



Neil Joseph Coleman

June 18, 1954 - June 6, 2024

Neil Joseph Coleman, retired Ranger of Trail of Tears State Forest, devoted husband of Laurie, father of Tim and grandfather of Grant, died June 6 at his Buncombe home. He was 69. He loved the outdoors, a good non-fiction book, refurbishing his old military transport truck, and talking politics. Neil was born June 18, 1954 in Chicago and was raised in Kankakee, IL. Neil worked on offshore oil rigs, was a Merchant Marine for 17 years, then retired after 23 years with IDNR. The Merchant Marines was a job that took him around the globe to such places as Turkey, Portugal and Russia. He moved his family to Southern Illinois when he took the Department of Natural Resources job in 1994. Though it was a job that brought the Colemans south, their homestead on Lick Creek Road was his sanctuary. It was there that he and Laurie raised Tim, where he took Grant on tractor rides and where they all enjoyed cookouts on the deck.

He is survived by his wife Laurie Wojnowski Coleman, his son Tim (Carolyn), and grandson Grant Coleman of Eureka, MO. He leaves three brothers, Larry (Marion) Coleman of Aroma Park, IL, Jim Coleman and partner Lynne Schiller of Raleigh, NC, Jerry Coleman and partner Judith Hansen of Palm Coast, FL. He leaves a sister and brother-in-law, Laura Coleman Noeth and husband Bob Bogema of Germantown, TN. He also leaves four brothers-in law and one sister-in-law, Brian (Sue) Wojnowski of Lemont, IL, John Wojnowski of St. Anne, IL, Keith Wojnowski of Kankakee, IL, Mike (Vicki) Wojnowski of Deltona, FL, and Lynn Porter of Paxton, IL. He is also survived by several

nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Helen Coleman, a sister, Mary Eileen Coleman, brothers William Coleman Jr. and John Coleman and his mother-in-law, Mary Ann Wojnowski.

A service celebrating Neil's life will be Saturday, July 6 at 10 a.m. at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Happy Hollow Road, Buncombe, IL. The celebration will then move to the Coleman family residence.

Memorials in Neil's honor may be made to the Arbor Day Foundation, 211 N. 12th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 or online at www.arborday.org or to the American Lung Association, 3000 Kelly Lane, Springfield, Illinois 62711-6226 or online at www.lung.org

Cemetery Details

Cedar Grove Cemetery

Buncombe, IL

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cedar Grove Cemetery
Cedar Grove Cemetery, Happy Hollow Rd
Goreville, IL 62939

Tribute Wall

JW

“ So sorry for your loss. Loving thoughts and prayers for you and your family. Judy Wright

Judy Wright - June 24, 2024 at 07:04 PM

MC

“ We fell on hard times and I will never forget how Uncle Neil and Aunt Laurie offered up their home to me, my husband and three young children. He and his wife have a heart of gold.

Mandy Cassidy - June 16, 2024 at 09:52 PM

PK

“ Sorry to hear about Neil. My prayers are with you. Pat Kalicki

PATRICIA J KALICKI - June 09, 2024 at 06:02 PM

JT

“ My dear sweet friend, my heart breaks for you, You have my sincerest condolences. Joy & Wes Trammell.



joy trammell - June 08, 2024 at 10:27 PM

AK

“ Laurie, Tim and family...Was shocked to hear the news of Neil's passing. My heart aches for you and I'm so sorry for your loss. Grief never ends...nor is it a sign of weakness. It is the price of LOVE..My thoughts and prayers are with you.(((Hugs)))

Alice Kearney - June 08, 2024 at 03:25 AM

JG

“ Jason Grant lit a candle in memory of Neil Joseph Coleman



Jason Grant - June 07, 2024 at 10:59 PM