

Neil W. Fernander

July 17, 1964 - June 20, 2016

Neil W. Fernander, 51, of Greenville, GA passed away Monday June 20, 2016 as a result of an automobile accident. Neil was born July 17, 1964 in Fulton County, GA to Billy W. Fernander & the late Charlotte Foster Fernander. Neil grew up in Tucker, GA and graduated from Henderson High School. He attended Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, FL where he played on the baseball team. After college, he joined his family's company, InStore Media Corporation in Atlanta, where he worked for 28 years. Neil was also a longtime first responder and worked for the Meriwether County Fire Department at his beloved Stations 1 and 3. He previously served in law enforcement as a deputy with Fulton & Dekalb Counties. Recently, Neil worked as a salesman for Peachstate Ambulance and worked part time at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Newnan. Neil was a man of tremendous faith and integrity.

The funeral service is Friday, June 24, 2016 at 2:00 pm at Crossroads Church, 3260 Hwy 16 E, Sharpsburg, GA with Pastor Ken Adams & Pastor James Barnes officiating. Burial will follow at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. The visitation is Thursday evening between 5:00-8:00 at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson St, Newnan, GA. Flowers are welcome or memorial contributions can be made to either Meriwether County Department of Public Safety, P.O. Box 628, Greenville, GA 30222 or to Abby's Angels Foundation at www.abbysangelsfoundation.org.

Condolences can be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

Survivors include wife of 27 years, Brenda Griffin Fernander; children, Ashley Brooke Fernander, Justin Neil Fernander; father, Bill W. Fernander; siblings, Steve Fernander, Allison (David) Worley, Melanie (James) Barnes; longtime family helper, Mary Jenkins; father-in-law, Billy Griffin; sisters-in-law, Vickie (Seabo) Griggs, Beverly (Jeffery) Scott; brother-in-law, Wayne (Wanda) Griffin; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and numerous cousins.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 23. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

JUN 24. 2:00 PM (ET)

Crossroads Church Hwy 16 Campus
3260 GA Hwy 16
Sharpsburg, GA 30277

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Neil W. Fernander*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - June 23, 2016 at 12:47 PM



*Stepping off into eternity is oft sudden
To see our Heavenly Father tis a wonderful thing
Behold His Grace
Seeing His mercy is to touch Heavens place
All my love , I've been praying for you
David Webb*

David Webb - June 24, 2016 at 09:52 AM

TH

So sorry for your loss! Praying for your family!

Teri Hopkins Holt - June 24, 2016 at 06:45 PM

GG

Thoughts and prayers for your sweet family.

Gail Lee Gordon - June 24, 2016 at 07:55 PM

RS

*To Neil's Dad, Bill - We were so sorry to hear of Your son's passing.
We learned about it from Annie - saw her at the Cracker Barrel in
Fairburn after she had attended the funeral. We will be remembering
you and your family in our prayers. Let us know if there is anything we
can do.*

With our sympathy - Raymond and Irene Sauls

Raymond Sauls - June 25, 2016 at 12:19 PM

RP

“ Prayers for the Fernander family. May God Comfort you. A very special person.

Remonia Pait

Cecil Hunter Road

Moreland, Ga.

Remonia Pait - June 29, 2016 at 10:04 AM

MM

“ My father, the late Tony Marchese, worked for many years at InStore Media. I recall that although my dad had been out of the printing business for several years when he died, that Mr. Bill and one of the sons came to the funeral home to express their sympathy to our family. That meant a lot to my mom, my sisters and I.

By all accounts, Neil was a great man who will be missed by his family and community.

Our deepest sympathy to you all.

Mike Marchese - June 28, 2016 at 08:06 AM



“ Today as I was driving down a long curvy road I saw many things that reminded me of the Almighty. I saw various flowers and trees growing alongside the highway. I saw two young boys, neither one much older than 5, running and playing on the sidewalk as their mother tried to keep up with them. I saw people smiling and laughing at each other while in a conversation that only they could share. I saw the sunrise coming up today and I watched the majestic orange and purple colors of the sky unfold before my eyes. I saw this....and the only thought that came to my mind was that my GOD is powerful and that he is the Master of my domain and all of its splendor.

