



Jess Neff

October 12, 1957 - June 27, 2011

Jess Richard Neff, 53, of Monroe, Michigan, died June 27, 2011 at Mercy Memorial Hospital, Monroe, Michigan. Born October 12, 1957 in Pasadena, Texas, he was the son of Paul E. Neff and Joyce Lee Best Neff. He attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Jess was a waste water engineer. He loved art, music and books, and was an avid photographer. He was a member of the Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his father Paul E. Neff and both grandfathers, Jess E. Neff and Richard Doyle. Survivors include his mother Joyce Neff of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; two brothers, Paul Neff and wife Marisela and John Neff, all of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; three nieces, Amanda Paulk, Valorie Robertson, and Jamie Guess; one nephew, David Wayne Neff; his grandmother, Edna Doyle of Baron, Oklahoma; 10 great nieces and great nephews; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; his ex-wife, Sarah Lucas; his fiancé Vanessa Johnson, and lots of friends. Graveside services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 2, 2011, at Martin Cemetery, near Siloam Springs, Arkansas, with Charles Cash officiating. Visitation will be 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Friday, July 1, 2011, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam springs, Arkansas.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Joyce, I was so sorry to read in the paper today about Jess.*

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Janie Brown - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

MW

“ *Joyce and Family - thinking of you at this time. Today it's difficult to see beyond the sorrow, but may your memories of Jess help comfort you tomorrow. Just remember those we love are never forgotten.*

Margie Williams - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

JB

“ To the Neff Family, I cannot know how you fell but I pray the Lord sends you strength and peace knowing Jess and his dad are in the company of the Almighty Father who created all things and the God who had no beginning and shall have no end.

Jess was more than a friend to me he was my brother and I will miss him greatly, all of us will miss him greatly, and there has not been a day go bye that Jess was not a part of it in more than one or two ways.

Your son, your brother, your uncle Jess was quite a character; long before rap he named me nochizzle bolizzle! So much for snoop dog, we both listened to the greatest University of Oklahoma Game together at NEO A&M when OU came back with one long run by Joe Washington to beat Missouri! And we still could quote Mike Treps and John Brooks word for word about that run. It was that play by play that got both of them suspended for the rest of the season but fans like Jess and myself protested so bad they got their jobs back!

Mrs. Neff, Jess was a special gift from God to me and I want you to know because of that gift from God to you and me; I am a better man today for it. I am so sad I will not be able to attend his funeral, but I shall come over soon to talk with him at his temporary resting place, until the dead in Christ shall rise from the dead to be with the Father in Heaven. His soul is with Christ now but his body is in Arkansas and properly due to his love for the Razorbacks!

Mrs. Neff -- There is not a day that goes by that your son has not put a smile on my face, and just not from memories but from our phone calls that range over three decades. The last time we talked a couple of weeks ago he was the happiest I have known him to be. He loved his photography and the new woman in his life. But, he never forgot his family or where he was from. There are now Saint's in Heaven lining up to speak with your son and I know why. He was a true original man; he was Jess Richard Neff the man from Adair County Oklahoma!

It wouldn't feel right if I did not end this with one of Jess Richard Neff's famous quotes, "Hey Ooooo Smith!" and there are a million more all of us would love to share!

Jess Richard Neff, I shall play Jackson Browne's album the Pretender at 10.00am CST on July 2, 2011 in your memory! You will never be forgotten buddy and you are truly missed by all of us!
Jimbo

Jimmy Don Balisle - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

JB

“ *I had the great pleasure of meeting and being friends with Jess Richard Neff in August 1975 at NEO A&M in at that time the world famous Russell Hall. I am proud to say I have been friends with JR from that day forward, the man from Adair County. The Gentle Giant, a man who read more books than a library could handle and a man who loved his family and friends the way the Good Book said we should.*

