



## Leland R. (Dick) Neal

June 6, 1949 - May 30, 2015

Leland R. (Dick) Neal, age 65 of Corder, Missouri died on Saturday, May 30, 2015, at his home.

Born Monday, June 6, 1949 in Higginsville, Missouri, he was the son of the late Clyde Oscar Neal and the late Esther (Koogler) Neal.

After graduating from Lafayette County C-1 High School in 1967, Dick attended Central Missouri State University for one year prior to joining the United States Navy. Always a patriot, Dick was proud of his service to his country. His Navy decorations included the Navy's Meritorious Unit Commendation and Expert Pistol Marksman. He served during the Vietnam Era ranking Petty Officer, 3rd class. On July 6, 1969, Dick married his high school sweetheart, Kathy Louise Hayes. After discharge from the Navy, he returned to college, graduating from Central Missouri State University in 1975. He was a teacher for over 30 years, retiring as the Staff Development Officer at Marshall Habilitation Center in 2006. While teaching was his life's work, Dick's joy was his family, friends, music and library. He was also known for hosting the best Independence Day celebration for miles around. He lived in Higginsville until moving to Corder in 1985.

Dick was a member of the American Legion Post #223 in Higginsville and a past member of the Board of Directors of the Lafayette County Sheltered Workshop.

Surviving are his wife, Kathy of the home in Corder; one daughter, Kelly (Paul) Fox of Corder; one son, Patrick (Amy) Neal of Kansas City, Missouri; two brothers, Clyde (Peggy) Neal of Washington Boro, Pennsylvania and Jerry (Karla) Neal of Corder; two sisters, June Henley of Higginsville and Patricia (Grover) Griffitt of Harrisburg, Missouri; sister-in-law Earlene Neal of Higginsville; three grandchildren, Charles Bollmeyer, Matthew Fox and Sadie Neal; many nieces and nephews as well as extended family and life-long friends.

In addition to his parents, Dick was preceded in death by his brother William and two

sisters, Wilma Dean Bockelman and Shirley Sears.

Joy has now replaced the pain and Dick's family knows that he, Jim, Hoppy and Rick are having a heavenly jam session.

A Memorial Chapel service with military honors will be Thursday June 4th, 2015 at 3:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests Memorial contributions to Disabled American Veterans or Crossroads Hospice.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.hoeferfuneralhome.com](http://www.hoeferfuneralhome.com)

# Comments

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“ I am so lost of words, I first met Dick at the Hab Center, started calling him Uncle Dick, when teaching our class he was so funny and laid back. I remember him always kidding saying my fart wife this etc, I later find out she was thin. So me having weight on me and having a sense of humor, I decided to pay him back for his wife ( whom I have never met) and dance baby got back in front of the whole class, we are talking about 20 people, Dick was not a morning person,so I made sure I got him first thing. I love you Uncle Dick, thanks for being that person that came in my life and made me laugh, I know your family is going to miss you, rest in peace

**Jonna I Taylor** - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ i am sorry for the families loss. Dick made Block at MHC bearable. Still hard to believe he is gone. Not our will but God's will be done. Debbie Newton

**Debra Newton** - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family

**Tina Nelson** - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ My deepest sympathy to all the family. Dick was a very special person with a sharp wit and a great sense of humor. We worked together for 20+ years and had coffee together many times after retirement with our friend Bob Paden who I am sure welcomed Dick home. God bless.

**Chris Tuck** - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ Dick was a great guy. He had a sense of humor that made training sessions at work fly by! He cared deeply about the residents and gave to them unselfishly. He also shared his music on many occasions. My condolences to the family and his other friends. And to Dick - it is okay that you always stumbled over my name, I just got to where I answered to "Linda" when I was around you!!

**Karen Lynn Rose-Zimmerman** - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ I was so saddened to learn about Mr. Neal's passing. He made general classes and block in-services at the Habilitation center so much fun. Praying for the family.  
Barbara Little

barbara little - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ I called Dick my friend but, loved him like a brother...

Rick Rankin - June 29, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ So sorry for your lose.It was always a good 8 hours block inservice when Dick was there, he helped the day roll faster.

Pam Reith - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ Hey was a good man and never a dull moment!

Mark Piepenbrink - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ I and Dick both worked at HHC and MHC. Every time I was in some type of In-service, he would remind me of that. Dick was one of a kind. I will miss him, and his since of humor very much.  
I am very sorry for your loss, I know words do not mean much at this point in time. A lot of people will miss him very much.

Gary Frakes - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ My sympathies to the family. Always enjoyed Mr. Neal in class, I believe we were his 1st class he taught. Wellington-Napoleon was on the cutting edge with a Male teacher in elementary. 6th grade was a fun time that year and all of the stories, we came in as 6th graders but left as better people and students. He prepared us for our lives that year.  
RIP Mr. Neal!

Tahnamy Gooseman Gittinger - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ In 1975 a group of sixth graders at Wellington-Napoleon met a first year teacher who would forever change our lives. He taught five R's not just three...he added respect and responsibility. We definitely left his class as better people and citizens. Was fortunate to have him as a teacher and honored to have him attended our high school graduation. Mr. Neal, may you rest in peace.

**Mark Bellington** - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ My dear friend, Kathy, you are in my prayers.

**Carol Sellers** - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ Kathy and family, I am so sorry for your grief. And I am grateful that my life has intersected with you both. May He wipe every tear from your eye(s).

**Ann Null** - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ Kathy and family, So sorry for your loss but I can see Dick throwing lottery ticket sat his class and having a good time. Bob always looked foreward to their monthly breakfast. I will miss them both. Carolyn

**Carolyn Paden** - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ Dick will always be remembered as the spicy and witty soul he was. Eager to celebrate and honor our country on July 4th with the BEST times. We will miss you and the guys playing music and singing. Knowledgeable and frank during conversation made them the best conversations to have. You were a friend to all, great man, husband and father. Also, one of the most respectable patriots one could know. We know that although we will miss you here, you are shaking things up in Heaven. We love you dearly, Andrea, Brooke and Weston.

**Andrea Austin (previously Larkin)** - April 28, 2018 at 10:22 AM

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“ Sorry for your loss. I met Dick when he came to staff development at MHC. I knew him as a colleague, boss and friend. He always called me "Sis". My children remembers him as the person who introduced them to Rin and Stimp. In later years he shared his music with them. We shared stories of our grandsons born ten days

apart. He will always be remembered with joy. Praying for the family.

**Kay Byers** - March 03, 2015 at 12:00 AM