As I took in the sights throughout the day my mind often drifted back to the tragic news that we all heard concerning the death of our friend Neil Fernander and my mood became quite somber.

Later in the day I received a phone call from a friend of mine who was checking on me. During my conversation I tried to hold back my emotions, but I'm afraid I didn't do a very good job of it. As I fought back the tears, I told them how I had met Neil on an emergency call one day in Meriwether County and how a complete stranger seemed to make things better with just a few words.

As the days and weeks turned into months and years I had the privelage of seeing Neil on other emergency calls and other various events that occurred inside Meriwether County. It was not uncommon to see Neil at a Commissioner's meeting in Greenville or hanging out at the fire station or the Sheriff's office. No matter where he saw you, he took the time to greet you personally, and then leave you with something positive. Neil loved his county and the people that lived there. He loved his family and his friends and most importantly, he loved the Almighty.

Anytime that I rolled up on a car accident and feared the worst, I was able to take comfort when I could look across the way and see that familiar fire jacket with the letters "N FERNANDER" embroidered across the bottom. I knew in my heart that the Almighty was in control of that accident scene, and I knew in my mind that Neil was there to comfort me. He always left me with something positive. Even if the accident involved a fatality, Neil

would somehow say something inspirational that would always seem to lift my spirits.

As I ended the phone call, I said this...."I had the privilege to know a true man of God. A man that took the time to make your day a "better" day. He did that to every person he met. He did it with grace and dignity. He did it with honor. I feel so lucky to have been able to call him my friend."

After I hung the phone up, I briefly looked toward the sky as my mind raced and my heart tried to embrace the reality that my friend was gone. Never again would I have the opportunity to shake his hand or get any words of inspiration from him. As that reality began to sink in, a ray of the late afternoon sun began to peak through the overcast sky. I sat in my vehicle and I looked back toward the heavens.... and this time a smile replaced the frown. I think my friend was sending me a message. Yet another inspiration of sorts. I think he was trying to tell me, and ALL of us, that it's gonna be alright.

Once again you were there for me my friend. Thank you.

Bobby Dodgen - June 25, 2016 at 10:10 PM

FB

“ *Brenda I need for you to email me. Here is my email address fbowman@oppcatv.com I am Gene Bowman brother. I went to church at Woodland Baptist in Phenix City, Al. I live in Opp, Al.*

Frank Bowman - June 24, 2016 at 05:38 PM

CJ

“ *With Deepest Sympathy, WE LOVE YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU, FROM MARY JENKINS AND FAMILY*

Charlene Jenkins-Adams - June 24, 2016 at 03:13 PM

JG

“ I am so sorry and saddened by the loss of a great friend & brother. My prayers will be with you, Brenda, Ashely, Justin & Family.

Jeff Graves



Jeff Graves - June 24, 2016 at 01:03 PM

MA

“ I am sorry for your loss. May God be with your family in this time of need.

Michael W Aldredge

Michael W Aldredge - June 24, 2016 at 12:20 PM

TB

“ I've known Neill for over 20 years and honored to call him my friend. He truly was a man of God and a man's man. If Neil is not in heaven, the rest of us don't have a chance!! God Bless the Fernander family!!

Tom Burke

Tom Burke - June 24, 2016 at 11:01 AM

JD

“ Jeff and Jeneth D'Alonzo purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



Jeff and Jeneth D'Alonzo - June 24, 2016 at 10:17 AM



“ Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



June 24, 2016 at 09:43 AM

BA

“ With Deepest Sympathy from all your friends at National Vision, Inc.

