



## Neil Ellis Brenneman

June 27, 2010

Neil Ellis Brenneman, 78, of Camillus passed away unexpectedly Sunday at home. Born in Syracuse, he graduated from Central High School, Manlius Military Academy in 1950 & Syracuse University in 1954 where he was president of Psi Upsilon Fraternity. He was a member of Scabbard & Blade – R.O.T.C. Honorary, played Varsity football for 3 years and played in the 1953 Orange Bowl. Neil was a Captain and a pilot in the US Air Force from 1954-7. Later on he was a member of the Orange Pack, past president of the Varsity Club, awarded the Letterman of Distinction and served as chair for the Letterwinner of Distinction selection process. Neil was past President of Syracuse Jaycees where he was Young Man of the Year in 1965. His other community service included the Citizen Foundation, United Way, Board of Directors for Syracuse Girls Club, United Nations Association of CNY, University Club, Tuscarora Golf Club & Aurora. He was a lifelong member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and was a partner in Ellis, Moreland & Ellis Insurance Agency. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Patricia (Baker); a daughter Leigh B. (Jeffrey) Wilson of Phoenix, NY; two sons Mark E. (Julia) Brenneman of Carmel, CA; Andrew N. (Mary) Brenneman of Leesburg, VA; a sister Janet B. Smith of Marcellus; five grandchildren. Calling hours are 4 to 7 pm Wednesday at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 Genesee (Main) St., Camillus. Services are 11 am Thursday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1601 Park St., Syracuse. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to SU Varsity Club Scholarship Fund, c/o Henry Wildhack, Manley Field House, Syracuse NY, 13244. Please sign his guestbook at <http://www.BLBUSH.com>

# Comments

---



“ Dear Brennemans - I am so sorry to hear of Neil's passing. My mom just shared the sad news with me. While it has been a long time since our Northfield Way neighborhood kid adventures (endless sandlot baseball games!), I remember him very fondly. He certainly helped make those growing up days back then as special as they were to me. I hope all your many wonderful memories of him bring you comfort. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Beth Bradbury Carpenter

**Beth Bradbury Carpenter** - July 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ I am so sorry for your loss! We will miss him greatly at the IIABNY seminars! I always enjoyed seeing him- We used to discuss turkey hunting. He will be remembered fondly by so many! My condolences.

**Lynn Burns** - July 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ We were so surprised to hear about Neil's passing. All six of us here at the agency just had a discussion about our interaction with Neil and the consensus of opinion is overwhelmingly “what a very nice man”. We did not know him personally but experienced his professional manner each and every class. After awhile he was a friendly face that seemed to take the dread away from another long seminar. We wanted to let his family know that we will pray for them that they draw upon the Lord for their comfort now and in the troubling and busy days ahead. Matthew 11:28-30 Sincerely, Fred and Tina Hill, Tim and Lauren Hill, Tom Hill, and Lorrie Wallis

**Hill Insurance Agency** - July 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ On behalf of the Psi Upsilon Trust Association and all Alumni of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity, we would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Brennenman family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you always... Jim Cornacchia Pi '86 VP, Psi Upsilon Trust Association p.s. Our latest issue of the Alumni Newsletter will be going out shortly and we will be sure to list Brother Brenneman in the Memorial section

**James Cornacchia** - July 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To Mrs. Brenneman, Leigh, Mark and Andy: My dad recently told me of the unexpected death of Mr. Brenneman. I am very sorry for your loss. He was a great man to have in the neighborhood and obviously a wonderful father and husband. My prayers go out to all of you.

**Sue (Cudworth) Jerrett** - July 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To the Brenneman Family: What a great loss with Neil's passing to so many of us who were lucky enough to be touched by his gentle ways. His wit, wisdom and most of all his smile were always 100% Orange. Neil's drive & leadership will be sorely missed at SU. You can't replace a Neil Brenneman. I feel blessed to have crossed paths with such a great guy. God Bless Neil and the entire family. Jim Jerome  
Syracuse Football Club

**Jim Jerome** - July 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Mark, Andy and Family: My thoughts are with you and your family. I am out of town on business and was not able to return for your father's wake. Please extend my deepest sympathy to your Mother, Sister and families. Tom

**Tom Dillon** - July 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To the Brenneman Family, I was very saddened to learn of Neil's passing. He was a terrific guy and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. His involvement and dedication to both the Syracuse University Varsity Club and the Football Club made these organizations better for it. He was always there to help others, solve a problem or share an idea and he did with a ready smile and sense of humor. God bless Neil and God bless you all. Russ Mills

**Russ Mills** - July 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Our prayers are with the family, particularly with Patty & Janet at this time. God Bless you all

**Fred.(fritzy) Zercher** - July 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Pat & family Sorry, to hear of the loss of Neil Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time Marvin, Alice & family

**MARVIN & ALICE & FAMILY GREGG** - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Dear Family, We at the SU Varsity Club are crushed at the passing of our friend Neil. You have no idea what an asset this man was to our club with the work he has done over the years. I personally have considered him a mentor with the wisdom , judgement, and sweat he has given to me. We will miss him dearly. Our regards to Patricia and their children. Sincerely, Roger Praetorius SU Varsity Club President

**SU Varsity Club** - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ WOW! I am really saddened by Neil's death. I will miss him at our Friday morning breakfast group, wearing those expensive sunglasses. Always looked forward to his questioning my Liberal views. He always talked glowingly about his family; his wife and kids. He will always be in our thoughts at Friday breakfast at Chubb's. So long, Neil.

**JOE SAMMARCO** - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Dear Pat and Family: Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Our friendship goes back a long way. Don from the Neighborhood, mine from Central High School and both of us from Westminster. We have been gone 26 years but when we visited Westminster the first person we saw with a greeting and big smile was Neil. He will be greatly missed by all. Our prayers are with you. Don & Donna Cook

**Don & Donna Cook** - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ I am sorry to hear of Mr. Brennemans passing. I knew him for only a short time but always loves his smile and his great personality. I will miss seeing him in Camillus! I hope you can take comfort in knowing that he touched many lives. God Bless!  
(nurse)Kim

**Kim Sayles** - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Brenneman family, you should all know Neil Brenneman will be with all of us going forward. His character, his smile and his consideration of others. I know he can look down and be EXTREMELY proud of his family. If everybody could be a little more like Neil Brenneman the world would be a better place. As a tribute to him, I plan on doing random acts of kindness and when they happen I will look up to the sky and give him a wink.

**David Soule** - June 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Pat; I am so sorry to read of Neil's death. He was a very giving and loving man. It was a pleasure to know him and be his friend. My prayers are with you. PHIL FALSO

**Phil Falso** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ My sincerest condolences to the family. I knew Neil years ago when I was a young boy scout in Troop 81 in Syracuse. Neil at the time was one of the young troop leaders. He was a good man and an inspiration to the scouts in the troop.

**Jim Ochsner** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To the Brenneman Family, I worked with Neil for the past three years with the Varsity Club and Syracuse Football Club and it was a pleasure. He was a very kind, energetic and giving person who cared deeply about both clubs and Syracuse University - he was a true Orangeman who will be so very missed by all who knew him. Please accept my sincere and heartfelt sympathy, Kathy Rainone

**Kathy Rainone** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Pat: I was shocked when I read of Neil's passing. He was a great friend and will be missed by many of us. He will be in my prayers. Marty Duggan

**Marty Duggan** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To The Brenneman Family--Sincere, respectful thoughts & prayers. You were truly blessed with one fine person. What a pleasure to have known Neil. Sincerely, Tony Kreuzer

**Anton F. Kreuzer** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Neil was such a nice man and always cheerful in whatever he was doing. We will miss having him as a part of our family.

**Dee Macheda** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To the Brenneman Family: On behalf of all of the Fracassini's, I would like to express our condolences and sadness over Neil's passing. Since Mary and Andy's wedding, we have come to love all of the Brenneman's and it was always such a pleasure when we had the opportunity to be with Neil, Pat and the rest of the family. It is easy to say that we really liked Neil because he was Andy's Dad, but in looking back over all the joyful times we spent with him and Pat, it is joyful to realize that we were blessed with the kind-heart of a wonderful man who turned out to be a great friend to all of us. My Mother and Dad instantly liked Neil and Pat and over the years they have developed a great friendship apart from their respective children's marriage. Without a doubt, when Neil and Pat arrived, the party began, and that is what we loved about them. Neil's infectious laugh, his friendly personality, and his intelligence and character were a welcome addition to any event. He raised a wonderful family -- and we are so blessed to have his son as part of ours. With saddened hearts, we express our sorrow for his loss. May all of the wonderful memories that you have of your kind-hearted, loving husband, father and grand-father carry each of you through the difficult days that lie ahead. In sorrow and with love, The Fracassini's (and Leslies)

**Amy Fracassini Leslie** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Dear Pat and Janet, It has been many years since we have been together..Janet and I have been friends since childhood. Neil was just the older brother and we all spent time having picnics and fun at the Otisco Lake Cottage. Ellie and Whittie were my parents good friends and we all had such good times together. Please except my sincere sympathy and remember this: The Rose Beyond the Wall, author unknown A rose once grew where all could see, sheltered beside a garden wall, And as the days passed swiftly by, it spread its branches straight and tall...One day, a beam of light shone through a crevice that had opened wide-The rose bent gently toward its warmth then passed beyond to the other side...Now, you who deeply feel its loss, be comforted-the rose blooms there-Its beauty even greater now nurtured by Go's own loving care. With love, Roberta (Bobbie)

**Roberta Kendall-Bochan** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ I believe my last conversation with neil was a few years ago at a orange pack golf tourney. Our paths parralled and ocassionally crossed over many years. We both played football for franny ray at central. I was primarily a d back and he a running back. It was never fun to tackle him which i didn't very often but he always smiled as he went by. We both went to SU and we would see each other now and then on campus. In later years he was active in JC's when I was a national director and it was always enjoyable to meet with Neil and chat. He has made a tremendous impact on his community and the university we both love. He will be greatly missed and it is a sad day for many including myself

**george kushner** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ The MacLachlan family were friends of the Brennemans dating back to the original Westminister Church on Douglas St in the 1940's and 1950's. I also greatly enjoyed serving with Neil on the Varsity Club Board. What a gentleman.

**Gary MacLachlan** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Amber Beach just lost a shining star! Always a smile and a kind word.... I know you will feel his love through all the great memories you all share. It was a pleasure to know him.

**Mali Holihan** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ We are sorry for your loss. Pat, you and all the family are in our thoughts and prayers. Neil was a wonderful person and I am honored to be a part of the same family.

**Wendi (Jones) Lamphear** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

---



“ To his family, you have lost a wonderful man. Neil did a lot for people over his whole life. First met him when he was on the football team at SU. I was a student manager at the time. He always did his best for SU and the community in which he lived. He was a True Gentleman. For the past few years I had the priviledge of serving with him on the Varsity Club Board of Directors. It was nice to reconnect after many years. May God Bless Neil.

**Gregg Doherty** - June 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM