

## Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr.

June 10, 1945 - November 21, 2025

Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan, Jr. passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on November 21, 2025, at the age of 80. Born on June 10, 1945, Andrew lived his entire life in Albany, New York, a city that shaped him from childhood and remained the place he proudly called home.

He attended Albany City Schools and graduated from Albany High School in 1964. Two years later, he answered the call to serve his country, proudly serving in the United States Army from 1965 to 1967 during the Vietnam War. He served in the 704th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. His service reflected the courage, loyalty, and quiet strength that would define him throughout his life. Upon return from Vietnam, Andrew resumed work with Niagara Mohawk where he spent most of his career as a traveling operator retiring after 41 years in 2006.

On June 29, 1968, Andrew married the love of his life, Deborah Claire Oliveira. Together they shared 57 years of marriage, building a life rooted in devotion, humor, and deep companionship. They raised four daughters, each carrying forward his gentleness, resilience, and steadfast heart: Kristen (David) Haugh, Lauren (Michael) Johnson, Aimee (Louis) Fedullo, and Raechelle (Michael) Prim.

Being a father was one of Andrew's greatest joys. He approached parenthood with warmth, Patience, and an unwavering sense of responsibility, offering his

daughters a foundation of safety, humor, and unconditional love.

Andrew was deeply committed to his community. He was a proud member of the Ward Pond Club, the Elks Club, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Knights of Columbus. He served the City of Albany with distinction as a member of the Citizen Police Review Board, appointed by former Mayor Gerald Jennings. He volunteered for the Disabled Veterans as a driver. He also took great pride in hosting for 30 years his annual Policeman's Ball, an event reflecting his respect for public service and his dedication to those who protect and serve the community.

Family time meant everything to Andrew. He cherished vacations with his family in the Outer Banks, and more recently on Martha's Vineyard. Some of his happiest moments were spent sailing in Vineyard Sound alongside his brother-in-law, Daniel Oliveira, where the sea breeze, wide horizon, and shared laughter brought him deep joy.

Andrew now joins in Heaven his beloved parents, Andrew Michael, Sr. and Ethel (Barr) Phelan; his brother-in-law's, Dennis McAuliff and Col. Branch Moeling; and his infant granddaughter, Laura Anne Fedullo, whose spirit he now holds close once again.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Deborah; his four cherished daughters and four sons-in-law; and his loving sister, JoAnn. Andrew was immensely proud of his twelve grandchildren: Aine, Joseph, and Ciara Haugh; Victoria and Skylar Johnson; Nina, Louis, Elena, and Annika Fedullo; Liberty, Andrew, and Donovan Prim. His cherished godchildren are Maureen Bennett, Patrick McCarthy, Kelly Ann Evan's, Matthew Devane and Matthieu Oliveira. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of whom will remember him with affection and gratitude.

Andrew will be remembered for his quiet strength, gentle humor, and the grounded presence he brought to every room. His loyalty ran deep, offered freely and without fanfare. Those who knew him felt supported simply by his being there — steady, sincere, and attentive in the ways that truly mattered. His life became part of Albany's own story, reflected in decades-long friendships, familiar routines, and a profound sense of belonging to the community he cherished. His legacy lives on in his family, in the values he embodied, and in the enduring imprint of his spirit.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the Veteran's Administration and Community Hospice for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Andrew's memory to the Community Hospice 310 S. Manning Blvd., Albany, NY 12208 or the charity of one's choice.

Relatives and friends may visit with Andrew's family Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 N. Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance only.

Andrew's funeral service will be Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at Historic St. Mary's Church, 10 Lodge Street, ( Rev James Lefebvre Way), Albany NY 12207 where his Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:30 am. To view Andy's live stream please click the following link <https://youtube.com/live/AbhiOJYqaRg?feature=share>

The Rite of Committal will be 12:00 p.m. at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY with full military honors.

