



## Carl "Bill" Wm. Neeb

August 19, 1925 - December 5, 2018

Carl Wm. "Bill" Neeb of Toledo, age 93, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, at Ohio Living Swan Creek Health Care Center.

Born in Toledo, August 19, 1925, Bill graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1943. He immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving aboard two ships, U.S.S. Prestige Minesweeper and U.S.S. Richland Cargo Carrier in the Pacific theatre during WW II. Upon discharge, he attended the University of Toledo. In 1946, he married his high school sweetheart, Rita Wilhelm. They were married for 71 years prior to Rita's passing in 2017.

He was appointed to the Toledo Fire Division in 1951. His dedicated career was highlighted in 1965 when he received the Safety Council's "President's Award" for heroic service in saving the life of a fellow man. Rising through the ranks by way of competitive exams to the rank of Deputy Chief, in 1976 he was ultimately appointed Chief of the Toledo Fire Division. He brought a number of positive changes to the Fire Department, including final implementation of the new countrywide "Paramedic Life Squad System" of which he was most proud, as well as having all fire personnel trained to the emergency medical technician level. He created and then implemented the Fire-Police Arson Squad, the Hazardous Material Unit, high-rise firefighting procedures, pre-fire planning program, and the home inspection program. He was a life member of the Ohio Fire Chief's Association. Upon his retirement from the Toledo Fire Division in 1980, he was named "Father of Paramedic

Life Squads” by the Lucas County Commissioners and the Regional Emergency Medical Services of Northwest Ohio. And in 2016, he was honored to be placed on the University of Toledo/Medical College of Ohio Emergency Room’s Medical “Wall of Fame”.

He had a particular love for his alma mater, Central Catholic High School. He served as a board member and President of its Alumni Association, chaired its “Large Gift” drive during the 1980s, and ultimately received the CCHS “Golden Shamrock” and “President’s Medallion” awards. He was a star athlete, known as “Wild Bill” on the CCHS basketball team, and is in the athletic Hall of Fame there.

Active in many community projects, Bill was extremely generous with his time. He was a past member of the advisory board of the Volunteers of America, a life member of the “Old Newsboys Goodfellows Association”, a member of the North End American Legion Post #576. Bill was a charter member of the Toledo Police Department’s “RSVP” (Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol), a program designed to check on the well-being of elderly and other shut-ins. He authored many of the policies and procedures currently in the program’s existence. He served on the advisory board of the Salvation Army and chaired their Christmas committee for several years, receiving their service award for his manual outlining the procedures for their Christmas Program. A member of the Triad Council of N.W. Ohio, he was a recipient of their “Eleanor Kahle” award. And, in 2009, he was presented with the Medical Mutual of Ohio’s “Community Outstanding Senior Volunteer” gold award.

Bill’s passions were Notre Dame football, Duke basketball, and golf. As a hobby, he made golf clubs for himself and others, and shared many memorable, fun-filled years of golf in the mountains of North Carolina with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Rita (Wilhelm) Neeb. Surviving are his daughter, Kathy (David) Wernert; sons, Thomas (Sue) Neeb, and Michael (Vanessa) Neeb; his grandchildren, Michael (Shawn) Headley, Joseph Neeb, Rachel (Ian) Gagnon, Elizabeth (Greg) Bine, Michelle (Maggie)

Wernert, and Aaron Bowman; great-grandchildren Lucas, Sasha, Clayton, Violet, George, Vera, Ellis, Aaron Jr., Arianna, and Derek; brother-in-law Fr. Robert Wilhelm; and five special nephews.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., on Sunday, December 9 from 12 – 6 p.m., where a Last Alarm Service will take place at 5:30 p.m. Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 10 beginning at 10:15 a.m. in the mortuary, followed by a Funeral Mass in Little Flower Church at 11:00 a.m. Entombment services will follow in Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorials may take the form contributions to Central Catholic High School, or to the Toledo Firefighters Museum.

The family will forever be grateful to the incredible nurses and aides at the Swan Creek Health Care Center, as well as the Ohio Living Hospice nurses for the constant compassionate care given to Bill.

Please view and sign the online guest registry at [www.coylefuneralhome.com](http://www.coylefuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 9. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Last Alarm Service

DEC 9. 5:30 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614  
(419) 865-1295  
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

## Service

DEC 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Little Flower Of Jesus  
5562 Dorr St.  
Toledo, OH 43615

# Tribute Wall

EM

“ Kathy,

*Sorry to have just learned of your father's transition. My deepest sympathies to you and yours. I recall a time many years ago when your Dad appeared on the television news as the old FDP gang was watching. It was during a time of Fire Department strife and you exclaimed something to the effect, "Oh My God, there's my Dad on tv!" May he rest in Peace and may Perpetual Light shine upon him.*

