



## Richard Palmer Neal

June 7, 1946 - June 7, 2021

Richard P. Neal, son of the late Richard and Martha Neal, was born June 7, 1946, in Wilmington, Delaware. He departed this life on June 7, 2021, after a short illness.

Richard attended Delaware State College now Delaware State University, in Dover, Delaware. In 1966, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War. After his discharge from the USMC, Richard started a career with the DuPont company in Seaford, Delaware. He was employed there as a supervisor for over 20 years until his retirement.

When his father became ill, Richard retired early to care for him. Richard surely was a family man who provided for his family and enjoyed fun times with his children and grandchildren.

On April 12, 1969, Richard married the love of his life, the former Sandra Burton. From that union came two children whom Richard loved with all his heart. He was a wonderfully loving and caring father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was a man of few words, but had a strong constitution. He loved music and enjoyed singing and playing the piano. He played for choirs at the church. His children and grandchildren use these words to describe him: feisty, witty, honest, principled, sensitive, strong and loving. What a blessing he was to us all!

Richard was a member of Israel United Methodist Church, in Lewes, Delaware, for many years. In his younger years, he was a member of Old Fort UAME Church, in Newark, Delaware.

Richard loved fishing and would join his cousins for annual fishing trips to Florida and other places.

In addition to his parents, Richard was preceded in death by his brothers, Norman and Frankie.

Richard leaves to mourn his passing, his loving wife and caregiver, Sandra; son, John (Tina Grandshaw); daughter, Nicole Custis (James); grandchildren, Brittany Williams, Kristian Neal, Trai Neal, Raven Custis and Logan Neal; and great-granddaughter, Payton Jones. He is also survived by a host of brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. He was especially fond of his aunts, Mary, Helen and Bert, whom are the matriarchs of the Neal and Burton families.

# Cemetery Details

## Israel United Methodist Church Cemetery

20230 Plantation Road  
Lewes, DE 19958

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 13.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St. John 2nd Baptist Church (Millsboro)  
26602 Mount Joy Rd  
Millsboro, DE 19966

## Funeral Service

**JUN 13.** 3:00 PM (ET)

St. John 2nd Baptist Church (Millsboro)  
26602 Mount Joy Rd  
Millsboro, DE 19966

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

**Bennie Smith Funeral Home** - June 11, 2021 at 08:57 PM

MC

“ *My My My. Cousin Richard. It Broke My Heart To Hear Of Richard's Passing. Mom Col (Lavenia) had Darius & I take her to see her brother Uncle Bus when Richard & Family was taking care of him in his later years.*

*Darius(Doc), Jeff, & Richard went fishing together annually. Mom Loved All Her Nephews, Richard, Frankie & Norman Neal. Richard was a loving & humble man. He Will Be Missed!! Doc has been reminiscing every since. Condolences Always Family. The Open Seas, Church And The Keyboards Won't Be The Same Without Richard!*



**Mabel Cole** - June 22, 2021 at 01:24 PM

DP

“ *Sending hugs and prayers to Soror Sandra Neal and family. Richard was a talented musician, and I enjoyed listening to him play the piano.*



**Dr. Doris Person** - June 13, 2021 at 12:27 PM

RC

“ *Oh, Sandra, I'm so sorry for your loss. May your memories bring you comfort in the days ahead. Prayers and hugs, Ruth Ann Curley*

**Ruth Ann Curley** - June 12, 2021 at 09:28 AM

SS

“ My deepest sympathy to Sandra and family. Richard was a wonderful person and I will cherish the memories at Delaware State College at the time when we all went in as Freshmen! What a great time meeting new friends and college classmates. Richard was a star at the Freshmen talent show and from that time on we were all friends. He was talented and loved his family. Most of all he was a good human being.  
God Bless !! Stell Parker Selby and Family

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**Stell Parker Selby** - June 10, 2021 at 10:19 PM

DL

“ Diane Little lit a candle in memory of Richard Palmer Neal



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**Diane Little** - June 10, 2021 at 06:34 AM

BH

“ Richard Neal loved singing and playing the piano. He was blessed by God with those gifts. He even played for our S.E.L.F Choir when asked. He was full of laughter and would make you smile or laugh. He will truly be missed, and never forgotten.

*Bernita Hackney and Irene Duffy*

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**Bernita Hackney** - June 09, 2021 at 07:55 PM