To leave a message for the family or view other helpful services please visit [www.mcveighfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcveighfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Gerald BH Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

200 Duell Road  
Schuylerville, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **25**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 489-0188  
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

*Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance only.*

## Funeral Mass

NOV **26**. 9:30 AM (ET)

Historic Church of St Mary on Capital Hill  
10 Lodge Street (Father James Lefebvre Way)  
Albany, NY 12207

# Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr.*



---

**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - November 25, 2025 at 11:06 AM

DC

“ *My prayers are with Stretch's family at this time. The Elks Lodge and veterans have lost a fantastic volunteer. Whenever they needed a volunteer for anything Stretch was there. I knew Stretch from the Elks Lodge and the Carey family. He always went to Quantico for Mr Carey's Edson Raiders reunion. He will be missed. Fair winds and Following seas until we meet again, my friend!*  
*Diane Carey*

---

**Diane Carey** - November 30, 2025 at 11:23 AM

RP

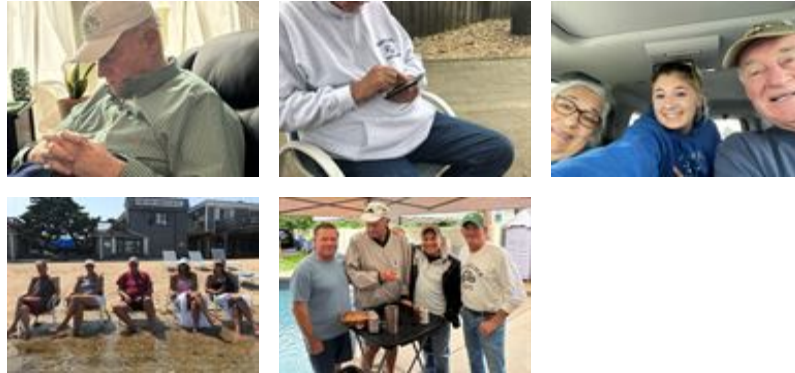
“ *Sending love and prayers to the Phelan Family. Mr. Phelan was one of the kindest, big hearted people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. So many happy memories from my childhood occurred at the Phelan household and Mr. Phelan always made me feel welcomed and special... every time. The world lost a gentlemen and a gentle giant and he will be greatly missed.*  
*With love, Rebecca Purcell*

---

**Rebecca Purcell** - November 26, 2025 at 01:47 PM



“ 146 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



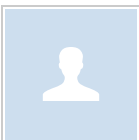
McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 25, 2025 at 10:59 AM



“ *Your Winchester Friends - Carisa Dueweke, Susan McGuire, Shelly Nerangis, Cheryl Dominique, Melanie Heishman, Lisa Levinson, Kelly Kremer, Alicia Pea purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



**Your Winchester Friends - Carisa Dueweke, Susan McGuire, Shelly Nerangis, Cheryl Dominique, Melanie Heishman, Lisa Levinson, Kelly Kremer, Alicia Pea** - November 25, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



November 25, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



---

November 25, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ Art Georgelas and family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

---

**Art Georgelas and family.** - November 25, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ To Andy's family, I am so sorry to hear of Andy's passing. We worked together at NM and recently reconnected a few times for breakfast.

---

**Christopher White** - November 25, 2025 at 07:17 AM



“ To the Phelans - Sorry to hear of Stretch's passing. I remember him in high school , tall as a giant, always wearing his high school hoop jacket. We hung out at the same places quite often in the 1960s. He was always a nice guy- a genuine good guy. Not many of them in our youth, and not many today. God bless you guys. Tom McGraw

---

**Tom McGraw** - November 24, 2025 at 07:15 PM

LG

“ Love, McKenna & Greg purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



---

**Love, McKenna & Greg** - November 24, 2025 at 06:40 PM

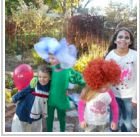
PG

“ Andy "Stretch" was one of a kind. We became good friends with Andy and Debbie down in Delray Beach, Florida. He always was the life of the party and great to talk sports when poolside in Delray. We both enjoyed watching Yankee baseball, College and NFL football. Most of all I will miss his text messages at all hours of the night!!

