



Lonnie Neel

February 3, 1953 - March 27, 2021

Lonnie Ray Neel passed away on March 27, 2021 in El Campo, Texas. He was born February 3, 1953 in Fort Campbell, Kentucky to Norma Jean and Billy Ray Neel. Lonnie graduated from El Campo High School, class of '71, attended WCJC and was a proud U.S. Marine. He returned to El Campo to marry the love of his life, Leigh Ann Halling and began a long career farming on Pierce Ranch. He was also owner/operator of Wild Wings Waterfowl and after retiring from farming he started a new career as a landman.

A man of numerous talents, his close friends knew him as "The Legend" or "Recon Ranger". He loved good parties, was famous for his dance moves, and filled any room with his presence. An avid outdoorsman, he was a pilot, scuba instructor, played pretty good golf, could ski among the best and loved to hunt and fish. Matagorda Bay was his favorite place to be.

Lonnie is survived by his wife, Leigh Ann; daughter, Heather and son-in-law, Paul Smith of Tulsa; son, Chance of Houston; and three adored grandchildren, Amelia Anne, Everett Charles, and Halling Neel Smith. That damn cat, Herman, was also his special companion. Family vacations around the water or mountains were the highlight of his years as Popo. Sister, Denise Hlavaty and brothers Billy, Troy, and their families also survive him.

Preceding him in death are his parents, brother Dennis and in-laws, Norma and Raymond Halling.

Family visitation will be Monday, March 29 at Triska Funeral Home from 5-7 p.m. Funeral services are scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church and interment will follow at Garden of Memories cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers are Mark Collins, James Kainer, Donald Kainer, John Petty, Slade Harfst, Chad Graham, Larry Wayne Kotulek and Kenny Martin. Honorary pallbearers are James Bouligny, Speck Thornton, Greg Montello, Philip Miller and Tommy Johnson.

Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Association or the charity of one's choice.

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

Cemetery Details

Garden of Memories

US Business 59 and CR 358
El Campo, TX 77437

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Funeral Service

MAR 30. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
1001 Avenue I
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall

JR

“ to Leigh Ann & family

i would like to express my condolence for the loss of your husband and my friend Lonnie. Early on we had our head butting - Green Beret vs Recon Marine - but as time went on we developed a mutual respect for what each had accomplished and the results being a great friendship. He will surely be missed by all.

And

*thank you for all the wonderful support you have given Melissa
My Admiration & Thanks,*

Jack Reed

jack e reed - March 30, 2021 at 12:37 PM

RR

“ *I will miss Lonnie's big smile and wave when I pass his house. He had a great smile and was a good friend and Marine brother. I love conversing with Lonnie... he was so transparent. He let you in his world in his discussions. He was so honest and was pleasant to talk to. He was very proud to be a Marine and a Recon Ranger. Recon Marines are the toughest of all Marines. Their training is grueling and not everyone makes it through. People called him The Legend, I understood Lonnie. Marines are taught to honor those who came before us. We carry on our backs their legacy, their deaths, and their honor. We carry that for the rest of our lives. Semper Fi Lonnie!*

Randy Ratcliff - March 30, 2021 at 08:54 AM



“ Pam L Vesely lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Pam L Vesely - March 30, 2021 at 12:09 AM



“ Neel Family,
Heartfelt condolences on the passing of Lonnie.
You are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.



The Altus Hospice Staff

Michelle Sonnier, LMSW - March 29, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.*



March 29, 2021 at 06:48 PM

JJ

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Neel family. Lonnie was definitely one-of-a-kind and a Legend. Lots of fun memories around hunting campfires and partying through the years. He will always be only a thought away from all of you and so many of his vast array of friends. The tales will grow taller and the laughter more robust as we each recall the memories he created. May God Bless and keep you all. John and Judy Jurek

Judy Jurek - March 29, 2021 at 05:02 PM

LN

May the heavenly druid rain down on you through a fist.well said

Loni Lee Neel - July 28, 2024 at 07:04 PM

MS

“ God Speed Lonnie! Deepest condolences to his family and friends.



Martin Strarup - March 29, 2021 at 04:31 PM

PA

“ .Carancahua Bay will never be the same without Lonnie. My thoughts are with Leigh Ann, Heather, Chance & the entire family.

Peggy Zapalac Alderman - March 29, 2021 at 03:26 PM

KB

“ Karon G Barbee purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Lonnie Neel.



Karon G Barbee - March 29, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.



March 29, 2021 at 01:02 PM

CR

“ I am so sorry for your loss.
Carole Henderson Rodes

Carole Rodes - March 29, 2021 at 12:09 PM

BO

“ My condolences to the Neel family. Lonnie, it was good knowing you my friend and I'll see you down the road.

