



# Neil John Arfmann

MAY 24, 1961 - JAN 22, 2021



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## **Neil John Arfmann**

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**N**eil (John) Arfmann, 59, of New Port Richey, passed on Friday January 22, 2021 at Morton Plant North Bay Hospital. He lost his battle with COVID-19 pneumonia.

Neil was born in the Bronx, NY. He moved to Florida in 1978 and attended Dunedin High School. Neil served his community as a Law Enforcement Officer with Largo PD and Clearwater PD. He was a Field Training Officer for Clearwater Police Department and trained many officers during his time there. Neil suffered a career ending injury serving as a Clearwater police officer. He remained committed to serving others by his work with the National Crime Prevention Council and “McGruff the Crime Dog.” Neil worked with police departments to provide child identification software and safety information material to protect children and senior citizens.

Neil is survived by his sisters; Donna Griffin of Palm Harbor; Sue Arfmann of Riverview; nephews Jeffrey Hitt of Clearwater; Andrew Hitt of Tampa; and Tommy Johnson of Riverview; great-nephews Vincent Hitt (5) and Tristan Hitt (4), and girlfriend Molly LoganBisson. Neil’s beloved parents predeceased him; Mom (Marge) in 2013 and Dad (Neil) in June 2020. He also leaves behind a group of friends that were like brothers to him and many, many others whose lives he touched.

Neil loved deep sea fishing for Grouper in the Gulf of Mexico and has played poker for 20 years with a very dear group of friends. He was a devoted Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan, loved Christian music and country line dancing.

At Neil’s request visitations will not be held. He will be cremated and laid to rest in the Gulf of Mexico at his favorite fishing spot! This will be a private ceremony attended by family and his very dear friends. A Celebration of Life to honor Neil will be held when COVID-19 is under control, vaccinations have been available to all, and it is safe to gather to celebrate this wonderful man who was taken from us too soon.



## Obituary

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Memorial donations in Neil's memory may be made to Tunnel2Towers to honor his law enforcement service, or to The Humane Society of Pinellas where Neil adopted his beloved dogs, Luke and Daisy.



## Tribute Wall

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DC

**Debbie Clements** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Neil and I have been friends for at least 10 yrs. he was the sweetest man and always willing to help anyone in need! I will certainly miss his calls and he always made me laugh, he had a knack for cheering me up! He had a knack for cheering EVERYONE up! He will be greatly missed by so many! RIH Neil!



January 27 at 10:38 AM

JS

**Joy Georgiou Sakelson** posted:

I met Neil as a teenager when he and his Dad fished as customers on our boat. He quickly became family. His Dad and mine were very close. Always a great day of fishing and laughter..When I had my kids, he immediately insisted on getting them registered in to the Mcgruff program.. I know he is having one wonderful reunion... My heart goes out to the family.. He was and always will be one in a million ❤️

January 26 at 12:33 PM

KW

**Karl Wassmer** posted:

I was saddened to hear of Neil's passing. Neil was my phase 1 and phase 4 FTO when I joined CPD in 1998. Neil was a solid officer and well respected by fellow officers and employees of the department. "Blondie" and I shared a few adventures including nightly dinner breaks at his parents home in Clearwater as well as stories of his time at Largo PD where I worked prior to CPD. My wife, who also remembered him from Largo PD when she worked there, and I extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. God Bless, my brother, and rest in the loving arms of our Lord and savior, Jesus. Karl Wassmer

January 26 at 7:16 AM

DL

**Dan Labella** posted:

Neil , my good friend, this doesn't seem real, yet I hurt so much I know it is real. God needed another angel and he picked the best! You have always done so much for so many and you will be missed by many. Thank you for the 40 plus years of friendship and the lifetime of laughs and good times. My family and I will have you in our hearts forever....until we see you again, save me a seat at the poker table! Love you man, the LaBellas

January 25 at 4:40 PM



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**Louise Breakout Schult** lit a candle in honor of Neil.

My deepest condolences to all of Neil's family. He was a kind, funny, and thoughtful man who was loved and admired. He is with our heavenly Father and his loving parents and will be watching over those closest to him. RIP, you will never be forgotten. Louise Breault Schult



January 25 at 9:18 AM



**Diana Henderson** posted:

My heartfelt condolences to all of Neil's family. He was always there with a smile on his face and a kind word.

January 24 at 2:54 PM



**Jeffrey Rawson** posted:

I worked with Neil in the Clearwater Police Department for many years. He was humble, caring, and very funny every day that I ever spent around him. He was liked, admired, and respected by everyone he worked with. I can honestly say that I never heard anyone say anything bad about Neil...he truly was one in a million. I ran into Neil about ten months ago and we spent an hour or so reminiscing and laughing about the good ol' days when police work really was fun and enjoyable. I was saddened while reading the updates about Neil's battle with Covid-19, and I was praying for him daily, but alas, his recovery was not meant to be. Neil believed in our Lord and Savior, and I am certain, and comforted in the knowledge that, he has been welcomed into God's Kingdom, and was reunited with his loving parents. It still does not take away the pain of losing a dear friend, who was also a wonderful and selfless person. Rest in peace, Neil...you truly will never be forgotten, my friend.

January 24 at 2:42 PM



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**Susan Kelly** posted:

We lost a Shining Star today. We will always remember his kindness, warmth, and "willing" Spirit to help anyone in need. God grant him eternal peace with his parents. Sincerely, Moss Feaster  
Dunedin Chapel.

January 23 at 3:19 AM



**Roberto Felici** January 26 at 1:01 PM

Neil was always happy. He was my phase 4 fto at CPD. He really had a heart of gold. God truly has a special person to assist him. Rest in peace. All the lives he touched will never be forgotten!! Prayers to all his family and friends.



**Joseph Tenbieg** January 25 at 9:31 AM

I was saddened to hear this news. We lost a great caring person to this pandemic. Back in the day I had great times working with Neil. He worked hard at everything he did, whether it was chasing and arresting bad guys, making 70's looking fake potted trees, or grouper fishing. He loved it all. I recall one time while working in a plain clothes capacity with Neil when a drug dealer tried to take off his head with a 2 x 4. Neil laughed and couldn't understand why all the assaults and trouble always happened on his side of the car. I can now say "Neil I was driving, whose side did you think they were going to be on". He will be missed and I pray that he gave his coveted fishing numbers to someone.



**Debbie Clements** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 27 at 10:38 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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