*Peter & Dianne Greco*

---

**Peter Greco** - November 24, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ *When I first became an Elk, 15 years ago, Andy would pick up his grand children at the same time I would pick up my six year old daughter, Sofia, at New Scotland Elementary. My daughter and him had met each other at the Lodge a few times.*

*On the first day of school Sofia came out before his grandchildren and as her and I were walking to go home, Andy shouted to her, "Hello and goodbye Sofia."*

*Sofia turned and was more then few yards away when she replied so all the adults and kids could hear her, "Good bye Andy. I'll see you later at the Elks!"*

*Andy, would proudly and happily tell that story to everyone and anyone who would listen.*

*Our sincere wishes to the Phalen family. We will all miss him dearly. Love Luke, Lia, and Sofia Quinn.*

---

**Luke Quinn** - November 24, 2025 at 03:02 PM

TR

“ *The Richardsons purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



---

**The Richardsons** - November 24, 2025 at 02:34 PM

TR

“ The Richardsons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

The Richardsons - November 24, 2025 at 02:34 PM

LP

“ Love David, Christina, Izzy & Pierce purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



Love David, Christina, Izzy & Pierce - November 24, 2025 at 01:09 PM

LP

“ Love David, Christina, Izzy & Pierce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

Love David, Christina, Izzy & Pierce - November 24, 2025 at 01:09 PM

GD

“ Andy was a very special friend, always upbeat and encouraging .The Delray Beach,Florida community and pool crowd will miss our many chats and gatherings with Debbie and Andy. My sincere condolences to the whole lovely family. GerrieDeNovio

gerrie denovio - November 24, 2025 at 11:24 AM

DR

“ Wonderful man, wonderful family. He will be missed.

Dave Richardson - November 24, 2025 at 11:19 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



---

November 24, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ *My condolences to Deb and family. Such a great person, RIP my friend.*

---

**Kevin McGeary** - November 23, 2025 at 05:31 PM



“ *Stretch was one of those people who when you were his friend you knew it. Kind, funny and dedicated to friends and his family, especially his family. I was looking forward to our winter tradition of texting about my St. John's basketball team. RIP Andy*

---

**Brian Mooney** - November 23, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ *Jana Hamilton purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



---

**Jana Hamilton** - November 23, 2025 at 01:41 PM

JH

“ *Jana Hamilton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*

Jana Hamilton - November 23, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



November 23, 2025 at 12:57 PM

BC

“ *Blue Ridge Club Crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*

Blue Ridge Club Crew - November 23, 2025 at 12:57 PM

OC

“ I am so sorry for your loss and wish you peace in these difficult times. I knew Andrew as Andy many years ago when he and Joan were kids growing up on Maple Avenue just off New Scotland Avenue. The memories of childhood linger still on: wagon races through the park with Andy, Johnny and Marty, skating by bonfire light at Raft's Pond, tobogganing down the Observatory Hill, and watching my sister, Rosemary and Joan dancing in our front room to American Bandstand. It's all just memories now, but still fills me with a sense of happiness. Like Pooh bear said "We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun." In that spirit I hope you will hold dear your memories and keep Andy alive in this time of reflection.

---

**Owen and Patricia Colfer** - November 23, 2025 at 12:45 PM

AF

*I'm praying for your eternal rest in peace, Stretch. Decades of so many memories. My favorite was you rounding up the gang after the first snowfall to go slidin' on the hills of Albany in the old cherished 8F-4717. What fun we had! My love and prayers to Deb, the girls, and their families. May your grief and sadness soon be replaced with all your warm and wonderful memories.*

*Alice Fitzpatrick*

---

**Alice Fitzpatrick** - November 24, 2025 at 03:38 AM

CC

“ *Stretch always gave me a warm, hearty welcome to the Policeman’s Ball when I attended from faraway Kingston. I always felt honored by his invite, and always had a great time. He helped his great friend Joe Teresi and I in our campaigns for JSC in 2007. Thanks one more time, Stretch. Rest in peace.*

