



Ret. Staff Sgt. Didier Charles Phillips

September 16, 1956 - August 7, 2007

Retired Staff Sgt. Didier "D. J." Charles Phillips, age 50, of Murphysboro, passed away at his residence in Murphysboro, at 11:10 a.m., August 7, 2007.

Didier was born on September 16, 1956, in Evreux, France, to William "Bill" Phillips and Yvette (DuPrey) Phillips.

Mr. Phillips retired as a Staff Sergeant, serving in the U.S. Army for 20 years. D.J. was a member of the American Legion Post # 127 in Murphysboro, V.F.W Post # 3455 in Anna, and Jackson County D.A.V. Chapter # 69. He loved working at the Legion and serving as an Adjunct. He enjoyed boating, swimming, playing poker and spider solitaire and he really enjoyed helping his friends farm by driving a semi-truck and hauling corn.

D. J. married Tina Smutney on July 16, 2002, and she survives.

Other survivors include his parents of Rockwood, Illinois, one daughter Amber Phillips at home;

three step sons Rocky Maki of Chester, Michael Maki of St. Petersburg, FL, and Steven Maki of Seminole, FL;

one grandson Jordan Maki of New Ulm, MN;

three uncles and aunts and cousins;

very special farming friends Donnie and Lisa Stueve; everyone on the Color Guard and Honor Guard ;

and his two dogs Angel and Bangle.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ret. Staff Sgt. Didier Charles Phillips* ”

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM

JC

“ Tina,

I'm sorry for your loss; I was calling to let you know that I was going to be stationed near both of you at Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas, when Amber told me D. J. was gone. At first I thought it was some kind of joke. I called the American Legion (POST 127) to confirm it and then the reality of the situation kicked me in the head like the percussion from a hand grenade. I'm in total shock right now; I just got back in touch with you guys after almost 7 years. And after I finally find him he's gone! It isn't fair; I owe every thing I am to him.

D. J. (SSG Phillips) was my mentor and good friend; he always gave me words of encouragement and shared his vast knowledge and experience with me. He was a dam fine Motor Sergeant and could always stay one step ahead of his superiors. I remember on occasion they would try to set him up for failure and he would make them look like a fool for even trying to attempt it (LOL)! Every week I looked forward to his sergeant's time at the American Legion (Post 14) in Vancouver Washington (LOL)!

He was to old school for some and admired by others; but he got results and that is what matters. I use his characteristics and leadership style when motivating and leading soldiers and dealing with officers who have no common since! This has helped me get through my career as a None COM and my deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To every one who reads this, D. J's legacy dose not die with him; he has passed it on to me and where ever I go I will pass it on to others. And that means he lives forever! The world is a lesser place with out him and this country owes a debt of gratitude for his selfless service and sacrifice. He has made a dramatic impact on my life and I feel I'm a better person for it.

Forever in my thoughts and prayers,

JERRY L. CARUTHERS
SFC, 63X40, AGR
Motor Sergeant

Jerry L. Caruthers - August 10, 2007 at 07:24 PM