Billie Ackerman - June 24, 2016 at 08:45 AM

DP

“ Brenda, we just found out about Neil. So sorry. What a GREAT man and GREAT family. Our PRAYERS are with all of you. Danny and Debbie Phillips



Danny and Debbie Phillips - June 24, 2016 at 05:55 AM

DH

“ I met Neil shortly after starting work at Luthersville station for Meriwether FD And EMS. I know from the moment I met him he loved Jesus and his family. You could see it in his eyes. Neil all ways had a positive attitude and would help you any way he could. I am honored he called me his friend.
Neil my brother in Christ and friend of this earth rest in peace my friend...we will carry it from here!!!!
Till we meet again my friend. Donna Hood

Donna Hood - June 23, 2016 at 10:23 PM

DP

“ RIP Neil and know our thoughts and prayers are with your family. You were a close business associate and a good friend as well. We shared alot in common in our business passings. Piece be with you and God speed.
Dale Pace

Dale Pace - June 23, 2016 at 09:17 PM

BD

“ Brent, Rosanne, Evan & Addison Dobler purchased the Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



Brent, Rosanne, Evan & Addison Dobler - June 23, 2016 at 05:12 PM

JH

“ I glad I got to know Neil in High School we graduated together and shared lots of fun times.Im sorry I can't make the service but my heart and soul will be there.All his class mates are so sad but know Neil is in Heaven and smiling down.God heals and I'm praying Neils family can heal and find peace in there heart in this very difficult time.Il never forget Neil.God bless.Jeff Horton class 83 Henderson

Jeff horton - June 23, 2016 at 04:36 PM

CB

“ I am so, so sorry for the sudden loss of your husband, father, son, brother... Words cannot take away the pain of losing him but please take some comfort in the love and prayers of your friends and family. With sympathy and understanding, Cereto Bean (Tyler's Mom)

Cereto Bean - June 23, 2016 at 03:00 PM

YA

“ Your friends at Apex Insurance Agency purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



Your friends at Apex Insurance Agency - June 23, 2016 at 02:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



June 23, 2016 at 01:45 PM

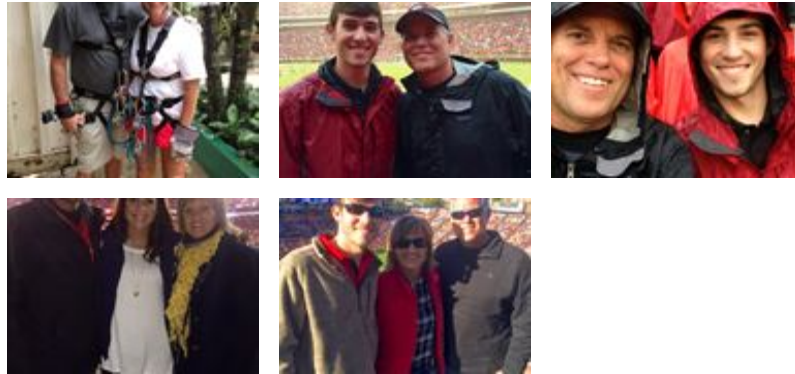
JG

“ Words cannot express the sorrow that I know you and your family are feeling. Neil was a very special man, very kind and respectful. Neil and his family are such an asset to our community. He will be missed. Praying for peace and strength as the family goes through the next few days. Sorry for your loss, Jenny Garrett.

Jenny Garrett - June 23, 2016 at 01:29 PM



“ 358 files added to the album LifeTributes



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - June 23, 2016 at 12:26 PM

LT

“ Love, Miriam, Jeff, Jordan and Abigail Tomberlin. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



Love, Miriam, Jeff, Jordan and Abigail Tomberlin. - June 23, 2016 at 12:20 PM



“ *Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



June 23, 2016 at 12:18 PM



“ *Mike and Stephanie Kessler purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



Mike and Stephanie Kessler - June 23, 2016 at 12:15 PM



“ *Philip Gross purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



Philip Gross - June 23, 2016 at 12:06 PM



“ *Thinking of all of the Fernander family with love as they grieve the loss of a wonderful husband and father. There are no adequate words to express how sorry I am. Just know you are in my prayers. Love, Fran Ryan*



Fran Ryan - June 23, 2016 at 11:42 AM



“ We were neighbors of the Fernanders on Harris Ridge Court. We all started our families at the same time. This was the couple you could look to and say I want a marriage like that, you could see their love. Neil had a great sense of family and faith. I know he was a great husband and father. Brenda our thoughts and prayers are with you and the kids. Mike, Debbie, Emilie and Hannah Bertsch

