



## Neil B. Huston

September 18, 1964 - July 31, 2025

Neil Bradley Huston - A loving Husband, Father, Brother, and Grandfather passed away on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at St. John's Hospital in Springfield at age 60.

Neil was born September 18, 1964 in Macomb, IL to Charles and Patricia (Blickenstaff) Huston. Neil is survived by his loving wife and soulmate Mary Jane (Masten) Huston. Neil and Mary Jane were married on November 2, 2019 at the First Baptist Church in Havana, IL. Neil is survived by his brother Jeff (Charlene) Huston (Macomb, IL), children Chad Cox (Macomb, IL), Tevin (Elisha) Huston (Macomb, IL), Kiara (Ray) Huston (Hudson, New Hampshire), Jeanette (Tony) Gathman (Havana, IL) and Justin (Morgan) Friedrich (Bath, IL). He is also survived by his grandchildren MaKaela Bennett, Brooklyn Bennett, Elijah Cox, Miles Cox, Ames Gathman, Lucy Gathman, and McCoy Friedrich, and many nephews, nieces and cousins. Neil was preceded in death by his parents.

Neil retired from Western Illinois University in 2019 where he was a Landscape Maintenance Foreman for 21 years while also mentoring countless students. Neil also worked as a counselor for Chaddock in Quincy IL helping troubled youth. In addition to his full-time positions, Neil also coached basketball, football, baseball, and softball for many years. Not only did he coach, Neil was also a certified ASA umpire. He touched numerous children's

lives during this time. Neil enjoyed coaching his children and grandchildren and teaching them his amazing skills of all sports. He was an avid Cubs fan and never missed watching a game and especially enjoyed going to Wrigley Field and seeing them in person. Sports was something he held close to his heart as it reminded him of the time spent with his father enjoying games and refereeing/umpiring together.

Family meant the world to Neil. He was loved by and loved his family dearly. Not only would Neil provide all the laughter and wit to any situation, he also provided the best wisdom when you needed to hear it most. Neil never met a stranger and he always had a way of making everyone feel accepted. Above all, Neil knew his Savior, Jesus Christ. Despite the vast challenges he endured in the last three years, he had a strong desire to live and maintained an unbelievably positive outlook. This was possible due to his strong faith.

As an acquaintance he met along his recent journey said so wonderfully, "In the limited interactions I had with Neil, I could clearly see what a special man he was, smart, funny, kind, and a big heart."

Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Hurley Funeral Home in Havana. Funeral services will take place on Friday, August 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Havana 1st Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana.

Memorial donations may be made in Neil's name to Grace Lutheran Academy. Online condolences can be left for his family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com).

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Laurel Hill Cemetery

1105 E Laurel Ave  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2986

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 7.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana  
217 North Plum Street  
P.O. Box #648  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2244  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

**AUG 8.** 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Havana  
101 S Charlotte St  
Havana, IL 62644

# Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Neil B. Huston



Hurley Funeral Home - August 07, 2025 at 01:57 PM

BR

So sorry prayers to family .I enjoyed helping him at Graham Hospital. Always a smile and would talk about fishing

barbara rynerson - October 26, 2025 at 02:54 AM

AS

“ Heartfelt condolences from The Smith family.

AKira Skepple - November 15, 2025 at 04:45 PM

CH

“ My dear cousin/brother



Carmen Huston - August 10, 2025 at 12:39 AM

CH

“ *My dear cousin/ brother*



Carmen Huston - August 09, 2025 at 11:58 PM

CA

“ *We are so sorry for your loss Mary Jane. Mark & Carol Buchanan*

Carol.buchanan - August 09, 2025 at 01:18 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Neil B. Huston.*



August 06, 2025 at 08:28 AM

LS

“ *We are sorry to hear about Neil's passing .  
I remember him as a really great kid when we were being raised in  
east end of macomb .  
Also wonderful memories of his dad  
Larry(punk) and Sharon Stoneking*

larry Stoneking - August 05, 2025 at 07:57 PM

TF

“ *Thorpe Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Neil B. Huston.*

Thorpe Family - August 05, 2025 at 07:55 PM

TF

“ *Thorpe Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Neil B. Huston.*



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**Thorpe Family** - August 05, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Neil B. Huston.*



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August 05, 2025 at 07:31 PM

RQ

“ *RON AND BARB QUINONES lit a candle in memory of Neil Huston*



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**RON AND BARB QUINONES** - August 05, 2025 at 06:42 PM

MW

“ *So sorry for your loss. I went to school with Neil in Macomb same age. We played softball after we graduated. Always friendly and very nice to me. I really appreciate the time I had with him and hope to see him in heaven one day. Miss you and love you brother. Monty Wilmot*

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**Monty Wilmot** - August 05, 2025 at 06:35 PM

CK

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers to the family.

Carol Fisk Kolves - August 05, 2025 at 05:07 PM

BC

“ I didn't know Neil personally but he sounds exactly like his Dad (& Mom) Reagan & I & son Corey went to a CUB game at Wrigley & it poured rain!!!! Pat, Reagan & I moved back up under the bleachers BUT Charlie sat w/Corey in the down pour saying "It's going to stop, we r not leaving !!" Charlie was so kind to Corey 😊 Neil sounds just like him! I'm sure he will be missed!

Beverly Cause - August 05, 2025 at 04:44 PM

LH

“ Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Neil Huston



Larry and Mary Hundt - August 05, 2025 at 08:40 AM

SG

“ I remember Neil mostly from junior high school. We were in the same home room in 7th and 8th grades. He was kind, fun, and friendly. I have not seen him since high school, but I have always remembered him as a nice person who made any group he was in better. My condolences to his family.

Sandra Gines - August 04, 2025 at 11:05 PM

AM

“ When Neal first came to church. I gave him a hug. And he gave one back telling me that he was a Hugger



alice millef - August 04, 2025 at 10:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Neil B. Huston.

August 04, 2025 at 09:39 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Neil B. Huston.



August 04, 2025 at 09:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Neil B. Huston.

August 04, 2025 at 09:02 PM

GT

“ Neil Huston was what my Dad referred to as a giver, the kind of person who is always there to lend a helping hand to someone when they most needed it.

Our youngest son was the direct recipient of Neil's kindness when a student at Macomb High. It wasn't a huge thing but in the eyes of an 18 year old senior, it was, in the moment, very significant and Neil was there for him.

As the “alumni guy” at Western, I probably broke every existing regulation concerning what should be done with “grounds” and who should do what. Neil was my willing accomplice and together we made the Alumni House a showplace on campus. He was always there to help.

Finally, there was Neil “the Athlete.” When playoffs arrived at the end of the season, the Jackson Street Pub had an abundance of singles hitters but we were short on guys who could actually hit a home run. What to do? Skip Begley made a phone call and problem solved as Neil and Jeff were inserted in our lineup and we were off to the races—a couple of singles to set the stage, then the Huston brothers to clear them.

I still keep the team photo in a place of honor in my “man cave.” We will all miss you Neil. You made this a better world in which to live.

Gordy Taylor

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Gordy Taylor - August 04, 2025 at 09:00 PM

LP

“ We knew Neil when he was a teenager in Macomb. He came to Clark's pool. Sending condolences to his family. RIP. Pete and Lona Peterson. Denver Colorado

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Lona Peterson - August 04, 2025 at 07:40 PM

NE

“ So sorry to hear this.



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**Nancy Elliott** - August 04, 2025 at 06:15 PM

CW

“ Cheri Wilcoxon lit a candle in memory of Neil Huston



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**Cheri Wilcoxon** - August 04, 2025 at 05:39 PM

AS

“ Neil was such a sweet soul! From having him as an umpire in high school to meeting him again in my professional life. Neil for sure never knew a stranger. He will be missed by so many. Your family is in our thoughts.

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**Adryanne S.** - August 04, 2025 at 03:54 PM

RC

“ Neil was a was great person and one of the best baseball players I ever played with. So sorry Jeff and the rest of the Huston family. Our prayers be with you.

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**Randy Clampitt** - August 04, 2025 at 03:38 PM