



Philip Martin Niswander

April 25, 1949 - December 19, 2025

Philip Martin Niswander, of Crawfordville, passed away peacefully of natural causes on December 19, 2025. He was born on April 25, 1949, in Arlington, Virginia.

Philip proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for four years, attaining the rank of Sergeant. Following his military service, he dedicated his professional life to public service as a firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service, bravely combating wildfires across the nation and around the world.

A man who felt most at home outdoors, Philip had a deep love for nature. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spending time in the wilderness he worked so hard to protect. His wife and son fondly recall earlier years filled with adventure, including stories of catching and handling wildlife such as snakes and even alligators, memories that reflected Philip's fearlessness, curiosity, and respect for the natural world.

Philip was a devoted member of First Baptist Church of Ochlocknee Bay and lived his life guided by faith, service, and family.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Maurine, with whom he shared 57 years of marriage, and his son, Travis.

Funeral service will be January 24th at 3:00 pm at the First Baptist of Ochlockonee Bay.

Previous Events

Funeral

JAN 24. 3:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Ochlockonee Bay
366 Coastal Hwy
Panacea, FL 32346

Tribute Wall

JB

“ In the earlier days of our careers, Phil worked on the Osceola National Forest while I was working on the Ocala N.F.. I had the pleasure of working on several firefighting hand crews with him in California, Oregon, and Idaho. I will forever cherish those days working with Phil as his enthusiasm lifted me, and those we worked with, up. When he moved into the aviation field on the Apalachicola NF, I saw him less, but when we did get the chance to see each other, we both could share like old friends do with a wonderful camaraderie and brotherhood. Memories of Phil will never leave me, and I will always be grateful for knowing and working with him. We send our prayers and blessings to the Niswander family!

John Bronson

John Bronson - January 24 at 10:28 AM

JB

“ John and Kathy Bronson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Philip Martin Niswander.



John and Kathy Bronson - January 23 at 10:42 PM

JL

“ Jamie & Rachel Love purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Philip Martin Niswander.



Jamie & Rachel Love - January 23 at 12:58 PM

MW

“ I arrived at the Apalachicola NF not long after I lost my father. Phil was my supervisor, it took a little time, but I began to move out of a place of heartache and loss - Phil and his endless stories brought me back to a positive mindset and I began to laugh again...and embraced fishing. He was the perfect person that I needed at that particular time. God knew the plans he had for both Phil & I. Such a gentle soul that cared so much about people and the little things that make you happy.

He will be missed greatly, but i know he is tending the GARDEN above ❤️

Mary Owen Wimberly

Mary Wimberly - January 22 at 12:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Philip Martin Niswander.



January 15 at 05:31 PM

EH

“ Eugene & Donna Watkins and Shanon Harvey purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Philip Martin Niswander.



Eugene & Donna Watkins and Shanon Harvey - January 14 at 11:50 AM

EW

“ Phil and I worked together with the U.S. Forest Service. When Phil and I worked in the field he always kept an eye out for treasure. Treasure for Phil was anything old and interesting. One time I was with Phil when he found an old metal toy truck. Phil examined it and proceeded to show me all the unique things about how toys were made 50 years ago. Phil made work and life an adventure. Phil was always ready to help someone. I try to live life like Phil did.

Eugene Watkins

Eugene Watkins - January 12 at 01:25 PM