

Philip L. Asplen, Jr.

August 15, 1938 – October 16, 2017
(State Deputy 1998 – 2000)



Phil Asplen was born in Baltimore on the feast of the Assumption, the only son of Philip and Sophia Asplen. He attended St. Michael's Elementary School in Overlea, Towson Catholic High School, and graduated from The Johns Hopkins University in 1960 with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Reserve and ordered to active duty at Fort Knox Kentucky for six months training. Upon his return he joined the 15th Medium Tank Battalion Active Reserve Unit, serving as a tank platoon leader.

In 1963 Phil joined the Catholic Alumni Club of Baltimore and was assigned to the Community Service committee. There, he met and married the chairman of the committee, Mary Teresa McCoy in 1964.

Phil began his engineering career at Bendix Corporation as a Junior Design Engineer working on the first synchronous communication satellite program. Over the next twelve years, he worked at Bendix Radio, NASA, Martin Marietta and Westinghouse Aerospace division, on various government projects ultimately attaining the status of Senior Design Engineer.

In 1965, Phil entered the University of Maryland, School of Law where he attended classes four nights a week for four years and received a Juris Doctor degree in 1969, passing the Maryland bar exam on his first attempt. In 1970 he entered the Loyola College Business School evening division and received an MBA degree in 1972.

Immediately upon passing the bar, Phil helped form a small law firm based in Howard County. Although engaged in general law, he specialized in tax problems and developed a small tax practice. In 1979, the firm dissolved and he moved his practice to Baltimore County. In 1984 he left the practice of law to accept a position with a former client, Sygnatron Protection Systems, as chief legal officer, program manager and member of the board of directors. He also maintained a small tax practice on the side. When Sygnatron was forced to down size in 1991, Phil returned to his law practice.

Phil joined the Knights of Columbus in March 1969 at Cardinal Gibbons Council #2521 and became active immediately, being elected Warden in 1975 and then continuing through the chairs. As Grand Knight he instituted the council's widow's program which was selected as the best family program in the Order in 1979, earning Phil and Teresa a trip to the Supreme Convention in San Diego to receive the award.

Phil served as District Deputy for two years under State Deputy Bernie Zeller. He served every State Deputy thereafter in various capacities including, State First Degree Chairman, Special Advisor to the State Deputy, Director of the Maryland State Council Charity Fund, General Chairman of the Supreme Convention held in Baltimore, and

State Alive and Well Chairman. In 1990 Phil was elected State Warden and in succeeding years elected State Advocate, State Treasurer and State Secretary. He was elected State Deputy in 1998. Under his leadership and employing the theme, ***We are His hands***, Phil attained the Supreme Knight's Circle of Honor finishing in the top five, for both years.

Subsequently Phil remained active on the ceremonials teams for all 4 degrees and served as Chairman for the State Scholarship Program.

Phil joined Archbishop Keough Assembly of the Fourth Degree in 1976. He was appointed Master of the Maryland District Fourth Degree in 2000 and served two terms. As Master, Phil instituted the Faithful Navigator and Comptrollers seminar which is now held annually in June.

Phil and Teresa retired in 1991 and moved to Harford County where they watched their grandchildren on a regular basis and Phil maintained a small tax practice. Teresa continues to be involved with the Ladies of the Knights.

Besides Teresa, Phil was survived by his children Matthew P. Asplen (Suzanne), Michelle T. Pencek (Rick) and Melanie T. Sturgill; and grandchildren Dylan, Hunter, Connor and Rylie.