



Neil B. Corona

June 6, 1936 - May 7, 2017

Born in Raritan Township, NJ on June 6, 1936, Neil Corona was the third of 5 children of Edward and Theresa Corona. Raised by Italian parents in a home in Flemington, NJ that was affectionally referred to as Bartles Corner, Neil and his brothers Artie and Eddie and his sisters Angie and Linda had a childhood filled with lots of laughter, incredible food and many, many Italian aunts, uncles, cousins and friends constantly coming by to visit. The 5 children were always very close and Neil loved retelling the many hilarious stories of growing up in a large family. He was fiercely proud of his Italian heritage and his rich family history. He grew up loving the NY Giants and the Yankees and was himself an impressive high school football and baseball player. He had season tickets to the Giants before it was "cool".

After serving in the army from 1956-1958, Neil worked at and eventually owned a small business, Corona Bros., in Hunts Point in the Bronx for 45 years, until he was 67. Here he made friendships in a place that was far from friendly. Hunts Point was a rough and at times scary place to go to work every day. But Neil did it without complaint, in every type of extreme weather, leaving for work before the sun rose and taking phone calls through the night. No responsibility was more important to him than to provide for his family.

In 1962 he met the woman who would be his wife for 51 years, Carole. They met in New York City when they were both living on Carmine Street in

Greenwich Village. Carole was a Penn State Alumnae and that is when Neil adopted Penn State as his college team. It didn't hurt that a few years later that an Italian American from New York became the coach. Neil and Carole were married in 1965 at Our Lady Of Pompeii on the corner of Carmine Street and Sixth Avenue, moved to the Bronx for a few years and eventually to New City, NY where they laid down their roots. Their children, Stephanie and Michael, were beneficiaries of Neil's unwavering love and devotion.

Neil was the kind of man who took care of everything. He took care of his family, his home, his friends and neighbors and his cars (which he took great pride in looking like brand new even when they were 12 years old). He would make sure his neighbors' driveways were clear after the snow. He would bring home the freshest and best fruit from work and leave it on the doorsteps of his neighbors' homes. There was no favor too big for Neil, nothing that he would not offer to help with, nothing that he would ever accept anything in return for. His generous heart and spirit are his true legacy.

In 2005, Neil's daughter gave birth to his first grandchild, Jake. Neil, now retired, took care of Jake as an infant while his daughter went to work. Jake was 11 weeks old when put in the care of his Poppa. Being able to spend that time with his grandson was one of the highlights of his life. He never once tired of this immense responsibility and when his daughter announced her family was moving to North Carolina, Neil and Carole said they were, too, without hesitation, as long as he could still get the Giants, Yankees and Penn State games on tv. His granddaughter, Julia, was born in the South and she had him wrapped around her tiny little finger.

Neil's greatest loves, his wife Carole and his children Stephanie and Michael, son-in-law Glen Knichel and grandchildren Jake and Julia were the true source to Neil's happiness and joy. Sundays with the family and the game on the tv were the small moments of his life that filled his heart.

Neil fought bravely against esophageal cancer. He lost his struggle on May 7 with Carole and his children by his side. He lived a great life, he was a great man, a stand-up guy. He will live on in the hearts of his family and his friends.

A funeral Mass will take place at Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 804 High House Road, Cary, NC on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 1:30pm. The family will receive friends for one hour prior to the mass. Burial will take place at Wake Memorial Park, 7002 Green Hope School Road, Cary. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Neil's name to the American Cancer Society.

Cemetery Details

Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd
Cary, NC 27519
(919) 465-0888
<https://www.wakememorialpark.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 10. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
804 High House Rd.
Cary, NC 27513
<http://www.stmichaelcary.org/>

Funeral Mass

MAY 10. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
804 High House Rd.
Cary, NC 27513
<http://www.stmichaelcary.org/>

Tribute Wall

BT

“ I was truly saddened to learn of Neil's passing. I will always remember him as kind, fun loving, and a terrific host of many lovely parties he and Carole (also a great hostess) had at their home in NC, NY. To Dear Carole, wonderful Stephanie, Michael and all family my heartfelt condolences. RIP Neil. You will always be remembered for the great man you were. With Love from an old neighbor and friend from NY, Barbara Taub

Barbara Taub - June 23, 2017 at 02:00 AM

KL

“ Just found out the news of Neil's passing on Facebook. Our thoughts are with you. May Neil rest in peace and may you have comfort from all your wonderful and loving memories. With our deepest sympathy and Our love, Kit and Don Lehrer

Kit and Don Lehrer - May 18, 2017 at 01:39 PM

FC

“ Francisco and Andrea Carias purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Neil B. Corona.



Francisco and Andrea Carias - May 10, 2017 at 09:37 AM

SE

“ We are lucky to be neighbors with Neil and Carole across the street all these years.

Neil was a good and kind man, who quickly became an important person in the Twin Lakes Community. He was well respected and had many friends.

He was always active and was ready to help in any way he can. Family was always his priority.

I made him the Mayor of Twin Lakes, as he knew everything that was happening in the community.

The first thing I used to do when I came out of our house is to see if Neil is in his driveway scouting the neighborhood. I never missed a chance to get his advice or chat about his cars.

We truly will miss him, but he will be in our memories forever.

- Seenu & Anita

Seenu - May 10, 2017 at 09:27 AM

DM

“ Deepest Sympathy, Michael & Ellyn (Gaffney) Magee purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Neil B. Corona.



