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Seasons Greetings! This would have been Phil and my 57th annual Christmas letter. Phil, however, passed away on July 31st. I am both bereft and at a loss as to how to share our year. As Charles Dickens said in his introduction to *A Tale of Two Cities*, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” That truly describes our year. I answer the question about where I am living as having 3 spice racks: one a 5-minute walk in from our daughter Susannah and her family in my apartment in St. Paul, one in a cottage in Eastham across the patio from our daughter Gwyneth and her husband Rob, and one in the house I hope to sell in Georgetown.

Praying for Peace and Love,
Barb



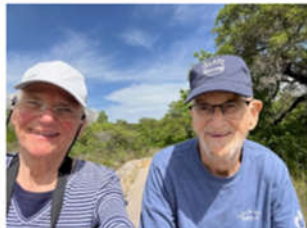
The Best of Times pictures from the past year



Christmas Eve 2023



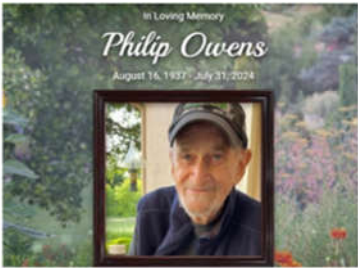
Last meal out together
Alameda, CA May 2024



Last hike together Balcones
Canyonland Texas April 2024



Last time both of us together with
Granddaughters Camille and
Chloe Butera on Barb's 80th



Last time both of us together with
Grandsons Leo and Miles Rivera
May 2024

Celebration of Life October 19

The Celebration of the Life of Philip Owens is up on YouTube. Be sure to set the cursor back to the beginning and use the following program timings to set the cursor to the timing if you want to see a particular part.

Gathering

Pictures from the Life of Phil Owens

Opening Welcome & Invocation Pastor Wesley Silva Orleans UMC

Move cursor to beginning, turn CC on,

Music *It is Well With My Soul* David Cappolino, pianist & friend
Starts at 7:26

Family Reminiscences Susannah Owens Rivera daughter 7:30
Chloe Butera granddaughter 12:29
Rob Butera, son-in-law 14:44
Camille Butera, (video) granddaughter 19:56
(live music) grandsons *Arky Arky* 24:43
Leo & Miles Rivera and their mom
Steve Wilson, nephew 28:48
Ruth Tripp, niece 32:17

Music *Amazing Grace* audio Caleb Bennetch, violin & 35:37
John Morris, organ (friends)

Friends like family

Jessica Boese, like a daughter 41:06
John Robertson, like a nephew 44:28

Church friend

Diane Lobody 46:42

Video Music from YouTube *Hymns of Fanny Crosby Cello* 51:06

His widow comments Barbara Boucher Owens 52:47
The Last Day's Gift

Music *I'll Fly Away* David Cappolino, piano 1:06:09
(David's knew Phil would like something lively)

Closing and Benediction Pastor Silva 1:14:02