



## William "Bill" Neal

June 5, 1941 - July 13, 2023

William "Bill" Neal, 82, of Manteno had an extraordinary life. It is with great sadness that his family announces his passing on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee surrounded by loved ones.

He was born on June 5, 1941, in Bloomington, Illinois, the son of Edward and Dorothy (Demlow) Neal. He celebrated 62 wonderful years of marriage to the love of his life Anne (Whalen) and cherished his children Douglas (Elayne) Neal of Lake St. Louis, MO, Greg (Chris) Neal of Aroma Park, IL, Kelli (Jackie) Neal of Madison, WI, Todd (Katie) Neal of Lake St. Louis; MO, and grandchildren Brandi, Christopher (Heather), Alexander, Ethan, Tony, Ashley (Darin), Katie (Jeff) and Josh, Mark (Shyla), Jon, Justin (Brittany); as well as several great grandchildren.

Bill was a railroad conductor for Illinois Central Railroad and Metra from which he retired in 2002 after 42 years of service. An avid hobbyist, he enjoyed piloting his Cessna 172, scuba diving around the world, logging extensive miles on his bicycle, snow skiing out west, roller blading along Lake Michigan and ice skating. Bill loved his many family vacations spent fishing, kayaking, and water skiing. In his younger years, he wrestled and ran track at Eastern Illinois University and later coached youth wrestling. In his retirement, he served as a volunteer scuba diver at the Shedd Aquarium and Haigh Quarry and enjoyed reading historical novels and golfing with friends.

In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by sisters; Nancy Scott and Sandra (Fred) Bruner; and a brother, Edward (Teri) Neal.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sally Bettenhausen; and brothers-in-law, Calvin Scott and Tom Bettenhausen.

A funeral mass will be held Saturday, July 22, 2023, at 10am at St. George Catholic Church, 5272 E 5000N Rd, Bourbonnais. Father Dan Belanger will officiate. Burial will be at St. George Cemetery. Brown-Jensen Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. George Catholic Church.

# Previous Events

## Mass

JUL **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St George Catholic Church  
5250 E 5000 N Rd  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

## Burial

JUL **22** (CT)

St George Catholic Church  
5250 E 5000 N Rd  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

# Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" Neal*

October 06, 2023 at 01:14 PM



“ *I feel very fortunate to have spent time with Billy. We had some great trips skiing in Canada, Colorado and Lake Tahoe as well as the Hilly Hundred bike rides and working together. He was a great person to hang out with. I will miss his great sense of humor and positive attitude. My sincere heart felt condolences to Ann and family. We will all miss him dearly.*

**Jeff Fields** - July 21, 2023 at 07:51 PM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Neal.*

July 21, 2023 at 07:02 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Neal.*



July 19, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Neal.

July 19, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Neal.



July 18, 2023 at 03:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Neal.



July 18, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Neal.

July 18, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ Cathie & Al Elsbree planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Neal.

**Cathie & Al Elsbree** - July 17, 2023 at 02:56 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Neal.*



July 17, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Four Winds Manor (Kelli Neal employer) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" Neal.*



**Four Winds Manor (Kelli Neal employer)** - July 17, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Neal.*



July 17, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *Steve Perkey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Neal.*



**Steve Perkey** - July 16, 2023 at 11:36 AM

JA

“ John & Donna Andruch sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Bill" Neal



John & Donna Andruch - July 16, 2023 at 10:14 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Neal.



July 16, 2023 at 09:02 AM

HS

“ Howard S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of William "Bill" Neal.



Howard S. - July 15, 2023 at 02:35 PM

TW

“ I knew Bill through St. George church and I consider myself lucky 🍀 to know him. He in my book was kind of a hero to me because I would cherish talking to him and always mesmerized listening to all the things he had done in life it was amazing the things he did and with all the pain he endured he always had a stern hang shake and big smile. Will miss him, what a wonderful man. Condolences to Ann and family. 🙏🙏🇺🇸

---

**Tom Wasser** - July 14, 2023 at 04:11 PM