



Melanie Rene Phillips

April 5, 1966 - January 30, 2026

Melanie Rene Phillips 59, of Hartford passed away January 30th 2026 at her home in Newport surrounded by her loved ones.

She is preceded in death by her parents Charles and Iva Lee Rathbone, brothers Wiley and Justin Rathbone. She is survived by her sister Charla Rathbone, and her sons Charles and Cory Phillips both of Florida, special friend Chester Rollins, nieces Cathy Lee, Chelsey, Maddison, Skylar and Carolina. Nephews Teddy, Hunter, and Gracin Rathbone

Melanie was known by friends and family as “Aunt Pooh” an endearment her father Charlie called her or “Mel.” Born and raised in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains in Hartford TN. Graduated class of '84 at Cosby High school. She moved to Valparaiso Florida in 1990 and later married Rick Phillips in 1991. They had 2 boys Charles and Cory. After Charles' high school graduation she moved back to the mountains to help take care of her mother and father Iva lee and Charlie. She spent her last years loving the life of the Smokey Mountains, camping and spending time with family and friends.

Malanie took pride in making people smile throughout her life. She worked as a gas station convenience store clerk, providing service with a friendly face to anyone walking through the door and treated them like family. Hobbies included camping and anything that had to do with some type of water hole and the outdoors. She loved going to the local farmers markets and flea markets for the latest new crops and nick nacks. She loved spending time outdoors and sharing those experience with family and friends. She was a

huge fan of TN Vols and blue grass music. She was especially fond of her friends that were musically talented. She was loved by many of her community and loved them dearly back.

She enjoyed sports events of her sons Cory and Charles. She was the biggest fan hooping and hollering at rugby games.

Melanie loved her friends and family fiercely and spending her time in the mountains of Grassy Fork. She will be missed greatly by everyone. The family would like to extend their heart felt gratitude to Lisa, and Bethany from Getiva Health Care as they took excellent care of Melanie in her final days.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Grassy Fork volunteer fire department. Her father was a founding member. The fire department is a gathering spot for the community and is dedicated to protecting lives and property. Directions for donations can be found at their website, grassyforkfire.org. Telephone number is (423) 487-5222.

The family will receive friends from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm Saturday, February 7, 2026, with the funeral service following at 2:00 pm in Manes Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Jerry Sutton officiating.

Burial will be held 11:00 am Tuesday, February 10, 2026, in the Frisee-Rathbone Cemetery.

Family and friends may sign online at: www.manesfuneralhome.com

Arrangements with Manes Funeral Home, Newport, TN.

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

FEB 7. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel
363 East Main Street
Newport, TN 37821

Funeral service

FEB 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel
363 East Main Street
Newport, TN 37821

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Our sincere condolences to the family, Melanie we will always miss your beautiful smile and warm hugs. You will always be in our hearts and you will live on in stories we tell of you and your extended family and how you all took care of us when we first moved here many years ago. So many laughs and the things you all taught us about living in these beautiful mountains. We know you are in good hands. Love you always.



Steve and Jill Hodges - February 07 at 03:13 PM

BG

“ Altho I didn't know her as well as the rest of the family she was always a sweetheart to me and y'all will be in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sadness love yall

Becki Grooms - February 06 at 07:23 PM

BA

“ So sorry to hear about Melanie. I loved seeing her at the Hartford gas station. She always had a smile. Praying for peace and comfort during this difficult time 🙏💕
Love, Belinda Alley and family



Belinda Alley - February 06 at 12:04 AM

SA

“ Samantha lit a candle in memory of Melanie Phillips



Samantha - February 05 at 06:35 PM

SA

“ Melanie was one of a kind. She was one of the best people with the kindest heart. She will be missed. And the family is in my prayers.

Samantha - February 05 at 06:35 PM

TP

“ Love and prayers for all my cousins family and friends..She was always sweet and I always sought after her when I fueled ..sadly missed and safe in the arms of Jesus now ... They'll be a heavenly reunion someday ❤️🙏

Timothy Presnell - February 05 at 06:20 PM

LA

“ I always remember Melanie she was a great, great cousin. I really truly loved her. She was always so sweet and kind. Her mom I believe and her dad Charles were too great people. Melanie will be missed very much. Poo. Will see you someday soon and a great heavenly Sky. This is your cousin Lonnie. I hope Charlie remembers me but I'll always remember you. You're sweet loving lady. I remember the summer was a long time ago. I was still just a kid, but your mom and dad came and picked me up and brought me up to your house to spend the summer. I had so much fun Godspeed, sweet Melanie.

Lonnie Arthur - February 05 at 05:58 PM

DM

“ Mel you will always mean the world to me and Daphne and Thomas . We have to many memories to share . But Heaven you will make more memories with those that have gone before you . Say hey to Blake !

Donna Maines - February 05 at 05:52 PM

SH

“ sorry for your loss mel was such a sweet lady ❤️

summer henderson - February 05 at 03:51 PM

RP

“ Sorry for your loss .

Richard Payne and family

Richard Payne - February 04 at 03:55 PM

M-

“ Marilyn Shelton -Jones lit a candle in memory of Melanie Phillips



Marilyn Shelton -Jones - February 02 at 10:34 PM

KK

“ Kristie Knox lit a candle in memory of Melanie Phillips



Kristie Knox - February 02 at 02:54 PM

JD

“ Sorry for the loss of a great boss. She showed me all things that needed to do and do it right. Never forget it many memories of that. Very sweet kind loving lady will miss for sure.



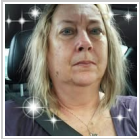
Jennifer Dalton - February 02 at 11:30 AM

FM

“ Freddie Thomas & Jenny Manning lit a candle in memory of Melanie Phillips



Freddie Thomas & Jenny Manning - February 02 at 10:31 AM



“ So Sorry For Your Loss



Karen L Black - February 01 at 12:13 PM

LW

“ Lynn Bond & Ralph Webb lit a candle in memory of Melanie Phillips



Lynn Bond & Ralph Webb - January 31 at 03:14 PM

KR

So very sorry for your loss I will always love you Melanie and I will miss you too and sending prayers for your family

Katherine Rathbone - February 03 at 11:36 AM