



Denise Neel Hlavaty

August 16, 1951 - March 9, 2026

Denise Neel Hlavaty of El Campo peacefully passed away on March 9, 2026. She was born in Paducah, Kentucky, on August 16, 1951, to the late Norma Jean (Futrell) and Billy Ray Neel. She was one of five children and had four brothers: Dennis, Lonnie, Billy, and Troy. The family later moved to Lake Jackson, and during her freshman year they moved to El Campo, where Denise remained for the rest of her life.

Denise's only child, Lanise Hlavaty Williams, lovingly describes her mom as a constant source of love — a mother who never missed a moment and was always by her side. Besides being a mom, her greatest joy in life was her grandson, Weston Williams, whom she adored and loved unconditionally. Denise cherished her family and friends, and there was nothing she wouldn't do for those she loved. She enjoyed her time at the bay and was happiest on the water. She took pride in looking her best and enjoyed dancing and singing to music. She loved her Whataburger sweet tea, and her bright smile was unforgettable.

In 1997, alongside a dear friend, she co-founded Project Graduation during her daughter Lanise's senior year of high school. She remained proud that the tradition continues to this day.

Denise is survived by her daughter, Lanise Hlavaty Williams; her son-in-law, Tyler Williams; her beloved grandson, Weston Williams; and her brothers, Billy Neel and Troy Neel. She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy Ray and Norma Jean Neel; her brothers, Dennis Neel and Lonnie Neel; and her

beloved dog, Ziggy.

The family is deeply grateful to the many caregivers who lovingly cared for Denise over the years.

Visitation will begin 1:00 pm Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at St. Philip Catholic Church with a Rosary will be offered at 1:30 pm. The Funeral Mass will begin at 2:00 pm with Rev. Dalton Ervin officiating. Committal services will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Philip Catholic School,
St. Philip Catholic Church, Houston Hospice or The Alzheimer's Association.

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Memorial Park

1617 South Mechanic Street
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3770

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Rosary

MAR 18. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Funeral Mass

MAR 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Philip Catholic Church
304 W. Church Street
El Campo, TX 77437
<http://stphilipapostle.org/>

Graveside Service

MAR 18 (CT)

Holy Cross Memorial Park
1617 South Mechanic Street
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3770

Tribute Wall

GM

“ *Ginger McMasters lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Ginger McMasters - April 05 at 02:28 PM

PD

“ *Pat Dybala lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Pat Dybala - March 18 at 07:06 PM

BW

“ *Barbara Wigginton sent a virtual gift in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Barbara Wigginton - March 17 at 11:12 PM

GS

“ *Gayle Shelley lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Gayle Shelley - March 17 at 03:02 PM

AV

“ Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family. Denise was always full of life and full of smiles. We will never forget her. May she forever rest in peace.

Andy and Debbie Veselka - March 16 at 07:58 PM

VQ

“ Vicky Quijas lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Vicky Quijas - March 16 at 06:27 PM

VH

“ Val Hargrove lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Val Hargrove - March 16 at 10:16 AM

LS

“ Leslie Schroder lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Leslie Schroder - March 16 at 10:12 AM

KK

“ Kathryn Krpec lit a candle in memory of
Denise Neel Hlavaty



kathryn krpec - March 16 at 09:20 AM

LM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Deepest sympathy to the family.
Lora Shult Mount
Glenn Mount



lora mount - March 16 at 09:06 AM

DT

“ Donna & Speck Thornton lit a candle in
memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Donna & Speck Thornton - March 16 at 08:50 AM

SD

“ Susan Dettling lit a candle in memory of
Denise Neel Hlavaty



Susan Dettling - March 16 at 08:31 AM

KL

“ Kathy & Larry lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Kathy & Larry - March 16 at 02:08 AM

SH

“ Stephen & Lucy Hrcir lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Stephen & Lucy Hrcir - March 15 at 10:38 PM

SA

“ Shebra Adler lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Shebra Adler - March 15 at 09:32 PM

MS

“ Martin Strarup lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty



Martin Strarup - March 15 at 09:24 PM

JS

“ *Julie Strnadel lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Julie Strnadel - March 15 at 08:51 PM

AR

“ *Anita Roye lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Anita Roye - March 15 at 08:48 PM

BO

“ *Billy Ray Orsak lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Billy Ray Orsak - March 15 at 08:33 PM

MS

“ *Mike Steele lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Mike Steele - March 15 at 05:24 PM

LM

“ *Lu Matzke lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Lu Matzke - March 15 at 04:41 PM

JW

“ *Jerry And Janice Winter lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Jerry and Janice Winter - March 15 at 03:10 PM

LS

“ *Liz Staff lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Liz Staff - March 15 at 02:35 PM

SS

“ *Sandra Sary lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Sandra Sary - March 15 at 02:34 PM

MS

“ *Marti Setera lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Marti Setera - March 15 at 02:23 PM

AS

“ *Allen And Judy Sefcik lit a candle in memory of Denise Neel Hlavaty*



Allen and Judy Sefcik - March 15 at 02:06 PM