Deepest Sympathy, Michael & Ellyn (Gaffney) Magee - May 09, 2017 at 07:28 PM

PR

“ How lucky my family was in 1984 to have moved next door to the Corona family. We had over 20 years next to the nicest people and greatest neighbors anyone could ever ask for. It was a sad day for us when they moved to NC but there were visits and lots of emails from Neil that will be missed. Rest In Peace, dear friend. You were quite a special guy who touched the hearts of so many.

Paula Ridge - May 09, 2017 at 04:46 PM

CO

“ Carl & Gwynne Olbrich purchased the Gift of Grace Bouquet for the family of Neil B. Corona.



Carl & Gwynne Olbrich - May 09, 2017 at 11:49 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neil B. Corona.



May 09, 2017 at 09:57 AM

BS

“ One of the earliest memories I have in my life is Neil and Carole's wedding in Greenwich village. I remember walking hand and hand with Carole's father, my grandfather, behind Neil and Carole as we walked from their apartment to the wedding ceremony. As life and time went on, our families spread out across the country, and times we got to spend together became less frequent but more special. Summers at the Jersey shore, visits to New City when I was in town for business, and phone calls spanned decades of support from Neil.

Neil's enthusiasm and compassion for his family and friends taught me the life is too short to let other things get in the way. Neil's passion for his cars spilled onto me. I remember the green 1963 Fairlane and the 1972 Cutlass growing up as a kid and how cool they were and the hobby still infects me today. Whenever I see Giants football, I think of Neil.

Gods speed, Neil. When you see my parents in heaven, please tell them "hi". We'll all be together again soon.

Carole, Stephanie, and Michael and your families and friends, Neil is in a better place now, free of pain and worry. He knows his family is loving and strong and is proud of everything you have become. Celebrate a life well lived in Neil's passing.

The Stewart family

Bob, Ramona, Lindsey, Jessica, Matthew

Bob Stewart - May 09, 2017 at 08:51 AM

CB

“ *Cheri, Ken, Lee, Gary, Matt and Becca purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Neil B. Corona.*



Cheri, Ken, Lee, Gary, Matt and Becca - May 08, 2017 at 08:07 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Neil B. Corona.*



May 08, 2017 at 07:18 PM

Jl

“ *Neil is a first cousin to my father and second cousin to me. All throughout my childhood I knew Neil at all the Corona family functions in Flemington, NJ. I have fond memories of him and the Coronas.*

After many years I finally had the pleasure of staying with Neil and his family in their North Carolina home 2 years ago. During those few days I got to know Neil and his family much better than I ever had. We talked about sports, american history and most of all about our family. We always had plenty of interesting things to talk about. Besides being a wonderful host, he confirmed for me all the good memories I had of him when I was small. He was truly a genuine and kind man who cared deeply about his family. That was easy to see. Neil will be greatly missed by all.

John P Cassullo III - May 08, 2017 at 06:46 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Neil B. Corona.*



May 08, 2017 at 06:42 PM



“ *What a beautiful tribute to a man with incredible integrity and such a rich life. Stephanie ~ you and your whole family are so much in my heart right now. Sending my prayers for comfort as you navigate through this tremendous loss. I wish I knew him better... what I do know is that he raised an incredible daughter.*

Evon Kolios - May 08, 2017 at 04:43 PM



“ *In High School I played Center on the Football Team and Neil played Guard along side of me. Even back then my memory wasn't that great, so if it wasn't for Neil keeping me straight, I would have never made All County Center. RIP to a true friend!*

Stephen E Dobos - May 08, 2017 at 04:22 PM

LH

“ I have a few memories of my Uncle Neil of when I was young at family stuff at Non's and visiting his house in New City... then life happened and it was a long while until we were reconnected in North Carolina. I am so, so thankful for the time we had to get to know each other and my cousins again all grown up. I could be having the worst day and I would show up on Neil and Carole's door step and it was like... "look who's here, come in, come in, oh you look beautiful, sit down and let me get you something to eat..." and then all my day just would get a lot better. You will be missed, but because of your big heart, I am left with the gift of family and for that I am blessed.

Love you all,

Lee

Lee Horton - May 08, 2017 at 04:12 PM

SD

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Stephen E Dobos - May 08, 2017 at 04:07 PM

NB

“ So sorry I've never had the opportunity to meet such a great man ... he was born in 1936 just like my dad ... a lot of love to the Corona family from the Italian Feltri family:
Nicoletta, Lorenzo, Bianca, Gemma, Licia, Delfina, Lucia, Nico

Nicoletta Boero - May 08, 2017 at 03:24 PM

JB

“ Devoted, committed, loving and proud.....this was one special man. I was privileged and honored to have known him for 50 years and to call him a welcoming friend.....and one heck of a good cook!
"To live in hearts you leave behind is not to die."
Jane

Jane Buch - May 08, 2017 at 02:39 PM

FC

“ From Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Neil B. Corona.



From Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo - May 08, 2017 at 02:12 PM

BN

“ It still brings a smile to my face when I picture Neil cutting a rug at Stephanie's wedding. If you weren't there, take it from me, he was Da Man. Only recently recovered--or was he still recovering--from a hip replacement, he was rhythm itself, cha-cha-ing, foxtrotting, jitterbugging, you name it. And looking divine in his tux. No wonder Carole fell for him hard when he first started roaring her around in his little red convertible. That night, all the girls were clamoring for a dance. It was all fun to watch, butt the best of all was seeing him and Stephanie dance together, a sight made even sweeter knowing how happy he was that night for his baby girl, his pride and joy. Rest in peace, Neil.

Barbara M Nelson - May 08, 2017 at 01:10 PM