at 11am. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Phil's honor to St. James Episcopal Church, Manitowoc, Wisconsin; The Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; or Habitat for Humanity, Orange County, North Carolina.