*Gene Muratore  
Naperville, IL*

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**Eugene Muratore** - April 19, 2021 at 08:09 AM

CS

“ *I got to know both Bill and Rita when bringing Holy Communion to them at Swan Creek. They were lovely people and during Rita's illness Bill was so attentive to her. What a beautiful couple and now they are together again. My deepest sympathy to the family. Carol Spaulding of St. Joan of Arc Parish.*

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**Carol Spaulding** - December 10, 2018 at 09:40 AM

GS

“ Words are hard to find at times like these, but here is one: Gentleman. And another: Friend. Everything I ever needed to learn about friends, kindness, generosity, humor, support, and hospitality was taught to me by that gang on Asbury, and Bill - and Rita - exemplified all of these things. We were young, but you taught us. There is a space in the world now that can't be filled, but at the same time our worlds are fuller and better because we knew him. Much Love to all of you.

Gary Slavin (Slivinski) NYC

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Gary Slivinski - December 09, 2018 at 08:35 PM

CG

“ Dear Kathy, Tom and Mike,

I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing, but know that he will be so happy to be with your mother again. He was a wonderful man and I have so many cherished memories of him and your mom. They were at the core of the wonderful spirit of the "Asbury Drive" clan that created such a wonderful big family ambience. It truly was a special time and I will always remember your parents as young, healthy and happy. He is the last of the neighborhood "dad's" and I know the Asbury clan has already welcomed him and they are having a terrific block party to welcome him. I know you have many wonderful memories of the one and only Bill Neeb.

Colleen Goergen

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Colleen Goergen - December 09, 2018 at 12:53 PM

JG

“ Tommy, Kathy and Mike,

*My condolences on the passing of your Dad. The Chief was a great guy and accomplished so much in his life. I have fond memories of him and Rita on my many visits to your home on Asbury. What wonderful parents you all had!*

*You are all in my thoughts and prayers.  
God bless,*

*Jim Ginter*

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**Jim Ginter** - December 08, 2018 at 12:23 PM

TS

“ So many memories, so many good times. Devil's Lake, Asbury backyard gatherings, the holidays. There was a fabric to that neighborhood that was so unique, and Mr. Bill Need and his family were such a big part of that. Your friendship with my Mom and Dad was something they cherished, and it showed and taught all of us the value of good friends. May your rest in peace with Rita and the rest of that gang, sipping cocktails together again, and my your memory forever be a blessing to all who knew you.

*Tim Slivinski*

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**Tim Slivinski** - December 08, 2018 at 10:06 AM

MA

“ *Kathy and family,*

*Our prayers love to your family. You gave your Dad and Mom wonderful loving care.*

*Mary and Steve Pero*

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**Mary** - December 08, 2018 at 09:41 AM

RB

“ *I remember "Mr. Neeb" from the old neighborhood on Asbury. We lived across the street. Being the youngest, my memories are few, but I remember the block parties and the time Mr. Neeb rushed me to the emergency room. Back then, we lived in a true neighborhood, where everyone helped each other out. Over time, all of us moved away, but those memories on Asbury are still my favorite. Rest in peace, Mr. Neeb. God bless.*

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**Ruth Babel-Smith** - December 08, 2018 at 09:07 AM

CS

“ *My deepest sympathy to all the family. My husband, Mike, started in the fire department at old 18's and Chief Neeb was his officer. Always a gentlemen's gentleman. I remember the many fun times at the Chiefs Christmas parties. Chief Neeb was a very big asset to the TFD. May all your sweet memories help you at this difficult time.*  
*Cathy Schultz*  
*Covington, La.*

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**Cathy Schultz** - December 07, 2018 at 10:20 PM

LL

“ Tom and Kathy and family, our family is saddened of the loss of your father. Beautiful obituary with nothing forgotten. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to your family. Louie Laberdee 1965 and wife Charlene Ondo Laberdee classmate of Toms ST. Agnes 63

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**Louie and Charlene Laberdee** - December 07, 2018 at 08:12 PM



“ I remember Bill and Rita so fondly from our days on Asbury. What a wonderful family. My deepest Sympathy.

*Kathy Zaenger*

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**Kathleen Zaenger** - December 07, 2018 at 03:18 PM

MP

“ Dear Kathy, I am sorry to read of your dad's passing. It was my great honor to have met him. I remember his visit to Central Catholic to commemorate our first responders after the 911 tragedy. When he entered the cafeteria for a light lunch, the students gave him a resounding standing ovation. He was a well-known legend. May God rest his soul and grant you and your family comfort in knowing he is with your mother again. Sincerely, Mary

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**Mart McCarty Pierce** - December 07, 2018 at 09:08 AM

TA

“ The Toledo Fire Chiefs Association purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carl "Bill" Wm. Neeb.



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**The Toledo Fire Chiefs Association** - December 06, 2018 at 05:24 PM