Debbie Bertsch - June 23, 2016 at 11:30 AM

PG

“ Neil was one of my best, closest friends growing up from early childhood. Some of who I am today is because of Neil and I am forever grateful for that. My thoughts and prayers are always with the Fernanders! -Philip Gross

Philip Gross - June 23, 2016 at 11:15 AM

CT

“ I only met Mr. Fernander once, but I remember it well. My mom (Patty Attaway) and I were visiting with Brad Croft, after his neck injury on a Sunday afternoon at the Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center. I remember how sweet and genuine the entire family was. Since I had never met them before, you would think the visit would've been awkward with strangers, but it wasn't. Your family felt like family friends to us. We all visited with Brad and the Croft family and it was wonderful time.

On Monday evening, June 20th, I was just finishing up feeding my son when I heard a loud noise, what sounded like an explosion almost. I thought to myself, I hope that wasn't a wreck.. I live near the corner of Cecil Hunter Road and Hwy 54 and have always been terrified of this particular intersection because of the danger. After hearing sirens, I went outside to see what was going on. I had never witnessed anything like it. My heart sank and I began to pray and ask Jesus to protect these people. Standing in my neighbors yard, with complete strangers, holding my 4 month old son, we prayed, prayed and prayed some more. We soon got the word that there was at least 1 fatality and he was believed to be a volunteer firefighter in Meriwether County. My heart sank again. My husband works in law enforcement in Coweta and I know the weary feeling of watching my husband leave for work and talking to God each time, asking Him to keep him safe. You never think of them being hurt outside the job. As I watched these first responders at the scene, my heart hurt so badly... for them. for the families of those involved.. I could tell from a distance, the fireman working the accident were hurting. Mr. Fernander was one of their own. These men put their lives on the line every day for us, just like your husband and father, Neil. I say all of that to say this, the link says, "Share a Memory". Besides meeting your family once in Warm Springs at a sweet visit, I don't have a good memory to share, but that doesn't mean I won't remember. I will remember your husband and your daddy each and every day as I travel past the place of the accident. When I pull up to the stop sign, I'll think of him. I'll remember him and what an amazing man he was every time I look out the window of my kitchen nook. I'll remember him anytime I'm in my front yard playing with my

family. I'll be reminded of the Christian life that was lost because of a senseless decision to drink and drive on June 20th 2016. I'll count my blessings and thank God every time I pull into my driveway safely with my children and my husband. As my children grow older, I will remind them constantly (just as my momma did for me and my brother) of the danger and selfish choice of drinking and driving. I have prayed and thought of your family non stop since the time of the accident. There are no words that will help the pain go away, but I am praying that God would bring healing to your sweet, sweet family. Only He can. Mr. Fernander's life has already touched so many while he was here on earth. His life and his testimony will continue to impact others. I know it has for me and my family.

Carrie Anne Thrower

Carrie Anne Thrower - June 23, 2016 at 10:57 AM

KH

“ *Kathy and Drew Hoerler purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



Kathy and Drew Hoerler - June 23, 2016 at 10:53 AM

TG

“ *A wonderful Christian man sent home too early. My prayers are with Brenda, Ashely and Justin. Neil's family will continue sharing kindness with others just as Neil did as a husband, father and community helper. All of us who love this family will be near to help them through this any way we can.*

Tonya Gray - June 23, 2016 at 10:25 AM

SJ

“ *Sam and Libby Jaskar purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



Sam and Libby Jaskar - June 23, 2016 at 09:59 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



June 23, 2016 at 09:54 AM

LS

“ *Lee Shepard purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



Lee Shepard - June 23, 2016 at 09:43 AM

FB

“ *I am sorry to hear about Neil. My thoughts and prayers are with Brenda and the rest of the family. I know Brenda and her family.*

Frank Bowman - June 23, 2016 at 09:19 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



June 23, 2016 at 09:10 AM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.*



June 23, 2016 at 08:50 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I pray God grant your family the peace and comfort needed at this time.*
Phillipians 4:7



Nicole K. - June 23, 2016 at 08:35 AM



“ *Austin T. Brandon lit a candle in memory of Neil W. Fernander*



Austin T. Brandon - June 23, 2016 at 08:30 AM

RE

“ Ryon Watkins & Josh Hatchell, Florence County EMS purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



Ryon Watkins & Josh Hatchell, Florence County EMS - June 22, 2016 at 11:21 PM



“ Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



June 22, 2016 at 10:44 PM

AG

“ Air Life Georgia purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



Air Life Georgia - June 22, 2016 at 10:25 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Neil W. Fernander.



