



O'Neil Francis Rome Jr.

JUL 27, 1941 - DEC 14, 2024



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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O'Neil Francis Rome Jr.

JUL 27, 1941 - DEC 14, 2024

O'Neil Francis Rome Jr., 83, passed away peacefully in his home in Memphis, Tennessee on December 14, 2024, with his family by his side. He was born on July 27, 1941, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Those who will miss Neil the most include his children, Ashley (Doug) Burbank, O'Neil F. (Maryanne) Rome, III, and Robert (Valerie Auger) Rome; his grandchildren, Elaine (Nick) Luquet, Julian (Madeline) Rome, Robert Burbank, Noah (Bethany) Rome, Elijah Rome, and Jake Werkhoven; his great granddaughter, Therese Rome; and his brother and sister, Richard Rome and Beth Thomas. He is reunited in Heaven with his beloved wife of thirty-seven years, Susan Manley Rome, and his parents, O'Neil F. Rome Sr. and Day LeBlanc Rome.

Neil graduated from Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, LA in 1959, and received a B.A. in Political Science from Louisiana State University in 1964. He received his commission as an Officer in the Navy on August 21, 1964, and proudly served on the U.S.S. Shangri-La, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Guadalcanal. For his service, he was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation, a National Defense Service Medal, an Armed Forces Reserve Medal, a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, a Gold Pin for Certification as a Surface Warfare Officer, a Pin as a Commanding Officer of a Naval Shore Station, a Gold Shield as a Recruiting Officer, and a Ship Unit Award for an Extended Deployment During a Time of Conflict. After twenty years of service, Neil retired from the Navy and went to work for the U.S. Post Office, from which he retired in 1998.

Neil's life was devoted to his family. He was an empathetic listener and a captivating storyteller and loved to swap stories with his children and grandchildren over happy hour drinks, home-cooked Southern Louisiana meals, or over the phone. He always made his loved ones feel important, whether by walking them back out to their cars at the end of a visit and waving as they drove off, or by always having their favorite drinks, meals, and snacks ready when they came to see him. Indeed, he was affectionately called "Grandad" not just by his grandchildren, but also his grandchildren's friends, who he immensely enjoyed getting to know and spending time with.



Obituary

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Neil loved to travel, especially on ships and trains. One of his most memorable trips was his 70th birthday trip on the Trans Canada Rail, from Vancouver, BC to Halifax, Nova Scotia. A long-time member of the Railway Passengers Association, he also enjoyed his regular trips on Amtrak's City of New Orleans Train to Louisiana and the Sunset Limited to El Paso, Texas. He also enjoyed crossword puzzles, collectible coins and stamps, and keeping up with contemporary comedy and music.

Neil was a major sports enthusiast, and had a near-encyclopedic memory for LSU athletics in particular. He would follow former LSU players in their professional careers; for any given NFL or MLB team, he could tell you who played for LSU, when, and in what position, as well as how he thought they were performing so far that season.

In honor of his passion for LSU sports, Neil's family encourages attendees at the celebration of life service and visitation to wear purple and gold or memorabilia for their favorite team.

The celebration of life service will be held on Monday, December 23, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Memorial Park Funeral Home (5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119), with Fr. Michael Werkhoven officiating. Visitation will be from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials will be appreciated to the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception (1669 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38104).

Online condolences and memories can be shared with the family at www.MemorialParkOnline.com.



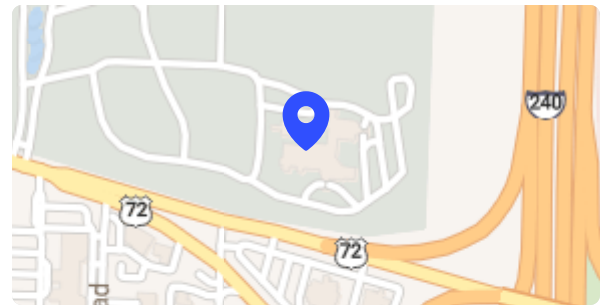
Events

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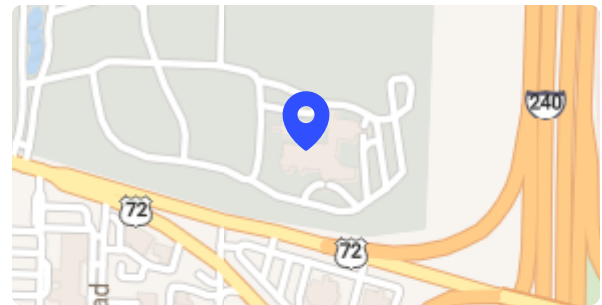
Visitation

- Monday**, December 23, 2024
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT
- Memorial Park Fireside Chapel**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



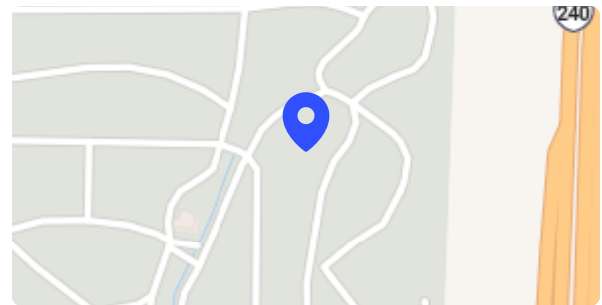
Funeral

- Monday**, December 23, 2024
- 1:00 PM CT
- Memorial Park Fireside Chapel**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



Cemetery Details

- Memorial Park Cemetery**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119
- (901) 445-8475**





Tribute Wall

O'Neil Francis Rome Jr.

