

Denis Michael Neill obituary

April 27, 1943 – July 20, 2026



Denis Michael Neill died peacefully at home in Bethesda, Maryland, on July 20, 2026. He was 83. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary Kathleen (Golden) Neill, their two children and five granddaughters.

Mr. Neill was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Thomas P. and Agnes Weber Neill. His family soon after moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he grew up as the second of nine children. Denis was a proud “Triple Billiken.” He graduated from Saint Louis University High School in

1960, Saint Louis University in 1964, and Saint Louis University School of Law in 1967.

Following law school, Denis moved to the New York area, where he worked briefly for the Internal Revenue Service in Newark, New Jersey. He then moved to Washington, D.C., where he served for three years as a lieutenant and attorney in the United States Coast Guard. After working in private practice, he joined the Office of the General Counsel at the United States Agency for International Development. He later served as Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Policy Coordination before being appointed by President Gerald Ford to serve as Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs. During his time at USAID, he received both a Superior Unit Citation and a Distinguished Honor Award.

Shortly after leaving government service, Mr. Neill founded Neill & Company in 1981. Among its clients were major American companies and numerous foreign governments, including Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan, Morocco, Kenya, and El Salvador. During this time, he became known for his expertise in foreign assistance, defense policy, and United States relations with the Middle East. Later in his career, he served as president and chief executive officer of General Technologies Associates, LLC.

One of his proudest achievements was helping to found the Yellow Ribbon Fund in 2005. The organization supports wounded, ill, and injured post-9/11 service members, their caregivers, and their families. Mr. Neill also served on the board of the Barker Foundation and was a longtime member of Columbia Country Club.

Above all, Denis treasured his family. Kathy was his beloved partner of 60 years, and he was devoted to her and to the life they built together. He delighted in gathering the Neill family for celebrations in St. Louis, Bermuda, Paris, and wherever else they could make memories together. He loved traveling for both business and pleasure, particularly to France. He especially enjoyed playing his own version of poker with his granddaughters, handing out

\$2 bills to the winners, and often to everyone else he encountered as well. Guided throughout his life by his strong Catholic faith and his love of family, he was a source of love and generosity to all who knew him.

Mr. Neill is survived by his wife, Mary Kathleen (Golden) Neill; his son, Mark Neill of Lake Worth, Florida, and Mark's daughters, Sarah, Ailani, Emma, and Charlotte; and his daughter, Erin Neill, her husband, Lee Emmert, and their daughter, Poppy, of Bethesda, Maryland.

He is also survived by his siblings, Cathy Neill of Durango, Colorado; Mark Neill (Kelly), Maggie Neill (Diane Ford), and Joe Neill (Beth), all of St. Louis, Missouri; Ed Neill (Linda) of Harrisville, Michigan; and Jim Neill (Chip Fangman) of Albuquerque, New Mexico; his brother-in-law, Tony Golden (Rita) of Jamesville, New York; and many beloved nieces and nephews across the country. He was predeceased by his parents and his brothers, Tom and John.

Adieu, Denis. Que Dieu te garde.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Mass of Christian Burial on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Potomac, Maryland. A Celebration of Life will follow. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, August 4, from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Joseph Gawler's Sons, 5130 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20016.

Those wishing to honor Denis's memory are invited to consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or the Yellow Ribbon Fund.