Billy Ray Orsak



Billy Ray Orsak - March 29, 2021 at 11:28 AM

TB

“ Dear Leigh Ann, so sorry for your loss, our prayers are with you and your family. May your husband rest in peace and may the perpetual light shine upon him. Augie & Terri Beltran



TERRI BELTRAN - March 29, 2021 at 11:07 AM

PS

“ May the Holy Spirit be with the Neel family in a special way during this tme...

Paul Smith - March 29, 2021 at 09:25 AM

VH

“ Vickie Holub lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Vickie Holub - March 29, 2021 at 08:36 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.



March 28, 2021 at 11:08 PM

SS

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Lonnie. I assure you of my prayers. May the promise of the Resurrection be a comfort.
Sister Marjorie Vincik, SSCJ

Sister Marjorie Vincik, SSCJ - March 28, 2021 at 10:39 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.



March 28, 2021 at 09:12 PM

BS

“ Growing up in Sunset Terrace with the Neels is one of my fondest memories. Heather and I were as thick as glue and Lonnie was always around being silly, dancing and loving working with his beautiful dogs. I also remember the scuba diving lessons in the pool. Such a great loss as he was an awesome man. Prayers to the entire family. God Bless ❤️

Brenda Socha - March 28, 2021 at 07:28 PM

GB

“ Gene And Sharon Bena lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Gene and Sharon Bena - March 28, 2021 at 04:37 PM

LM

“ *Lu Matzke lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel*



Lu Matzke - March 28, 2021 at 04:22 PM

MF

“ *Dear Leigh Ann and family! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all! Lonnie will be remembered as a great, lovely, kind husband, father and friend! May he rest now in the peace of the Lord!* 🙏🙏

Miro family - March 28, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.*



March 28, 2021 at 02:59 PM

BM

“ *Leigh Ann our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. It will not be the same at the bay without Lonnie coming by for a visit. He will truly be missed.*
Randy and Becky Mitchell

Becky Mitchell - March 28, 2021 at 01:59 PM

FP

“ Leigh Ann , So sorry to hear of the loss of Lonnie. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this very sad time. Jack & Faye Poskey

Faye Poskey - March 28, 2021 at 10:48 AM

DN

“ I share in your sorrow and send my most heartfelt condolences

Dottie Nixon - March 28, 2021 at 10:46 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.



March 28, 2021 at 10:44 AM

JF

“ Julie Strnadel & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Lonnie Neel



Julie Strnadel & Family - March 28, 2021 at 09:09 AM

JS

“ Jimmy & Barbara Skalak lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Jimmy & Barbara Skalak - March 28, 2021 at 08:14 AM

RC

“ Robert & Becky Chomout lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Robert & Becky Chomout - March 27, 2021 at 09:56 PM

RJ

“ Leigh Ann, Sorry to hear that Lonnie passed. Prayers to you and your family.
Ron Johannes

Ron Johannes - March 27, 2021 at 08:18 PM

AS

“ Allen And Judy Sefcik lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Allen and Judy Sefcik - March 27, 2021 at 07:57 PM

DW

“ Leigh Ann, I'm am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for peace for you and your family.
Dotty Walker

Dotty Walker - March 27, 2021 at 07:35 PM

LN

I am too so truly very sorry emoji face

Loni Lee Neel - July 28, 2024 at 07:07 PM



“ Prayers for the family. We are so sorry for your loss. You will be in our prayers.
Joy & Ronnie Wind

Joy Wind - March 27, 2021 at 07:30 PM

KK

“ Kathryn Krpec lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



kathryn krpec - March 27, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.



March 27, 2021 at 06:54 PM

CB

“ I only was around Lonnie for a few short years in the late 70s as I was married to his wifes' best friend . I treasure those times together as he certainly was a unique individual and a good friend . Rest in peace brother ,

chester guy boutelle - March 27, 2021 at 06:35 PM

TS

“ Tommy And Liz Staff lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel



Tommy and Liz Staff - March 27, 2021 at 06:27 PM

DT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Donna Thornton - March 27, 2021 at 06:21 PM

DO

10/2019

Donna - March 27, 2021 at 09:00 PM

LN

My daddy name is Lonnie Ray Neel tahlequah Oklahoma

Loni Lee Neel - July 28, 2024 at 07:09 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lonnie Neel.*



March 27, 2021 at 05:41 PM



“ *Sending love and strength to the Neel family. With deepest sympathy, Janie Wilson and Paul Smith*

Janie Wilson - March 27, 2021 at 04:35 PM



“ *Rae Ann Johnson lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Neel*



Rae Ann Johnson - March 27, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. May Lonnie RIP. Sending my thoughts and prayers to the family.*

Rae Ann Johnson - March 27, 2021 at 04:33 PM

AM

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family at this difficult time.*



Andrea McCann - March 27, 2021 at 03:59 PM

LC

“ *We send our heartfelt sympathy to the family at this difficult time. May the Lord grant you His loving comfort and may he rest in peace.*



Lorraine and Sandra Cranek - March 27, 2021 at 03:51 PM