



Lt. Neil B. McKinney

September 8, 1934 - September 3, 1964

A private graveside service for Lt. Neil B. McKinney will be held Friday August 23, 2024 at the Akron Cemetery. Air Force 1st Lt. McKinney had been declared missing in action September 2, 1963 when his B-26 Bomber failed to return to its home base at Da Nang following a routine air cover mission over Vietnam. A concentrated search failed to turn up any sign of the plane and its four-man crew. No reason for the plane's failure to return has ever been established. Immediately the Air Force listed Lt. McKinney as officially missing. After a year and one day, Sept. 3, 1964 the Air Force declared Lt. McKinney deceased. In November 1964, The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to Lt. McKinney.

In March 1992 the Vietnamese government repatriated to the United States Government the remains and artifacts that were reportedly recovered from a B-26 crash site in the remote Kon Tum province. Although personal effects and other information indicated the identity of the crew at that time, the forensic team studied the remains an additional four years in an attempt to make complete and positive identifications. On November 3, 1996, Neil's remains were buried in the Akron Cemetery, Akron, Indiana with full military honors. The remains that the forensic experts were unable to identify were interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

In April 2017 additional remains from Vietnam were turned over to the United

States Government. In March 2024 these remains were identified as Neil B. McKinney. These remains will also be interred in the Akron IOOF Cemetery located in Akron, Indiana.

Lt. Neil B. McKinney was born September 8, 1934. He received both a B.S and Master's Degree from Ball State University where he entered the ROTC program and received a commission in the United States Air Force. His assignment to Vietnam was as an Intelligence Officer.

On June 26, 1960 he married Barbara Waechter McKinney Rager in Akron. She survives along with their daughter Christa C. (McKinney) Smith of Zionsville, Indiana

Cemetery Details

Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E
Akron, IN 46910

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Jack & Judy Laslie were deeply saddened at the news of Neil being missing in action in an area most of the US didn't even know we had troops. We liked him SO much & we were very happy for Neil & Barbara, & then their little Christa. The way the government handled it from their end was very hurtful to Barbara & we were sad along with her too. Bless her heart. We pray that Neil is at rest with God and his remains are at last at home. He was a beautiful soul & highly respected. He was our college friend. Bless his heart.

Jack Laslie & Judy Laslie - August 26, 2024 at 02:12 AM

SG

“ Barbara and Christa you are in my prayers.



Shirley Gray - August 25, 2024 at 10:37 AM

SB

“ Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory of Lt. Neil B. McKinney



Shirley Bickel - August 15, 2024 at 04:57 AM

BR

“ Barbara and Christa, you are in our prayers.
Bill & Miriam Ruppel

Bill & Miriam Ruppel - August 14, 2024 at 06:42 PM