All my memories of Jess Richard Neff are wonderful and words cannot describe them and the Lord must have needed someone to debate with if he was calling JR home. Because, at his passing the Lord Commanded the Arc Angel Michael. To come and escort Jess Richard Neff to see him. So now the Lamb of God has one of the smartest and humblest men I have ever met with him and I am pretty sure Jess and his Daddy are hugging each other right now, while Christ is wiping away their tears. I hope my Daddy and him get a chance to talk also, because my dad once said that Jess was motivated by purpose and not by the things that make men evil! I am saddened deeply that I will not be able to call him or respond to his emails, or see what he is up to on facebook, but I truly know I will see him soon in God's time. His name and his memories will live with me until the day the Lord calls me home. All of us truly will miss him, Kirby Meadows, Wayne Jacobs, Donny Bob Angle, Mike Rush, Bimbo, Casey, Gatewood, Mikey from AZ, Ray McCartney, and John Karriman; just to name a few of us from the glory days of Russell Hall. Jess inspired all of us to where we are today and all of our adventures from the first day we met him.

Jimbo Balisle

Jimmy Don Balisle - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

EC

“ So very sorry for the loss of your son. We will keep you and your family in our prayers.

Earl and Carolyn Colston - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

SF

“ Joyce and Family, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our prayers are with all of your family.

Sheryl (Marshall) Colston and family - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

RM

“ Jess was a dorm buddy at NEO, my roommate at Arkansas, and a forever friend. One of the brightest, wittiest, funniest and friendliest human beings that I've ever known. Also one of the most open-minded and always a kid at heart. I am a better person for having known my friend Jess Richard Neff.
So long buddy.....

Ray McCartney - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

CU

“ Great pics,bro and thank you

Curt - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

BM

“ YOU WILL BE MISSED BY ALL .

BERL MCWILLIAMS - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

CO

“ *My heart goes out to Jess' friends and family. He was a fantastic guy.*

I am sad that I only knew him for a short time, yet I am thankful that I was honored to know him as long as I did.

The world suffered a great loss when he left us.

Corinne - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

BA

“ *Jess...a good high school friend and a good guy...*

Bill Allison - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

KC

“ Jess was a force, he was not just a man. He had such a way about him that you couldn't help but love and respect him. He was/is/will always be in my heart.

EE Cumings wrote a poem and most think it is romantic and meant for two lovers but I think it describes Jess and mine friendship:

*i carry your heart with me(i carry it in my heart)
i am never without it(anywhere i go you go, my dear; and whatever
is done
by only me is your doing, my darling)
i fear no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet)
i want no world(for beautiful you are my world, my true)
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you*

*here is the deepest secret nobody knows (here is the root of the
root and the bud of the bud and the sky of the sky of a tree called
life; which grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart*

i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart)

*Jess I carry a piece of your heart with me every day and you will
always carry a piece of mine! Until I get to see you again...Ciao
Baby.*

Kara Caruth - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

SM

“ I am so sorry for the loss that everyone had when you all lost Jess. I know from what I have been told about him that he will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and Vanessa.

Shannon Michels - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

VJ

“ My heart goes out to the Neff family. Thank you so much, Mrs. Neff, for the wonderful job you and your late husband did in making him the incredible man he became.

Jess, my love, my life. We only had 11 months, but that time was the highlight of my life. We knew from the first that this was special and meant to be. Words have always failed me in expressing how I feel about you, how much I admire you. It would have been an honor to have been your wife. It was an honor to have had your love and devotion, and to have you accept mine. You "were" because you no longer walk the earth you loved so much; you "are" because you live on in all of the lives you touched, in everyone you inspired; you "always will be" because of the lessons you taught us all about loving, living, and treating others and the world around us with respect and love, wonder and gratefulness. My Jess, I will always be your girl. I love you.

Vanessa C. Johnson - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM

AR

“ I remember Jess from high school at Westville. He was really smart and funny. He was friendly to everyone, real likable guy. So sorry to lose another classmate. Jess, you went too soon. Here's to Jess and the class of '75, you will be missed.

Ann (Spinks) Rector - September 19, 2012 at 11:59 AM