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Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Rome family.

December 22 at 7:24 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of O'Neil.

December 22 at 7:24 AM



Amanda And Scott Hancock sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Rome family.

December 21 at 1:12 PM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Rome family.

December 20 at 7:36 AM



Claudia And Dan Dion posted:

My husband and I met O'Neil and his daughter Ashley on a Viking cruise in 2017. Both of them were such great company...we bonded immediately. O'Neil told several of his wonderful stories about his travels during our group dinners. It was a pleasure getting to know him, even though it was only for a week. Sending hugs and prayers to Ashley and the whole family.

December 19 at 3:49 PM



Ashley Burbank December 20 at 8:49 AM

Oh Claudia, we loved meeting you both on that cruise. I'll never forget spending the afternoon in Nuremberg with you. I have a lovely picture of dad and I that you took of us as we enjoyed a glass of wine with you over-looking the market below. Such wonderful memories. Thank you for the kind words.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Rome family.



December 19 at 6:52 AM



Anonymous sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the Rome family.



December 19 at 6:42 AM



Debby Specht posted:

Mr. Neil was one of the kindest and most interesting men that I've known. He was always smiling and had time for a chat. I will miss knowing that he was around somewhere having fun with his family. My prayers are with Ashley and her family always.

December 18 at 3:52 PM



Ashley Burbank December 19 at 3:25 PM

Thank you so much Debby. I still remember y'all bringing over the signed LSU baseball hat to dad when he won the PTA Grandparent of the Year award. You made dad feel so special. I have such fond memories from back then. Thank you for your kind words. Love to all and Merry Christmas! 🎄❤️🎄



Sonja Kelly posted:

What a beautiful soul! Mr. O'Neal loved his family deeply and through service in so many ways. I learned much over the decades I was privileged to know him, by watching how he loved his family....with no judgement, no expectations....just deep unconditional, abundantly generous LOVE! He made our world brighter by being in it.

December 18 at 2:48 PM



Ashley Burbank December 19 at 3:26 PM

Thank you Sonja. Dad loved you and your family so much. ❤️



Tribute Wall

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Stephanie Robinson And Family sent a Large Basket Garden to the Rome family.



December 18 at 2:47 PM



Stephanie Robinson And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of O'Neil.



December 18 at 2:47 PM



Julian Rome shared 15 photos to the **Photos from Julian** album.



December 18 at 8:40 AM



Julian Rome shared 13 photos to the **Misc Grandad Photos** album.



December 18 at 8:40 AM



Delaney Sheehan posted:

I have very fond memories of Grandad at all of our youth soccer games and his red Saturn parked in the Burbank driveway. He will be greatly missed.

December 18 at 8:40 AM



Ashley Burbank December 19 at 3:28 PM

Thank you Delaney. Grandad loved you and your family so much. He loved watching you and Elaine play soccer. I have such wonderful memories with Grandad and your family. Love that Grandad came to Europe with all the moms for your birthday weekend in Ireland! Love you. ❤️
Ashley



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Kacy Marshall posted:

What I will always remember most of my Uncle Neil is how sweet he always spoke to me. It was as if his voice was filled with only love. He was so kind and so gentle in the way he spoke and treated me. I was (am) a little rough and tumble, and talk like a sailor, so it always struck me when he would greet and speak with me like I was a little delicate flower. I never really felt (and still don't) like a delicate flower, but, when he spoke to me, for some reason, I felt like a delicate flower. What a gift. I wonder if I will ever meet someone again who will make me feel the way he did. I love you Uncle Neil and I will miss hearing your voice. Kacy

December 18 at 8:40 AM



Ashley Burbank December 19 at 3:31 PM

Oh Kacy. This is so sweet. Dad loved y'all so much. I have so many wonderful memories. Dad loved going down to south Florida to see you. Y'all always rolled out the red carpet for us and made us feel so special. Love you. ❤️ Ashley



Media

O'Neil Francis Rome Jr.

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Julian Rome shared 15 photos to the **Photos from Julian** album.

December 18 at 9:39 AM

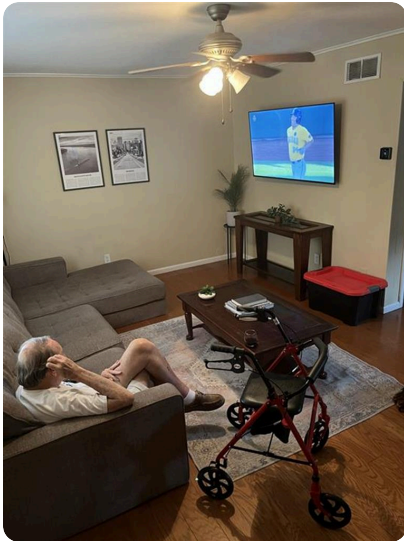




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Julian Rome shared 13 photos to the **Misc Grandad Photos** album.

December 18 at 9:22 AM



Fourth of July, 2024!



Grandad's 80th birthday



Wedding, Dec 12 2020



Wedding, Dec 12 2020



Media

O'Neil Francis Rome Jr.

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May 22, 2022. Coffee with Julian at Voodoo Cafe in Bartlett



March 1, 2022



May 24, 2022. Happy hour!



Media

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Ponca Arkansas, Dec 11 2020



Grandad's 80th birthday



At Julian and Madeline's wedding, Dec 12 2020



March 2, 2022



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring O'Neil by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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