June 22, 2016 at 09:07 PM

GD

“ *My heart is heavy for your family at the loss of such a fine man. Brenda, Ashley and Justin I send you my love and prayers*

glenda davis - June 22, 2016 at 08:52 PM

CR

“ *Our hearts are absolutely broken from the lost of our good friend Neil.....may he rest in peace, in the arms of his Lord Jesus and may mercies rain down on Brenda, Ashley and Justin at this sad time.*



Claude and Brenda Raptis - June 22, 2016 at 08:23 PM

JR

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. Neil was very genuine, selfless and kind. I am grateful to have known such a wonderful person. Neil will be greatly missed. Ashley and Justin, your father spoke very fondly of you during our brief visits and I know he was very proud. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

J.R. Ribordy - June 22, 2016 at 07:45 PM

HB

“ *Herb & Arelia Bartlett lit a candle in memory of Neil W. Fernander*



Herb & Arelia Bartlett - June 22, 2016 at 06:50 PM

JS

“ Neil was not only a colleague, but a good friend and mentor. He always looked out for those around him and made them feel special. He will be remembered fondly. May the love he showed to others be returned to the family during this difficult time.

Jeff Brown Sr - June 22, 2016 at 06:23 PM

JH

“ From Ryon Watkins, Josh Hatchell, and all of us here at Florence County EMS in Florence, South Carolina. We send our sincerest condolences to all of his family and friends. Niel was a good man that worked hard and was a professional at his trade. We are greatfull for the time we got to be able to work with him. May the Lord be with you all during this trying time and the days ahead.

Josh Hatchell - June 22, 2016 at 01:25 PM

TM

“ Neil will be greatly missed. Wishing you as much peace as possible during this difficult time.
Tressa McCoy

TRESSA MCCOY - June 22, 2016 at 09:07 AM

BF

“ Neil was a great friend and will be missed. My prayers are with you all during this sad time.
Brian

BRIAN Safety Professional FERRELL - June 22, 2016 at 08:29 AM

LW

We were so sorry to hear about Neil. Our love and prayers will be with y'all during the days ahead. Lynn and Joan Westmoreland

Lynn and Joan Westmoreland - June 22, 2016 at 09:33 AM

CS

We are so so sorry and saddened by the loss of a great man. We are praying for you, Brenda, Ashley and Justin. We are so thankful to have such wonderful neighbors. Love you all!

Clay and Stacey Spitler - June 22, 2016 at 12:26 PM

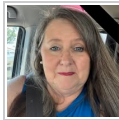
BN

Neil was a great man. Him and Brenda along with their children served the Lone Oak area, caring for the sick and elderly. Their is no replacing Neil. His heart was larger than this world.

We will continue to pray for comfort and healing for Brenda and the children.

Bobby and Debbie Nelson

Bobby and Debbie Nelson - June 22, 2016 at 01:41 PM



Neil was a great God fearing man...he always had kind words and prayers. ...every day when David was in the hospital he either came by or called...we alway had prayer...Neil ..you will be missed.. God is picking beautiful flowers... go rest now...we got your watch..we will continue to pray for Brenda, Ashley and Justin..

David and Crystal Boyd

Crystal Boyd - June 22, 2016 at 05:21 PM

AD

I am so sorry to hear of your loss Brenda. My prayers will be with you and your family in the days to come.

Angie Tatum DeNamur - June 23, 2016 at 10:35 AM

JG

I am so sorry and saddened by the loss of a great friend & brother. My prayers will be with you, Brenda, Ashely, Justin & Family.

Jeff Graves

Jeff Graves - June 24, 2016 at 01:00 PM