



## Phyllis Jo DeVlieghe Sloyer

August 18, 1952 - November 27, 2016

Sloyer, Phyllis Jo DeVlieghe

Phyllis Sloyer, age 64, died on November 27, 2016, in Panama City, Republic of Panama, after a long battle with cancer. She was enjoying a Panama Canal cruise with her husband Bob and his mother and sister. Phyllis was born in Mishawaka, Indiana, on August 18, 1952, to Carl and Mary DeVlieghe and was the eldest of four children. Phyllis moved to Florida in 1972 to attend Florida State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in public administration. She also obtained doctorate in public administration from LaCrosse University.

Phyllis' professional commitment to children's health, especially children with special health care needs was evident throughout her career. She had an accomplished career in state government retiring as director of Children's Medical Services (CMS) Network. She was also employed at the Institute for Child Health Policy at the University of Florida. She served on several state, federal, and national boards and committees related to maternal and child health, including the Florida Healthy Kids Board and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. She had served as president of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and received several honors and awards including honorary fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the University of South Florida Public Health Woman of the Year and national leadership awards in maternal and child health. .

Phyllis was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church and served on

the St. Agnes Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Knit Together ministry, and the Press Club. She considered St. John's as her second family. She was also a member of the LeMoyne Center for Visual Arts.

Her first commitment and love was for her family. Phyllis is preceded in death by her parents and niece, Julie Puscher. She is survived by her husband, Robert W. Sloyer Jr., siblings, Philip DeVliegher (Xen Nicolaidis), Mary Kinzell (Mike), and Barbara Puscher (Wil), stepsons Robert W. Sloyer III and Paul Edward Sloyer (wife Lisa and daughter Ellie), and a niece Ashley Waters.

A visitation will be held at Bevis Funeral Home from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 2710 N. Monroe St. Tallahassee. A funeral celebration with Holy Eucharist will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. A reception at the church will be held following the funeral celebration. A private family burial service will be held later in the day.

In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301-7619 or the American Academy of Pediatrics, Friends of Children for the CATCH Program, P.O. Box 776437, Chicago, IL, 60677-6437.

Scotti Thompson is assisting the family with their arrangements. [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com) 850-385-2193.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 7. 6:00 AM - 7:30 AM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory  
200 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 385-2193

## Funeral Service

DEC 8. 2:30 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church  
211 North Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Ashley Waters - December 10, 2016 at 07:38 AM

PD

“ 2 files added to the album Phyllis & Bob



Philip DeVliegheer - December 04, 2016 at 09:23 PM

XN

“ I've had the privilege of knowing Phyllis for over 20 years. I've always looked up to her and admired her knowledge, her kindness, her humor, her incredible spirit, and the love for Bob and her family. She is a model for how I wish to live the rest of my life...no matter what the challenges or obstacles, Phyllis faced them bravely, optimistically, enthusiastically, and with a wonderful zest for life. Her memory will forever be eternal. My deepest heartfelt sympathy to everyone who was as fortunate as I to have known Phyllis. ❤️

Xen Nicolaidis - December 04, 2016 at 09:22 PM

PD

“ 3 files added to the album *Phyllis & brother-in-law, Xen Nicolaidis Selfies*



Philip DeVliegher - December 04, 2016 at 08:47 PM

PD

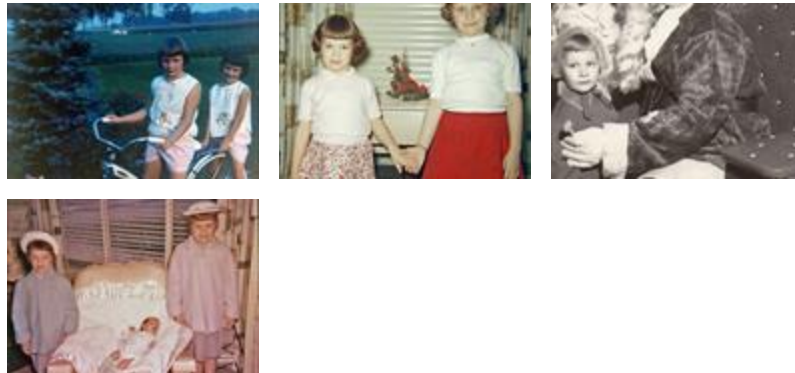
“ 6 files added to the album *Phyllis and her siblings*



Philip DeVliegher - December 04, 2016 at 07:58 PM

PD

“ 4 files added to the album *Phyllis Jo DeVliegher Sloyer*



Philip DeVliegher - December 04, 2016 at 07:42 PM

PD

“ 5 files added to the album *Phyllis Jo DeVlieghe Sloyer*



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**Philip DeVlieghe** - December 04, 2016 at 07:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Phyllis Jo DeVlieghe Sloyer*.



