



Neil R. Suomela

July 22, 1931 - September 5, 2011

Suomela, Neil R., age 80. Died September 5, 2011. Dear husband of Sally. Loving father of Scott, and Sandra Jerry Willis. Proud Grandfather of Kristina Joshua Thomas and Joseph. Great Grandfather of James and Juliet. Brother of Dale. Family will receive friends at the Wm Sullivan & Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road 3 Blks E. of Van Dyke Utica, Wednesday 4-8 pm and Thursday 2-8 pm. Friday he will lie in state at 10:30am until time of funeral service at 11am at Trinity Lutheran Church, 45160 Van Dyke, Utica. Interment Brookside Cemetery, Charlevoix, MI. Family request donations to Trinity Lutheran Church- Utica, Bethany Lutheran Church- Charlevoix, OR Salvation Army Citadel Church, 55 Church Street, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043. Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com Neil R. Suomela, EAGLES SUPERFAN and a SUPER MAN! Written by: Janice Bartneck
Passion. Loyalty. Devotion.

These words best describe what Neil Suomela brings to the Eisenhower sidelines. Neil is always one of the first to pay a player on the back after a great play, or give words of encouragement after a rough play. A leader through example: Neil was honored last season with an "Eisenhower Lifetime Achievement" award. Living his life with true Brains, Heart, and Courage, Neil continues to cross country ski and has rode his bike numerous times from his winter home in Shelby Township to his summer home in Charlevoix. A true inspiration, Neil is loved by all and an invaluable part of the Eagle Family!

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Dear Sandy & Family, I just read of your father's passing. I met your Dad at the doctor's office when I worked there. He always would pull me aside for a story. Usually it was about his "beautiful daughter, that looks just like her mother". Not a word ever came out of him that wasn't filled with pride for his family or his school and community. He will be missed. Our prayers are with your family.

Debbi Coluzzi - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BY

“ Dear Sally, Sandy, Jerry and family, We were so sorry to hear of Neil's passing. Our entire family loved talking with him at every game and event - he loved our boys and never forgot them. We will miss him - a wonderful man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Bob and Carol Youngblood

Bob & Carol Youngblood - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Mrs Suomela and family, We were very saddened to hear about Neil's passing at the Eisenhower vs Romeo game on Friday night. He was a wonderful man. We often saw him at the competitions between Romeo and Ike. When he learned that I was a Beaver Island girl I am married to the Romeo AD, he would always say Hi and ask about up North. He seemed to truly love being up in Charlevoix. He was a great fan of the kids at all the sports. He will be truly missed by many.

Patty & Greg Brynaert - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Uncle Neil will always hold a special place in my heart. He was such a sincere and caring individual. From the time when I was a small child, he took the time to talk with me and make me feel special. I will remember him fondly forever. My prayers to Aunt Sally and the whole family. Love, Susie

Susie Ogden - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Dear Mrs. Suomela, Sandy, Scott and Family, Mr. Suomela was a wonderful person that we respected and genuinely enjoyed spending time with. He was a kind man and always interested in learning about other people's lives. We are so happy he was able to spend so many years on the sidelines with his beloved eagles. I personally recall how vividly he remembered past players, statistics and plays over the past 35 years of Ike football. He was a special man that will always be remembered with a smile and a warm heart. I am sure that he was also one very special grandfather and great grandfather. He will be missed... but never forgotten. Tim and Linda Copacia & Family

Tim Copacia - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ Scott, We so sorry to hear about your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ron & Mary Ann Ingram - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ We are so sad to hear about Neil. What a great guy and warm human being, and the contributions he made to education and athletics will be long remembered. Our prayers and best wishes to Sally and the family. --Dave & Dolores Rogers, Bay City

Dave Rogers - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ *Sandy, Jerry and family. Our sympathy and prayers. Sandy, your dad was a great person who generated happiness and love to everyone. Brigitte and I extend our condolences and we will keep you in our prayers. Dave and Brigitte*

Dave Turrel - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Sally, Sandy and Scott, Our family has so many fond and lasting memories of Neil. He was always so upbeat, so positive, never down, never negative. The way in which he handled young men at Eisenhower Football, games was so special. Both of our boys had the opportunity to be with Neil on those 'special' side line experiences, watching the IKE varsity players. How Neil influenced those young men was wonderful. He allowed them to get recognized, be mentored, and enjoy a very positive experience which they would never forget. Daniel and Matthew have always called Neil, Grandpa Neil. He reached out to all ages, especially the youth of the community. We truly believe that Heaven just received a very special Soul. Neil may be gone, but his positive impact will live for many generations to come. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

