

Donald Lamour Neal

June 29, 1947 ~ November 4, 2025

Donald Lamour Neal - born June 29th, 1947 in New Orleans, Louisiana - was a man of apparent contradictions, making for an enigmatic and complex persona. He was extremely charismatic, and never said “no” to a social engagement. He was the life of the party, regalling all those around of stories from his mischievous childhood and his extensive travels across the world; however, he also loved solitary activities such as reading, fishing, and studying history. He was tender-hearted - he adopted stray kitties, cried when given a thoughtful gift, was enraptured with classical violin music, and loved his family above all else. Don loved his cowboy boots and his Hey Dudes. He loved the crisp ironing on his business suits, and he loved the feel of soft sweat pants. From his time serving in the United States Army, Don was extremely clean and organized yet he held on to all the birthday cards and sentimental items given to him throughout the years. Don was stern and direct, one never needed to guess his opinion or thought - he would absolutely let you know; however, he ended every conversation with a cheeky, “Glad you got to see me!”

Don was an avid cook, drawing from his Cajun roots to create incredible dishes of gumbo, fried chicken, cat fish, barbeque ribs and delectable roasts. A meal wasn’t a meal unless it included some form of rice to accompany his savory sauces. He held on to his recipes, never revealing his secrets to anyone other than his daughter. He ministered to others through his food and his hospitality, a stranger never entered his home and everyone left his home full - their bodies and souls fed through his magical cooking and loving heart.

Don was an entrepreneur, starting and running several successful businesses throughout the years. There were times of struggle, and there were times of plenty. He was generous with his employees, and believed that hard work and determination created success and prosperity in all walks of life. Don was proud of his Cajun heritage, yet felt the call of the Mountain West in his soul. After living in Louisiana, Colorado, Montana and Arizona, Don moved to the Salt Lake Valley in 2006 and called Utah his home until his death on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 at age 78.

Don was preceded in death by his parents - Donald Neal and Ruby Reynolds - and his sister, Betsy Morris. Don is survived by his wife Mitzi, his daughter Sarah, his four grandchildren- Amara, Luke, Beau, and Adelaide, his three remaining siblings - Peggy, Patricia and Jesse, and eight nieces and nephews - Marc, Kim, Tonya, Julie, Scott, Betsy, Heather and Emily. We’re really glad we got to see you too.

Don requested that no memorial or funeral be held; however, he requested a Celebration of Life party be held after the holidays. The date and location are yet to be determined, and will be announced to friends and family once details are finalized. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Utah Food Bank in his honor, as their mission to provide food to those in need was a cause for which he felt very strongly.