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December 04, 2016 at 02:33 PM

LT

“ Bob,

*Years ago when Phyllis got the results of a serious illness, she called all of her direct reports in her office to tell us of the news but her main concern was you. Her exact quote was "My poor husband" and she cried. I will never forget that. In the middle of receiving devastating news she took into consideration your feelings first. But that was Phyllis and her love for you.*

*I loved her stories. My favorite time was the Monday morning meetings if she had some crazy thing happen over the weekend. I remember how she could relate her wild adventures - usually with lots and lots of laughter. I will miss her laugh.*

*She was bigger than us - in knowledge, in wisdom, in all things political, and of course, no one knew more about children's health care than she did. When I went to national meetings and people knew I was from Florida, they would ask if I knew her. I was proud to say that I worked for her. She gave me more credibility.*

*She was not just my boss but a wonderful friend and mentor and although we haven't had as much contact in the last five years, when we did see each other, it was like no time had passed since the last.*

*I can only imagine what you and your family must be going through and I am so sorry for your loss. We will miss her too.*

*Lois Taylor*

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**Lois Taylor** - December 04, 2016 at 07:39 AM

SG

“ To Bob and all her family,

*My condolences on your loss of such a good, super smart, and powerful no-nonsense woman as Phyllis. She was a friend and advocate of not just the children in need of health services, but of anyone being pushed into the margins by any institution. May her memory always be for a blessing.*

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**Susan Gage** - December 03, 2016 at 10:07 PM

PT

“ Dear Bob, and all those who know and love Phyllis,

*It was my great honor to work with Phyllis for over 20 years. During this time, she taught many what it means to be a true advocate for children with special health care needs and their families. Phyllis led by example, and her tireless devotion to her vocation transformed the way that services are delivered to our families, and, in the process, transformed their quality of life. Her compassion and her grace touched all who were fortunate to know her. We have lost a true champion for children, but her work will live on❤️*

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**Patricia Trom** - December 03, 2016 at 06:27 PM

SB

*Dear Bob, I had the great opportunity to work with Phyllis. She helped to instill confidence and competence when I didn't feel that way. My last conversation, though brief, was incredibly impactful. It was at the funeral of another dear colleague and child advocate Richard Bucciari. She told me to keep fighting for kids. To never lose sight of the importance of what we do at CMS. I think of this often and her influence guides my work everyday. I pray for peace and comfort for you and your family at this time. I know she cherished her relationship with you. God bless you.*

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**Sherry Buchman** - December 03, 2016 at 07:54 PM

EG

*Dear Bob and loved ones of Phyllis,  
I'm so very sorry for your loss. It was a privilege to work with and learn from Phyllis. She was a true advocate for children and those of us who served. I've enjoyed maintaining contact with her through Facebook and my heart hurt so when I heard she had left us.*

*Elaine Grace*

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**Elaine Grace** - December 03, 2016 at 08:27 PM

DB

*To Bob, Barb, Mary and Philip,  
I knew the DeVlieghe family primarily in my youth as I was a second cousin. My parents were close to your parents and I remember the numerous time our families visited each other. I could tell the DeVlieghe family was a great family and had a great life on their farm. I remember a lot of laughter from the girls and their mother Mary! What a great family! So sorry for your loss.*

*Don Bouters*

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**don bouters** - December 07, 2016 at 01:01 PM

EP

*Dear Bob and Family,  
I have known you both over 30 years and spent many years of my professional life working with Phyllis. I was happy to call her a good friend and we caught up over lunch after she retired from CMS. I was always impressed with her knowledge and endless efforts to help medically complex children. She continued her work as a consultant and I was fortunate to recently have worked with her again with the Florida Healthy Kids program. I value and cherish the time I have known and worked with Phyllis. She will surely be missed by everyone. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Elaine Peters*

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**Elaine Peters** - December 07, 2016 at 11:43 PM