



Phillip "Buck" Avila

July 1, 1968 - December 7, 2024

Philip Avila, 56, of Fresno, California, passed away suddenly on December 7, 2024. Born and raised in Fresno, Philip dedicated his life to both his craft and his family, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and unwavering love.

As a respected foreman and machine operator in the masonry union, Philip took pride in his work, demonstrating exceptional skill and leadership throughout his career. His colleagues knew him for his attention to detail, strong work ethic, and willingness to mentor younger workers in the trade.

Philip found his greatest joy in life beside his beloved wife, Catherine Avila, with whom he shared a beautiful and devoted partnership. Their love story was an inspiration to all who knew them, marked by unwavering support, shared laughter, and countless cherished moments together.

Known for his warm smile and gentle nature, Philip was a true family man who valued every moment spent with his loved ones. His sudden departure leaves a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Phillip is survived by his wife Cathy; his children, Desirae Avila, Phillip Avila, Julia Avila and Andrew Avila; his two grandchildren, Jayden and Aryana

Rodriguez; his siblings, Lila Diaz, Ruby Rangel and Freddie Gonzalez.

Visitation will be held at the Refinery Church on Friday, December 20, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Cemetery

264 N. Blythe Avenue
Fresno, CA 93706

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 20. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (PT)

Refinery West McKinley Church
3014 W. McKinley Ave
Fresno, CA 93722

Funeral Service

DEC 20. 10:30 AM (PT)

Refinery West McKinley Church
3014 W. McKinley Ave
Fresno, CA 93722

Tribute Wall

AG

“ I would like to say I'm so sorry for the loss of Buck. I don't know what else to say but my heart goes out to you Kathy. Wow it's been so long I look at your pictures and it was like yesterday. I remember all of the memories we shared with you guys and I want you to know I will always treasure that. Rest in peace Buck. Always respectfully, Adrienne Gonzalez

Adrienne Gonzalez - January 09, 2025 at 02:26 AM

HI

“ My deepest

condolences to the lilly and Cathy and there whole family I will miss you Philip you had a heart of gold ☐☐ 😞



Hilda - December 20, 2024 at 08:42 PM



“ 216 files added to the album LifeTributes



Chapel Of The Light Funeral Home and Mausoleum - December 19, 2024 at 05:54 PM

“ Phillip Avila was my first cousin once removed. Spent my summers in Fresno growing up . My sister and I were close in age to Diane and Lillian, his sisters. patchwork of childhood memories that feel like home. I remember visiting his parents, Frank and Julia, in Highway City—the very place Phillip now resides.

One of my favorite memories involves a horse Frank had. Now, I won't say I was any good at riding it, but we sure tried. You can imagine the comedy of kids clambering onto a horse that had no patience for amateurs. Frank and my father were first cousins but acted more like brothers, which made our families intertwined in ways that went beyond just blood.

Phillip, though younger than he deserved to be at his passing, lived a life centered on family. That much was clear to anyone who knew him. He was a provider, a hard worker, and someone who found joy in the everyday moments with his loved ones. He could talk about his family endlessly—you'd hear about their achievements, their adventures, and the simple joy they brought to his life.

He wasn't just about words, though. Phillip put his work into action. I'll never forget when he laid the cement around my swimming pool. That pool became a place where friends gathered, laughed, and splashed around—and Phillip had a hand (literally) in creating that. People complimented the job for years, and every time they did, I smiled, thinking of him and his pride in a job well done.

Phillip also knew how to bring people together. He hosted an Avila Family Reunion that felt like a big, loud, loving celebration of everything that made our family unique. I'm grateful for that memory because it speaks to who Phillip was—a man who brought people together and made sure family stayed first.

His illness and all the hospital visits were hard on him—I know how much strength it took to face it all. But Phillip was as strong as they come, even when it was tiresome, and he kept his focus on what mattered most: his family.

To Cathy and the kids—you were Phillip's pride and joy, and I hope you know how much he loved you. He may be gone too soon, but his love, his hard work, and his dedication to family will live on. I can still hear his laugh, see his smile, and remember the warmth he

*brought to all of us.
Rest easy, Phillip. You did good. You'll be missed more than words
can say.
With love, Susie and Michael Schwinn*

Susie Savala - December 17, 2024 at 04:37 PM

MF

“ *Mary Garcia & Rendon Family purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Phillip "Buck" Avila.*



Mary Garcia & Rendon Family - December 13, 2024 at 12:54 PM

MH

“ *MARIA AND RAUL HERNANDEZ purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Phillip "Buck" Avila.*



MARIA AND RAUL HERNANDEZ - December 12, 2024 at 05:42 AM

PN

“ *Pat Noble planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Phillip "Buck" Avila.*

Pat Noble - December 11, 2024 at 09:20 PM

PN

“ Pat Noble purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Phillip "Buck" Avila.



Pat Noble - December 11, 2024 at 09:20 PM

EW

“ Compadre, you will be missed!! I'm sure u were met by a beautiful angel, Gloria, my mom. She loved Cathy and was happy w the love Cat found in you. Thank u for letting me b a part of your time on earth. Heaven is so lucky to have u. I'm sure you'll be working on those streets of Gold. 🙏❤️

Esther Wilson - December 11, 2024 at 09:18 PM