



## Phillip David Creighton

June 18, 1945 - September 16, 2024

Phillip (Phil) David Creighton, 79, passed away on September 16th, 2024.

Phil was born on June 18th, 1945, to Daniel K. Creighton and Dorothy Patterson Creighton in Irwin, Pennsylvania.

He was at peace, passing away at his summer home in Timnath, Colorado, with his wife Leigh and daughter Natalie by his side.

Phil was a special person and a man of outstanding character. His dedication and work ethic lead to an extraordinary career in Higher Education. Dr. Phil Creighton attended the United States Air Force Academy before transferring to Tarkio College in Missouri, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1966. He received a master's degree from Colorado State University in 1970, and his doctorate in biology from CSU in 1974. After a teaching career at Towson State University in Maryland, he assumed the role of Provost and Vice President of academic affairs at Salisbury State University, also, in Maryland. He became President at Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande, Oregon from 1999-2003.

President Emeritus, Dr. Phil Creighton, served as President of Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon from 2003-2009. He oversaw a six-year period growth that transformed this institution from a small Liberal Arts college

into one of the region's top comprehensive Universities. Under Dr. Creighton's leadership, six new buildings transformed the existing campus. A new Athletic Complex opened in 2008, becoming the home to Football, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Lacrosse, and Track and Field, energizing team sports for the Pacific Boxers and the community. Dr. Creighton's legacy of his tenure is in Pacific's Hillsboro, Oregon's Campus, which includes health professions graduate programs in partnership with OHSU Medical Center, in Portland, Oregon. This building opened in 2006 and, upon his retirement, was named Creighton Hall.

Upon retirement, Phil and his wife Leigh split time between homes in Arizona and Colorado. Together, Phil and Leigh, both avid birders, spent many retirement hours traveling the USA searching for species to check off on their Life List.

Dr. Phil Creighton is survived by his wife Leigh Creighton, his daughter Natalie Stewart, his son David Creighton, his brother Douglas Creighton, and his sister Sally Hruska. Phil is a proud and loving Grandfather of four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Nicknamed "Dr. Phil" by his many students and colleagues he will be remembered and deeply missed. He was admired and had a lasting impact on so many people and he has left this a better place for being part of our lives.

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ My wife, Dr. Martha Rampton, and I worked under Phil at Pacific University--Martha in the history department, Center for Gender Equity, and faculty leadership roles; and I as an Associate Dean in Arts and Sciences. We loved his leadership style, sense of humor, and abiding passion for moving the university forward. Phil saved Pacific by encouraging various investments, the addition of graduate programs, restructuring programs, and the stroke of genius to partner with the city of Forest Grove to expand sports programming and thus strengthen enrollment. He was a kind and smart man. Martha and I are happy we knew him as boss and friend. We were pleased to have spent time with Leigh and him. We will miss him a lot. Best regards and heartfelt condolences to his wife and family.

Steve Smith, Forest Grove, Oregon

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Steve Smith - February 04, 2025 at 07:18 PM

LS

“ Phil was a year behind me at THS and TC, but I always admired him. He was a most generous and gracious person to me personally when I was working to restart TC as an educational institution. His surprise gift to TC in my honor is one of the pleasant memories of that time. I am pleased to know you were a birder too.

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Linda Smith - January 16, 2025 at 11:54 PM

TS

“ *Phil and I became friends when he came to Tarkio High School. We played football, basketball and ran track together. At one school assembly we were both hypnotized to be better at basketball. It wasn't too effective. Several years ago Jean Stevenson and I visited he and Leigh at the Pendleton Syire in Oregon. And then we stayed at their home in Green Valley, AZ one year. I'm sorry to hear of his passing. Terry Sparks*

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**Terry Sparks** - January 16, 2025 at 04:05 PM

KB

“ *It is with great fondness that Cathy Walsh and I remember Phil. First as a Dean of the School of Health Services and then as a friend. He had a warm smile and always had time to talk. Cathy and I had a number of birding trips with Phil and Leigh in the Salisbury area. We also visited them in Oregon twice once when he was at Eastern Oregon University in June 2002 and once in May 2004 when he was at Pacific University. Both trips featured extensive birding. He and Leigh were always warm and welcoming. We will miss him.*

*Fondly Cathy Walsh and Karen Badros*

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**Karen K Badros** - December 08, 2024 at 11:43 AM

PE

“ It’s been a while now but I am over the shock. We first met Phil and Leigh about 2015 when we bought the house two doors down. He struck me as a quiet man with a great wit and accepting sense of humor. I believe we gave him a sense of daring and consternation when we talked him into doing some unauthorized landscaping. His concern about stirring up the neighborhood was obvious but eager participation proved his loyalty to his friends. (He did shortly move away). What was that red wing blackbird on the wall called anyway? You are greatly missed my fiend. Peace to Leigh.  
Percy & Eleanor

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**Percy & Eleanor** - December 03, 2024 at 08:13 PM

JC

I knew Phil when he first moved to Tarkio. He and my brother were friends for many years. I am saddened to hear of his death.

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**Janet Cook** - January 17, 2025 at 07:20 PM

SH

“ John and I met Phil and Leigh when we first moved to Quail Creek. We could not have asked for lovelier, kinder, more thoughtful neighbors. Phil was such a gentle soul, always asking if there was something he could do for us, coupled with kind offers of scones, coffee, and dinners. One of the things that we liked most about Phil is the obvious, enormous love he had for his wife Leigh. Leigh, he took such obvious delight in you and your life together. You are in our hearts, both of you.

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**Sharon** - October 12, 2024 at 09:38 PM

LM

“ We first met Phil in 2002 when he hired John to be his provost at Eastern Oregon University and then at Pacific university in 2008. Phil was an amazing leader, mentor, and friend. His intelligence and engaging personality drew people to him, and those lucky enough to work with him became devoted colleagues and friends. We will always cherish our close relationship with Phil and Leigh, and look forward to continuing our close bond with sweet Leigh. Love, Linda and John Miller

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**Linda Miller** - September 27, 2024 at 01:10 PM



“ We were fortunate to be Phil and Leigh’s neighbors in Quail Creek. They invited us into their new and beautiful home for dinner one night and we felt they would be wonderful friends. Phil (and Leigh’s) love for birding was contagious. We found ourselves observing birds ever since. We enjoyed Phil’s choice of wine and Leigh is a fabulous chef. We looked forward meeting Phil and Leigh while they were out on their long morning walks in Quail Creek. We can only imagine how many lives Phil has enlightened as a teacher, mentor and friend. We will miss him greatly and will always cherish our memories of you both!

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**Warren Lundquist** - September 26, 2024 at 03:10 PM