



## Neal Preston Reese

March 11, 1962 - April 6, 2025

Neal Reese, age 63, of Washington passed away peacefully on April 6, 2025. Neal Preston Reese was born on March 11, 1962 in Santa Maria, California, the oldest of two sons born to Neal Forrest Reese and Donna Lee (Longbrake) Reese. Although he was born in California, Neal was primarily raised in Oklahoma. The Reese family moved to Ponca City, Oklahoma in 1963, and in 1973 they had moved again to Washington, Oklahoma where they made their home. Neal attended Washington Public Schools and graduated with the Warrior Class of 1980. Following graduation, Neal worked several odd jobs before he decided to enlist in the United States Marine Corp. Neal was a proud patriot, who served his country both honorably and faithfully. After he completed his time in the military, Neal began his career as a firefighter. He worked for the Norman Fire Department for nearly 25 years, where he selflessly protected the community and residents. Due to his work ethic and drive for ambition, Neal continued to work odd jobs on the side. While he was working cattle and taking care of land for Bill Hardcastle, he was introduced to a young woman named, Gena Joyce Moon. The two quickly fell in love and were married on April 10, 1995. The couple shared 28 wonderful years of marriage, love, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime. When he wasn't working, Neal loved to tinker on gadgets of all kinds. He really enjoyed working on cars, model World War 2 aircrafts, dune buggies... you name it! Neal was an excellent mechanic and handy man who absolutely loved spending time in his shop. He also enjoyed learning about history, and he had

a huge soft spot for animals of all kinds! Neal was extremely loyal and fiercely protective in nature. Caring for and protecting his loved ones was just who he was! He was known to be brutally honest, strong-willed, witty, and even a little stubborn at times. But most importantly, he was looked up to as a role model and hero by so many. More than anything, Neal was a family man. He loved spending time with his family, especially his children and grandchildren.

Nothing made him happier than the day he found out he was going to be a Grandpa to a beautiful granddaughter named, Olivia Kash. He was anxiously awaiting her arrival and will now be the best guardian angel. Neal was truly a one-of-a-kind man who will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved him! He is preceded in death by: his loving wife, Gena Reese; infant baby, Preston Scott Reese; and his father, Neal Forrest Reese.

Neal is survived by: his loving mother, Donna Reese of Norman; son, Joshua Reese, wife Connie, and soon-to-be granddaughter Olivia Kash of Norman; brother, Doug Reese and wife Joey of Washington; 2 nephews, Brandon Reese of Moore and Bobby Reese of Washington; daughters, Shyla Beason and husband Nick of Cole, Dawnnie Ross and husband Jerry of Lexington; 7 grandchildren, Charlie, Cooper, Ryker, RayIn, Rendyn, Claire, Ace, and a host of other family and friends.

# Tribute Wall

SA

“ Our hearts and prayers go out to Neal’s family and friends. We are the parents of Neal’s daughter in law Connie. He was always accepting and had great things to say about her and we really appreciated that. We are very sad that we won’t be able to share in the enjoyment of our new granddaughter. We will make sure she hears about who her grandpa Neal was. We will miss you. Rest in peace.

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**Sam and Ginger Almodovar** - April 10, 2025 at 11:32 PM

TS

“ Neil was my best friend. He last came down to Brownsville, Tx. to visit me after his beloved wife Gina passed. He needed someone to talk to and I was happy to listen. When you have a small but tight circle of people who you consider good friends, the loss of one is devastating. I first met Neil when I was 18 years old. He was my squad leader in Boot camp, and I give him a lot of the credit for getting me through that ordeal. We were subsequently stationed together at Camp Pendleton in the Weapons Company of the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines Regiment. He served as our company armorer. As the Weapons company armorer, he was the lead armorer for the Battalion. Neil was known for fairness and not taking any shit from senior enlisted or officers who didn't like cleaning their weapons and would attempt to circumvent the process. They would pull rank on him but he never backed down and would simply educate them on the regulations and more importantly the repercussions if not followed. This man's integrity was uncompromising and anyone who dealt with him knew it. He was a highly respected Marine. Neil got out and I stayed in but we never lost contact with one another. Weekly phone calls were the norm and if we had a chance to visit one another we did. I never knew the man to tell a lie, at least not to me, not even a white lie to spare my feelings. He was my own personal “Devining Rod” and I selfishly used him during difficult times in my life to help guide my path. At his center, Neil was a man of Service. Upon completion of Honorable service in the Corps, he became a firefighter in further service to his community. He loved being a firefighter and would regale me regularly with the many humorous happenings at his station. Unfortunately, he would, when asked by myself stupidly, what were the worst things that he been called to take care of as a firefighter. The stories he would tell me would make me lose sleep at night. I honestly don't know how he did it. The mental trauma he experienced with over two decades of service must have been immense.

I do know this: if I were ever to be in such an emergency situation, no matter how horrible it might be, I couldn't ask for more sturdy hands than his to rescue me. He was a Hero

*Lastly, and in closing, I would like people to know that Neil had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When he was stricken with this cursed affliction, I wanted to send a letter to a famous healer on Neil's behalf. I told Neil of my plans and he asked me not to. He told me that he had already made a deal with the Lord and he didn't want me messing it up. I don't know what the deal might have entailed, but knowing Neil the way I did, I know the deal didn't include him. Any deal struck between Neil and our savior would include that which was always at top of mind for Neil, and that would be his beloved family. May God Bless the Reese family in their time of sorrow and uplift their spirits in the knowledge that Neil now resides with the most high and serves him in Heaven as he served him on Earth.*

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**Tim Smith** - April 08, 2025 at 07:10 AM

DR

*I'm Neal's mother and want you to know how much I appreciate what you said. I know you were his best friend and he always talked good about you. I'm so glad he went to see you after Gena passed away. Thank you again for your beautiful story. Donna*

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**Donna Reese** - April 08, 2025 at 08:15 PM

TS

*Yes I know I spelled Neal's name wrong in my post. When I'm under stress I tend to have senior moments. I tried correcting it right after I posted but wasn't able to. Sorry*

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**Tim Smith** - April 09, 2025 at 02:32 AM

TS

*Thank you for your kind words Donna. Neal held you in high reverence, I want you to know. I miss him so much.*

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**Tim Smith** - April 09, 2025 at 12:41 PM

LD

*What a beautiful tribute to a friend.  
I praise the Lord for Neil's Godly influence. This brings much comfort to the loved ones left behind, I'm sure. He's resting in the arms of his dear Savior now.*

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**Linda Diepenbrock** - April 10, 2025 at 10:15 AM

TL

*“ Neal was a good guy. Loved that he was so good to my sister. Him and I went a few times to the dunes and ran in his dune buggy (lots of fun).*

*He was loved by all. RIP buddy, say hey to my sis.*

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**Tina Lamascus** - April 07, 2025 at 04:55 PM