*My condolences to Stretch’s family.*

*Chris Cahill JSC (ret)*

---

**Christopher Cahill** - November 23, 2025 at 12:41 PM

JS

“ *Andrew, I will always remember the years we worked at Nimo, it was a good time. Also, our trips to Ireland, lots of laugh and so many good times. The yearly Policeman’s Ball was a big hit for everyone.*

*Andy, thank you thank you and may God bless you..*

*John P Smith and sons*

---

**john p smith** - November 23, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..*



---

November 23, 2025 at 10:03 AM

HC

“ My sincere condolences to the Phelan family. Andy will be remembered as a genuine friend. Always willing to listen to you no matter what the subject. He was a GREAT host of the Policemen's Ball and may his memory be a blessing.  
Howard Cohen

Howard Cohen - November 23, 2025 at 09:35 AM

MP

“ We will always remember Stretch for his friendship, kindness and laughter. Stretch had a unique way of making everyone feel special. Stretch RIP 🙏 With our sincere condolences .  
The Slattery Family

Mary Ellen Pistana - November 23, 2025 at 08:00 AM

AO

“ Andy “Stretch” was an amazing and loving family man. He had a way of making everyone feel welcomed and loved. New members to the family were welcomed with open arms. Uncle Julio and the Oliveira family in heaven welcome you home. We will miss you but know you are with our Heavenly Father. You truly earned your Angel wings.



Auntie Barbie Oliveira - November 22, 2025 at 09:40 PM

HG

“ The Policeman's Ball was always my favorite party of the year. Stretch was the most gracious host and was always happy to see all his guests. The camaraderie was genuine and you don't see that anymore. Stretch was an American original and he will be sorely missed.

Hal Goldstein - November 22, 2025 at 09:08 PM

JM

“ James M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

James M. - November 22, 2025 at 08:23 PM

JS

“ Strech was a true gentleman. He loved his family unconditionally. He would always remind us to be careful. In his deep voice he would say “GO Easy” He used to love going and delivering Weber grills with me. He got to see parts of the island that you don't get to see. He always liked to chat with the customers. I will miss him dearly. RIP BIG STRETCH. Until we meet again!!

Jesse Steere - November 22, 2025 at 06:22 PM

LP

“ i'll never forget those endless summers when you welcomed me and my friends to the legendary phelan pool with open arms. all the times you were there to give me a ride, greeting me with a warm smile and a “well don't you look so pretty!” every time i got in the car. all the times when i was little and got my hair cut by my mom, i'd ask her to save the trimmings so i could leave you them and a glue stick, so you could have some hair too!  
papa was a man who left a lasting impact on everyone he met. his incredible story, kind heart, and infectious humor will live on forever. i feel so grateful to have had a grandfather like him in my life<3  
i love you papa



liberty prim - November 22, 2025 at 03:57 PM

DR

“ Dick, Rick, Lisa, Brooke, and Roberta purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



---

**Dick, Rick, Lisa, Brooke, and Roberta** - November 22, 2025 at 03:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



---

November 22, 2025 at 03:35 PM

NQ

“ Nick Teresi & Jane Quinn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

---

**Nick Teresi & Jane Quinn** - November 22, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JW

“ Julian W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

---

**Julian W.** - November 22, 2025 at 02:54 PM

JO

“ John, Tom, JohnIII and Patrick Owens purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



---

**John, Tom, JohnIII and Patrick Owens** - November 22, 2025 at 02:38 PM

JO

“ John, Tom, JohnIII and Patrick Owens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

---

**John, Tom, JohnIII and Patrick Owens** - November 22, 2025 at 02:38 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..



---

November 22, 2025 at 02:23 PM

LF

“ Love Trish Schneider Delaney and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew "Stretch" Michael Phelan Jr..

---

**Love Trish Schneider Delaney and Family** - November 22, 2025 at 02:23 PM