



## Donald James Neil

March 17, 2015

Donald James Neil, age 81, passed away at home on March 17, 2015. Don was born in Raton, NM to Peter M. Neil and Bertha Stevens Neil. From age three to thirteen he lived in Dawson, NM, where his Scottish immigrant grandfather, Alan Neil, had worked in the coal mines. Following WWII the family moved to Albuquerque and Don became involved with 4-H, raising and showing fat steers and earning numerous ribbons and awards. He graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1953 and was drafted into the United States Army. During a tour of duty in Korea he served with the 226 Signal Company Taegu and the 503 Engineer Pusan Group. In 1956 he met and married his life partner, Evelyn M. Schaefer in Lusk, WY. Don and Evelyn have lived in Albuquerque for 58 years where they raised two sons. He and Evelyn co-founded Kachina Petroleum Equipment Co. which over the past 45 years has built and maintained retail and bulk fuel facilities throughout New Mexico and west Texas. Don was a member of the St Andrews Scottish Society and the Albuquerque Guild of the Santa Fe Opera. As a member of the New Mexico Garden Railroaders, he helped build the Garden Railroad at the NM BioPark. He loved dancing, travelling, making new friends and telling stories of his youth as a 'Coal Camp Kid'. He especially enjoyed watching and photographing the quail, bobcats and deer that regularly visited his backyard. He died as he lived, fought hard until the end, stayed positive. He thought only of others and constantly reminded everyone of how blessed his life had been. Don is survived by his wife, Evelyn; son, Tracy (Wendy); son, Brent (Michelle) and beloved grandchildren, Devin (Sonia), Nicholas, Emily, and Hayley. He is also survived by his sister, Betty Miller (Darrell) and nephew, Gregg Miller; cousins, Nancy Neil-Fullerton, John Neil, and Melvin Neil; brother-in-law, Jay Schaefer (Claire); nieces, Julie Briggs and Sharon Jalene; nephews, Paul Briggs and Cameron Schaefer. His cats, Sophie and Halle will miss him dearly as will all the wonderful friends he made over the years. A Memorial Service and reception will be held Monday, March 23, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at FRENCH - Wyoming. Memorial Donations may be made to the Animal Humane Society of New Mexico, 615 Virginia, SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87108 or New Mexico BioPark Society, 903 10th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM, 87102.

FRENCH – Wyoming  
7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE  
(505) 823-9400



# Comments

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“ Evelyn, Tracy and Brent, I didn't have the opportunity at the service to let you know what a profound influence Don made on my life. At the young age of twenty one when I started working for Don he instilled in me to always sign your work with excellence and that anything was possible with grit and determination. One more thing, Don passed along one of his sayings to me many years ago in regard to the application of pipe dope. He told me that he didn't care what anyone else said, PUT THAT ON LIKE HE WAS BUYING IT! I have to tell you that this saying has now been handed down to my children and grandchildren. They use it for pretty much everything, applying mustard, ketchup on so on. He WILL be deeply missed!

**Joe Phillips** - March 23 at 08:46 PM

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“ Dear Evelyn, Tracy, and Brent,  
I was deeply saddened to hear of your profound loss of such a gentle soul. I will forever remember Don as a thoughtful, kind, and loving person. I will be there in spirit. Know you are all in my thoughts and my prayers. He will be dearly missed.  
Love Always,  
Kathy Sullivan Barnicoat



**Kathy Barnicoat** - March 23 at 02:41 PM

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“ They say the greatest legacy a man leaves behind in this world is his family. I have known very few men who have left a better legacy or a more indelible mark on this world. I feel blessed to have known Don and his wonderful family. You are all in my prayers and forever in my heart.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.  
May the road rise to meet you;  
May the wind be always at your back;  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;

May the rains fall softly upon your fields.  
Until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Celtic Blessing - Anonymous

Anthony and Kirsten Santana

**Anthony Santana** - March 23 at 01:42 PM

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“ Wishing Don's family peace and joyful times remembering the richness of his life.

Tunell Watts

**Tunell Watts** - March 23 at 12:43 PM

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“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Donald James Neil.



March 21 at 12:51 PM

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“ Patsy and I always enjoyed Don's visits, sharing photographs and sightings of the wildlife in our neighborhood, his stories of early days in Dawson and of his other experiences. He always had a great outlook on things. I think he is the only person who could have convinced me to try Haggis (at a Robert Burns event he and Evelyn invited us to attend). He helped me stabilize my garden wall (still solid after many years), made some covers so birds covered in soot would quit falling down our chimneys and flying around the house, and advised me on many other subjects. I will miss his wealth of knowledge. We are ever richer for having known him.

We will miss his smile and laughter, but the fond memories are ours forever!

Your family is in our hearts.

Ed and Patsy Bengé

**Ed and Patsy** - March 21 at 12:45 PM



“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

**Kristian Schmidt** - March 20 at 12:11 PM