

PHILLIP MOJICA OBITUARY



Phillip Steven "Sleeping Bear" Mojica, 61, born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly in Ukiah, California, on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Phillip is preceded in death by his parents, Antonio Mojica and Esther Rodriguez Mojica of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Phil has a huge, loving family. He is survived by his siblings, including his sister Carmelita Sandoval, sister Mary Louisa (Carl) Rutherford, sister Christina (Patrick) Kearney, brother Tony Jr. (Kathleen) Mojica, sister Estela (Mark) Peevy, sister Elena Mitchell, brother Carlos (Lisa) Mojica, sister Natalie (Larry) Lowell, brother Lou (Tricia) Mojica, many nephews and nieces, great-nephews and nieces, great-great nephews and nieces, and many cousins.

As a young boy raised in Michigan, Phil developed a deep love of the outdoors, community engagement, and leadership in the Boy Scouts of America. As a young man, he volunteered with the Grand Valley Armory supporting active National Guard members. He graduated from Kelloggsville High School and studied Criminal Justice at Grand Rapids Community College.

Phil traveled west, living in Arizona, where he developed professional skills as a land surveyor. Restless for the mountains and outdoors, he traveled to northern California, where eventually he met Gayle Scherrer of Ukiah, his longtime companion and soulmate of twenty-seven years.

Phil was an active citizen firefighter and law enforcement volunteer in Mendocino County. He was a gifted artist and talented musician. He was passionate about supporting the Native American Indians in northern California, in Mackinaw City, Michigan, and the Batchewana Bay Band of Ojibway in Ontario, Canada.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered for his many contributions and service to make the world a better place for all people. A celebration of Phillip's life will occur at a later date.

To honor Phillip and instead of flowers, contributions can be made to Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids, 2950 Monroe Avenue N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

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