Steve, Sandy, Dan and Matt Szubielski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I have learned an important life lesson from Neil that I pray I never forget to practice. Whenever Neil would introduce Bob or I to anyone, a bag boy, a guy on the street, a nobody special, he would share something special about the person that enhanced their being. He would do the same when introducing us. He had a way of making each person feel very special and important in the scheme of things, and he would all but cheer for them. Another memory is of Neil entering our home and going directly to Gramma Gilling during her last months of life. He would talk with her like she was the only person that mattered and when he left her, she would all but glow with his attentions. I record this tearfully with the memory so profound. My sympathies to Sally and the family. Neil was quite a guy and I will always be looking for him as I walk the streets of Charlevoix.

chris gilling - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *"Miss Sally" Veronica and I are very sorry for the loss of your dear husband. Veronica was one of your preschool students at Davis Jr. High in the 1998. Again, our deepest sympathies to you and your family. Mary Ann & Veronica Decker*

Mary Ann & Veronica Decker - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I was heartbroken at the news that Neil had passed. He was someone that I always looked up to and always searched for in the stands to help make my game better. He was the first to always say good job and I always loved hearing him call me Red. He is someone I still model myself after with his passion and love for a school that could never repay him for his contribution to our teams. Thank you for making such a big impact on my life and I hope to live up to all the kind words you said to me! You will be missed by more people than you know!

Kristen Gilmore Drury aka Red - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PZ

“ Dear Scott and Family~ It is always said to lose a loved one, especially a parent. Although we didn't know your dad, we knew you and respected you. Your parents did a great job raising you so he and your mom were pretty special. We are so sorry we aren't able to attend his funeral but know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours. Don and Phyllis Zimmerman

Phyllis Zimmerman - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Dear Scott, I am sorry to hear of the loss of your dear father. I was not fortunate to know him but when I lived in Flint you may remember that I was in the Flint Optimist Club with your Uncle Dale. Your Dad was a fine man. I wish I could have know him. He and I were born in the same year - 1931 - I will be 80 September 26th. Again, I am sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family. Armand Dion

Armand Dion - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Sally, Sandy and family and Scott, We were so sorry to hear that Neil had passed away. He was a wonderful man and we always enjoyed talking with him! He loved life and we will remember the laughs we had last summer on your deck in Charlevoix. We still have the cab service "business card" he gave to everyone in the event a ride from the Shamrock was needed late at night! Neil and your entire family will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming months. Love Tim, Liz and Lindsey Meyer

Liz, Tim and Lindsey Meyer - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Scotty and Family, Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your Father. May your fond memories bring you comfort through these difficult times.

Jeff & Cathy LaBruzzy - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Sally, our condolences to you and your family. I remember driving Mom and going to your wedding I was in high school, and wondering if I would be that happy in a few years I was!. Please remember me to your siblings, and accept the condolences of the entire Bill family. I keep in touch with Katie and even ran into Bertha a few years ago! Marianne Bill Ferrante

Marianne Bill Ferrante - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Sally, Scotty & Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Neil was a wonderful man. I especially loved how he would call Scotty's office often and come to visit - giving hugs and a kiss now and again to the ladies. I especially loved how he always remembered to send me a postcard when heading south for the winter months. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Barb

Barb Sambuchi - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Dear Sally, Scotty, Sandy and family I am so sorry in the loss of your loving husband and kind father. I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. I remember Neil coming into the office - I enjoyed his joking around and will always remember him as such a positive person. I know he will be dearly missed. God bless. Marja Liisa

Marja Norris - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Dear Sally and family, No words can express the sadness we feel with the passing of Neil. Our girls loved him like another grandpa! You are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you!! Mike, Dena, Sarah Mia, Marie, and Aimee.

Dena Dornfeld - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Sally, I just now heard about Neil's passing away. I am am very sorry to hear this. You were such a loving and devoted couple--an inspiration to all who knew you. Send you all my love. Fran Fredal

Fran Fredal - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM