



Mr. Neil Hanks

May 29, 1933 - February 19, 2021

Neil Hanks, a resident of West Plains, formerly of Willow Springs, passed away Friday morning, February 19, 2021 while at Brooke Haven Healthcare in West Plains. He was born May 29, 1933 in rural Howell County, MO to Clyde and Ruby (Gregory) Hanks and was 87 years old.

Neil received his elementary education in rural Howell County and went on to attend Willow Springs High School and Central Technical Institute in Kansas City. On July 2, 1952 he married Helen C. Hudson in Mountain Home, AR. They remained happily married for 68 years. Neil proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. Neil was employed in Communications with the Missouri State Highway Patrol for more than 34 years, before retiring in 1991. He and Helen lived most of their lives in Willow Springs before moving to Pleasant Valley Village in West Plains in 2007 because of health issues. Neil enjoyed playing golf with Helen and their friends. He also enjoyed camping at the lake and Branson, MO in their motorhome. He loved taking the grandchildren to see shows and Silver Dollar City every year with Helen. He will be dearly missed by his family, his friends, and all who knew him.

Neil was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Ruby Hanks; his wife, Helen; his brother, Rex Hanks of Mtn. Home, AR; his sister, Mary Poppitz; father-in-law, Horace Hudson; mother-in-law, Olive Dodrill; step father-in-law, Joe Dodrill; brothers-in-law: Edward Hudson, Claude (Butch) Gauldin, John

Hudson, David Hudson; and three nephews and two nieces.

He is survived by two daughters: Debra S. Martin and her husband, Mitchell of Montier, MO and Kathy A. Hickson and her husband, Danny of West Plains, MO; two grandsons: Preston Martin and friend, DeDe of Montier and Dr. Chad Walesky and his wife, Liz of Olathe, KS; one granddaughter, Michelle Martin of Mtn. View, MO; four great granddaughters: Cheyanna, Jerrica, Angel and Josie, who lovingly referred to him as "Pipaw." Further survivors include his sisters: Louise Gauldin of Willow Springs and Mildred Simkins of Springfield, MO; David Poppitz and his wife, Linda; several nieces and nephews and a bunch of good ole buddies from the Willow Springs Golf Course, who called him "High Dollar."

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests donations in Neil's memory be made to Willow Springs Scholarship Club, PO Box 484, Willow Springs, MO, 65793.

A visitation for Neil Hanks will be held on March 1, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. at First Baptist Church in Willow Springs with Pastor Joel Hinds officiating with the funeral service immediately following at 11:00 A.M. Interment will be in the Willow Springs City Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Willow Funeral Home, LLC. Online condolences may be left at www.willowspringsfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Willow Springs City Cemetery

State Rte DD
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
402 N Harris Street
Willow Springs, MO 65793
(417) 469-3295
<http://firstbaptistws.org>

Service

MAR 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
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Tribute Wall

MZ

“ I started the highway patrol with Neil hanks as the best radio operator I have ever seen. He and I played golf almost every day that we could—rain or shine. He was considered one of the best friends I ever had. Operator 56, as he was known, could make split decisions that affected a lot of people and they were correct. My heart goes out to his family.
I'll see you on the golf course on the other side.
Sincerely one of the best human beings I have ever met.

MIKE ZORSCH #550 MSHP, RETIRED

MIKE ZORSCH - February 21, 2021 at 07:33 PM

BT

“ I've known Neil all my life. I respected and admired him. He was one fine athlete under Speedo Harmon. Although I was stationed on the MSHP Troop D Springfield, I could talk to Troop G at Willow. If Neil would hear my car number he'd radio me in Troop D. He was a great guy. Recently, he found a picture of Dan Holloway and myself as football Co-captains of the Bears in 1964 and mailed it to me. It won't be the same for me around the Willow area without his humor.
RIP NEIL. KAA522 was your signoff. MSHP 639 KAA522. BILL TANDY

Bill Tandy - February 20, 2021 at 12:32 PM

FH

“ I'm sad to hear of Neil's passing. I have fond memories of both Neil and Helen, and my husband thought so much of Neil.
Sending my sincere sympathy to the family.
Fran Hampton

Fran Hampton - February 19, 2021 at 07:19 PM

DW

“ *Sending love and sympathy to all Neil's family during this time of sorrow. He was a special man with a wonderful heart. I will miss sharing dinner with him but know he will be reunited with his sweetheart Helen in heaven. Prayers for comfort to all who loved him.*

Dianna Weaver

Dianna Weaver - February 19, 2021 at 07:03 PM

SB

“ *To many good memories to pick just one. Glad to have called him Friend.*

Sharon & John Bacon - February 19, 2021 at 06:06 PM

BM

Brings back good memories!

Bud Marvin - February 20, 2021 at 01:53 PM

AN

Keith and I, Anita, knew Neil beginning in high school. He was a good friend there on. We talked on the phone after his health kept him in. Will miss him, The Penningtons

Anitapennington - February 28, 2021 at 02:26 PM