



## Tommy Sideri Phill

August 24, 2014

Phill, Tommy Sideri Incredible husband, father, father-in-law, uncle and papou died on the morning of Sunday, Aug. 24. Preceded in death by beautiful daughter, Grace. Missed terribly by adored wife Susie; beloved daughters Patricia, Dimitria (Marc Kotsonas) and Christina (Sotirios Parashos); precious, precious grandchildren, Andreas and Anna Parashos and Georgia and Athanasia Kotsonas; and devoted dog, Lela. Athanasios Sideri Triantaphillou was born to Sideri and Dimitra (Sideropoulos) on August 28, 1925, in Karoutais, Doridos, Greece. The youngest of five siblings, he was the only surviving member of his immediate family. In 1949 Athanasios was decorated with a silver medal of valor by King Paul of Greece after ranking sergeant for his performance during the Greek Civil War. Instead of entering the military academy in Athens, Athanasios joined his uncle Louis Phill in Rochester, Minnesota in 1951 and changed his name to Tommy Phill. On a return trip to Greece he found his young bride Susie, the love of his life. They married in 1957, immediately returned to Minnesota and ultimately settled in Edina in 1966. All his life Tommy worked in restaurants, from Murray's, Harry's Café, the Cascade 9 and the Gaslight to Chez Colette at the Hotel Sofitel. He relished his work and never forgot his many steady customers. Tommy was very well known for his dashing movie-star good looks, his daily walks around Bredesen Park in Edina, his delicious spanakopita and the award-winning garden behind his home that he tended with Susie by his side. Many, many of you have visited that backyard oasis lined with stone paths and walls Tommy

meticulously fit to-gether by hand. Tommy loved and appreciated your friendship and was always ready to show you the sweetest-smelling rose. Getting out there, being social and making friends were very important to Tommy; he had true zest for life, boundless energy and unforget-table tsamiko dance steps. It's almost impossible not to think of him when you're lacing up your walking shoes, dead-heading petunias, or hearing the sonorous clarinet tones of Greek music. Services will begin at 11:00 am Friday, August 29 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South in Minneapolis. All are welcome one hour prior. Interment at Lakewood Cemetery to follow. Instead of flowers, make a donation in Tommy's name to the AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) Charitable Fund or AHEPA National Education Foundation.