



Neil D Mathews

APR 16, 1931 - OCT 16, 1931



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Neil D Mathews

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Neil D. Mathews, age 85, of West Fork, died Sunday, October 16, 2016 in Fayetteville. He was born April 16, 1931 in Pontotoc, Mississippi, the son of Lon Asbury and Ludie Velma McMurry Mathews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Lovan Mathews; two sisters, Lou Donald Dudley and Robbie Nell Weems and a brother, Dexter Mathews. He was owner of Mathews Horse Barn and served in the United States Air Force. He is survived by two sons, Lon Michael Mathews and his wife, Chulaluck and Neil Anthony Mathews and his wife Mary Lou; three sisters, Wilma Dean Pope, Bethena Martin and Lonnie Frank Armstrong and four grandsons, Nathan Anthony Mathews, Mark Alan Mathews, Bradly Austin Mathews and Jacob Loi Mathews. Visitation will be 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Thursday, October 20, 2016 at Moore's Chapel. Graveside service will follow at 11:00 a.m., at Fayetteville National Cemetery, under the direction of Moore's Chapel, At Neil's request please do not send flowers.



Tribute Wall

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MN

Mary Neel posted:

So sorry for the loss of your Dad. He was one of a kind. Bless you and your family.

October 22 at 7:00 PM

MN

Mike And Linda Nelson posted:

So sorry for your loss, West Fork will miss him.

October 22 at 7:00 PM

CG

Carolyn Griffith posted:

Neil had the ability to make you feel special even if you were just a customer. I loved his stories and his laughter when he finished telling a joke. I admire his honesty and hard work. His stories of picking cotton as a child and some of the cantankerous horse and mules he had dealt with were my favorites. Neil was a delightful friend.

October 19 at 7:00 PM

AH

Amanda Hollingsworth posted:

Grandpa Neil was a hard working grandpa. I always remember him calling me on the farm to help him feed cattle. He would say AmandeEEEE. AmandeEEEE!!!! And we went and feed cattle. He always had many many stories to tell which is what I have and will miss. He was an amazing person and will be missed very much. I pray for the family and you will be in my thoughts. Love ya all.

October 19 at 7:00 PM

RF

Robert Preston Jr And Family posted:

I have lots of memories of Neil from when I was a child. He was quite a character that will be missed. Our condolences to his family.

October 19 at 7:00 PM

MB

Mike Ball posted:

My condolences to the Mathews family. May God bless you in this time of loss.

October 18 at 7:00 PM



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KI

Kenneth Ingalls posted:

If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane.I would walk right up to Heavenand bring you back again.No farewell words were spoken,No time to say "Goodbye".You were gone before I knew it,and only God knows why.My heart still aches with sadness,and secret tears still flow.What it meant to love you -No one can ever know.But now I know you want meto mourn for you no more;To remember all the happy timeslife still has much in store.Since you'll never be forgotten,I pledge to you today

October 18 at 7:00 PM

TW

Tim Wright posted:

I'm gonna miss his stories and those Hot peanuts he always made me buy. My condolences to his family.

October 18 at 7:00 PM

AG

Aaron Good posted:

Neil always had a story to tell to make me laugh! He will be missed!Thinking of you and your family Tony.

October 18 at 7:00 PM

DT

Duane Thomas posted:

Neil was one of a kind. He will be missed for sure! Condolences sent to Tony and the rest of the family. RIP Neil.

October 18 at 7:00 PM

CE

Charles Eikenberry posted:

~ Charles Eikenberry, West Fork, Arkansas

October 18 at 7:00 PM

JM

James & Palika Morse posted:

Our thoughts and prayers with Mathews family!

October 18 at 7:00 PM



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MT

Matt Tomlinson posted:

I wrote this post yesterday and a friend suggested I share it here. Well, the Greenland and West Fork community lost a man that could only be described as one of the areas most colorful individuals. Mr. Neil Matthews passed away Sunday at the ripe old age of 85. If you knew Neil or even knew of him you understand the "colorful" statement. If you didn't know him this might help. I don't remember my first memory of Neil, he was always there it seems like. I remember that he was seemingly incapable of completing a sentence that wasn't laced with expletives. Happy or angry his speech pattern was always the same. One usually attributed to drunken sailors. But the community at large overlooked this for the most part. Even the local preachers endured it just to get to have a short visit with him. I remember that he was the man that was called to shoe a horse that for whatever reason nobody else could or would shoe. I'm sure there were failures over the years in that department. But if so I never knew it. It was at one of these horse shoeings as a boy that I learned you didn't have to be directly behind a horse to get kicked by one. And yes, the horse took quite a cussing. I remember at one of our morning get togethers at Mini-Mart a crazy looking man getting out of his truck flashing a quite large and scary looking, and probably fully loaded, revolver. Neil of course. He just brought his new gun into the store to show it off. An act that today would have undoubtedly got him shot. I remember a Sunday drive with my daughter Lauren, probably eight or ten years old at the time, down to show her Tilly Willy bridge. Just past Doc Gray's driveway we overtook a wagon with a team of mules pulling it. I didn't have to overtake it to know who it must be. I stopped to say hello. Lauren loved horses but had probably never seen a mule up close. Lauren, not being shy like me, said "those are funny looking horses mister". That did it. He had a new buddy. He told her in his typical fashion those were mules. She asked what they were and he said he wasn't going to set and discuss it, that he was out for a wagon ride. So thru the open window he lifted her and set her down next to him telling me to just drive down the road and wait for them. One tended to do what Neil Matthews told you. So I drive off and in my rearview see a wide eyed Lauren with a smile on her face as big as all outdoors being handed the lines and shown how to hold them by a man talking a mile a minute. I remember my mother saying that he was as good a friend as she had but she would sure hate to have him as an enemy. He was the type of man that was seemingly always butchering a beef and winding up with more meat than he had room for so it was, "Edith, if these boys can't eat it I'll just have to throw it away". Absurd of course but it was his way. I'm sure ours wasn't the only home that happened in. And Neil was responsible for one of my dearest personal friendships. His son Tony. A guy that could at times be as colorful as his father. Well sir, work here is over for you. I'm sure even in heaven there might be a ornery horse or two that needs shoes. And the good Lord himself will probably overlook some of that "colorful" language for a short visit as he strolls by your shop up there. The proper term is Rest in Peace. But I never knew of you to do alot of resting, so instead I'll say Be in Peace, and I'll thank you for all those memories and for the friendship.

October 16 at 7:00 PM



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LB

Ladonna Blair posted:

I am going to miss you Uncle Neil.. You gave me my first real pair of cowboy boots ,hat , jeans and shirt dressed me up like a cowgirl and put me on a horse for the first time.. I rode 40 miles on the back roads from West Fork to Springdale to go to rodeos with you with a horse falling down on me and landing on my legs every few seconds (would not change it for anything), I was there when you got your new teeth and you had to get a picture biting my finger with them :-))took me to my 1st square dance.. I have way too many fond memories of you to be able to write here.. Daddy and I love you and it has left a hole in our hearts. You will sincerely be missed by all who loved and knew you and all who didn't know you surely missed out.. love you Uncle Neil we will see you again.

October 18 at 7:00 PM

FA

Floyd And Becky Alverson posted:

So very sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Mathews. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

October 18 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

R.I.P You will be missed in West Fork. My payer's are with his family.

October 18 at 7:00 PM

LW

Lee Alice Wilson posted:

I am so sorry for the loss of Mr. Mathews. I went to school with his son Tony. May god be with each and everyone of you.

October 18 at 7:00 PM

JJ

J.W. "Goat Man" Jeffers posted:

Neil, your passing leaves an empty spot in our little corner of the world which likely never will be filled. You were one of a kind! Safe journey my friend and God's blessings on you and your family.

October 17 at 7:00 PM



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LB

Linda & Randy Bradley posted:

Rode horses with Neil & bought lots of feed from him over our years in West Fork. Always a hug and a laugh. So sorry for your loss.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

SM

Suzie, Larry, Jessie Moheng posted:

He will be missed, most of the time had a hug and story for me. Tony & Mary and the rest of the family; my heart hurts for you. May God hold you in his arms and give you strength, peace, hope, and Love. Prayers for you all.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

JR

Jane Reed posted:

Always had a hug and always asked about my husband. I will miss him. My prayers and thoughts will be with you all.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

JF

Jack Ferreri posted:

Prayers And Comfort To The Beloved Mathews Family... So Sorry for Your Loss.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

RL

Royce, Sue, Shawn & Candice Luper posted:

We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

JH

Jeri & Jerold Hartman posted:

What a Man always made you smile :) Always was there for a helping hand. His stories and his laughter will be in our hearts.

October 17 at 7:00 PM



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RW

Rita Wuttke posted:

I met Neil in 1993 when I first came to Arkansas....he was very helpful with my horses and feed!Always had a good story to tell and made a good laugh.My sympathy to his family. God Bless

October 17 at 7:00 PM

LC

Lindell & Debbie Center posted:

There was no one else we knew that was like Neil (One of a Kind)! He did love telling stories and jokes when we would come to the feed store to buy from him. When he was finished telling us something, he would always say BYE and walk off before we could answer or reply back to him! It was so funny to us! He will definitely be missed! Our sympathy and prayers to his family.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

RM

Ron And Kathy Mann posted:

Neil was always ready with advice when we became farm owners 22 yrs ago RIP Neil and God bless you!

October 17 at 7:00 PM

GV

Gene, Mike & Vicki posted:

Neil was one of a kind! He could always make you smile. We always enjoyed when he would pull up on his 4-wheeler just to talk and share stories. We are fortunate to have known him. He will be missed oh so much!Thinking of you all.

October 17 at 7:00 PM

TC

Thomas And Kate Cochran posted:

Neil was the best of neighbors, always ready with a story, handy with an implement, or timely with a sack of produce. We are going to miss him terribly, and we send our sympathy and blessings to Tony and all members of the Mathews family.

October 16 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Neil by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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