

# FRANK NEIL

1927 - 2014 | Obituary |



FRANK NEIL Frank J. Neil was born Sept. 29, 1927, in New York City, and passed away Aug. 13, 2014, in Las Vegas. Frank attended Brooklyn Tech and left to join the U.S. Navy in 1945. He was the youngest member of the maiden crew of the USS Leyte CV-32 and was honorably discharged in 1948. He joined the U.S. Army Air Force in 1948, learned to fly, and was honorably discharged in June 1949. During the Korean War, Frank was an instrument flight and ground school navigation instructor for the U.S. 5th Army Aviation Division. He then held positions with Pan Am and Swiss Air as an extraordinary flight dispatcher before moving to Prudential and becoming an accomplished insurance agent and staff manager. He served as chief engineer for the Intrepid Museum Foundation, where he was instrumental in renovating the USS Intrepid CV-11 into an iconic Sea, Air and Space Museum and bringing it to Pier 86 in New York City. After retiring, Frank remained active in the pursuit of preserving other US warships into museums through his position as President of Nautical Ventures and Chairman of the Long Beach Aircraft Carrier Museum Foundation. He was proud to be a member of the USS Leyte CV-32 Association and generously donated a large collection of Leyte artifacts which are on permanent exhibit at the USS Yorktown Museum in Charleston, S.C. Frank was a multi-talented, Renaissance Man who surprised you with the breadth and depth of his talents. He was a gifted musician who played the organ and accordion, an expert carpenter/ plumber/roofer who could perform sophisticated renovations and additions to houses and build furniture from scratch, an amateur inventor, a proficient dog trainer who owned and loved extremely disciplined German Shepherds, a skilled rifle marksman, and an impressive weatherman. He was an extraordinary historian (with a particular expertise on Ancient Egypt and a serious interest in family genealogy), an unparalleled story teller and had a passion for education and learning. Next to his family, his greatest love was for flying. He

held a series of commercial and general aviation licenses and was Instrument Rated. He flew as an avocation whenever he could for over 60 years. He entertained us with dozens of stories of piloting through treacherous weather conditions, running out of gas en route, and dangerous emergency landings. Frank loved his family most of all. His father, Francis Arthur Neil, was a plumber of Irish descent. His mother, Mildred M. Neil (Graichen), was an extremely hardworking bookkeeper and housewife of German descent. Frank was the reigning patriarch of the Neil clan. He was preceded in death by a brother, Arthur, in 1983. He leaves his sister, Eileen; brother, Tom; and their families. Frank married the first love of his life, Doris Marie Stark, June 1, 1952. They had four boys and a wonderfully wacky life together. She died Sept. 2nd, 1986. Frank married the second love of his life, Ann B. Keightly, Jan. 19, 1991, and they enjoyed over 23 years of fun and adventure. He was blessed to find the love of two beautiful, awesome women. Frank loved all of his family dearly and they respected and loved him. In addition to his wife, Ann, Frank leaves his stepchildren, Joe, Gail, Glen and Charlotte. He also leaves his sons, Jim (Jean), Ed (Judy), and Casey. He joins his son, Larry (died 1967). He will watch over and be missed by his grandchildren, Trip (Whitney), Dori (Jesus), Charlie, Jenny, Joey, and Ellery. And he cherished his time with his favorite great grandson, Alexander. We wish him God's peace and look forward to meeting again on the other side. Family and friends are invited to visitation 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at Overton Funeral Home, 172 Main St., Islip, N.Y. There will be a second visitation 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 8, with memorial services following, at Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave., Farmingdale, N.Y. Interment (with military tribute) will follow services at approximately Noon. Charitable donations may be made in his name to the Wounded Warrior Project (1-877-832-6997 / [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)) or the

[American Cancer Society](http://www.americancancersociety.org)

(1-800-227-2345 / [www.cancer.org/donate](http://www.cancer.org/donate)).

## Services



### [Overton Funeral Home, Inc.](#)

172 Main Street  
Islip, NY 11751  
(631) 581-5085

### **Visitation**

**Sunday, Sep. 7, 2014**

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Overton Funeral Home, Inc.  
172 Main Street  
Islip, NY 11751

### **Visitation**

**Monday, Sep. 8, 2014**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Long Island National Cemetery  
2040 Wellwood Ave.  
Farmingdale, NY

### **Memorial service**

**Monday, Sep. 8, 2014**

10:30 AM

Long Island National Cemetery  
2040 Wellwood Ave.  
Farmingdale, NY

### **Interment**

**Monday, Sep. 8, 2014**

12:00 PM

Long Island National Cemetery  
2040 Wellwood Ave.  
Farmingdale, NY