



Neil J. Thelen

November 19, 1933 - May 4, 2026

Neil Joseph Thelen, 92 years old, of Lake Station, MI, died Monday, May 4, 2026 at his home.

He was born in Lansing on November 19, 1933 to Roman and Helen Thelen. Neil attended Saint Mary's Catholic School before joining the United States Air Force. After serving his country, Neil returned home to work for AT&T and married the love of his life, Frances (Miles), in 1957. After 30 years of employment with AT&T, Neil and Frances retired and moved to their house on Crooked Lake at Lake Station, MI.

Neil served his community in several ways. He was active in the Knights of Columbus, serving as a Grand Knight for a period of time. Neil was also quite active supporting his sons and others through Boy Scouts as an assistant Scoutmaster. Neil also sang in the church choir with his wife Frances, up until recently. He and his wife Frances enjoyed playing Bingo and Euchre each week, while socializing with friends. Neil was also a member of the Lake Station DAV; together he and Frances had wintered at Southern Charms in Zephyrhills, FL for 20 years.

Neil was preceded in death by his parents and brothers and sister. Roman Thelen, Helen Thelen, Shirley (Thelen) Pardee, Gerald Thelen, Eldon Thelen, Ronald Thelen, Dennis Thelen and Keith Thelen and is survived by his wife Frances Arlene (Miles) Thelen; children Brian (Darlene) Thelen, Theresa

(John) Winterstein, Patrick (Mary) Thelen, Tina (Bernie) Gehrke, Kathy (Jeff) Bell, and Tim (Kelly) Thelen; 16 grandchildren, Troy, Andrea, Erica, Jessica, Mike, Matt, Mark, Julie, Christine, Jasara, Darcy, Brendan, Britnie, Tim, Samantha and Jordan, as well as 20 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a grandson Carrington.

Visitation and services will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at the Our Lady of Hope Parish in Clare. Visitation will take place from 10 A.M. until the time of Mass at 11 A.M. with Monsignor Francis Koper officiating. Military Honors and a luncheon at the Church will follow. Memorial Contributions are suggested to McLaren Hospice or the DAV. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Mass

MAY 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Military Honors

MAY 9. 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Cecilia Site
106 E. Wheaton Street
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear of Neil’s passing. I so enjoyed having him visit us at Elm Creek.
I always loved to say hello and share what we were doing together.
Sympathies to the family and especially Fran.

Janice Jenkins - May 13 at 06:09 PM



“ Fond memories of Euchre on Monday nights at Farwell Senior Center with Neil and Fran - hugs to Fran from Tom & Gail Garrity.

Gail Garrity - May 12 at 02:37 PM



“ Condolences to the Thelen family, sad to hear this news. You’re in our thoughts and prayers. From the Jeff Chantiny Family.

Jeff Chantiny - May 09 at 07:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Neil J. Thelen.



May 08 at 08:38 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Neil J. Thelen.*



May 08 at 08:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Neil J. Thelen.

May 08 at 08:31 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Neil J. Thelen.*



May 07 at 12:09 PM



“ *Brent and Barb Thelen and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Neil J. Thelen.*



Brent and Barb Thelen and Family - May 07 at 11:31 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Neil J. Thelen.*



May 07 at 05:02 AM



“ *Neil was an active member of DAV Chapter 105, who contributed greatly to the DAV's programs of serving veterans and their families. He will be greatly missed.*

*Joseph Stragea
Commander
DAV Chapter 105
Lake, Michigan*

Joseph Stragea - May 06 at 07:11 PM



“ *Fran, I was sad to hear about Neil's death. He was a good man and I enjoyed your help during the days that we had outdoors Masses in Lake Station. Rest in peace Neil, well done good and faithful servant.*

Joanne Dana - May 06 at 03:31 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Neil J. Thelen.*

May 06 at 03:08 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Neil J. Thelen.*



May 06 at 03:08 PM



“ *Neil was a wonderful friend and neighbor. We will never forget him. He raised a beautiful family who are a fine tribute to him. May our Lord give his family and friends comfort, strength and peace. Love always from Rosemary & Bob Jameson*

Rosemary Jameson - May 06 at 01:43 PM



“ *We are so sorry Fran and family. He was a great Dad, neighbor and man. Saying prayers and sending love. 🙏🙏💔💔*

Jim and Peggy Ignatowski - May 06 at 01:40 PM