



## Neil Joseph Godar

April 4, 1939 - June 5, 2025

GODFREY — Neil J. Godar, 86, passed away Thursday, June 5th at his home, surrounded by family.

He was born on April 4, 1939 to the late John and Anna (Ewen) Godar in Wood River, IL.

He married Nancy M. Bensman on August 1, 1964 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton, IL. They built their life together in Godfrey, IL and raised five children in their home. She preceded him in death in 2017.

He graduated from Marquette Catholic High School in Alton in 1957 and later earned an Associates Degree in Administration from Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey.

He worked in the healthcare system for 51 years. He began his career at St. Joseph's Hospital in Alton in the kitchen at 16 years of age and worked his way up to Vice President of Personnel until it closed in 1989. He then became the Director of Human Resources at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL where he worked for 17 years until he retired in 2007.

He was a long-time member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church. He dedicated himself to the Alton Knights of Columbus #460. He was a Fourth Degree lifetime member and spent much time assisting with community events, cooking for golf tournaments, collecting money for tootsie roll drives and volunteering for the popular Friday night fish fry's during Lent.

He was a part of the East End Improvement Association and judged multiple Halloween parade costumes over the years.

Neil and his family loved traveling to Durango, Colorado to visit family. He spent many days on the Pine River fishing with his father-in-law trying to catch "the big one". He also enjoyed helping family and friends with any DIY project. You could often find him at his wife's side cheering on their grandchildren on the sidelines for sports games, clapping the loudest at music concerts and TNI (The Nature Institute) family days. They loved their family fiercely and never got tired of watching them do what they love.

He is survived by one son, Joseph (Denise) Godar; four daughters, Donna (Scott) Taul, Debbie Godar, Lisa (Carmon) Taylor, Cindy (Joel) Curry; seventeen grandchildren, Tyler and Ryan Godar, Nathan (Natalie) Taul, Kelsey (Nathan) Schulz, Dr. Jessica Taul, Jared Taul, Ashley (Sam) McKinney, Dr. Amber (Johnathan) Jordan, Christian Shank, Sabrina (Ben) Jones, Matthew Fairless, Morgan and Sydney Giron, Veronica (Jason) Counts, Anakin Taylor, and Austin and Hannah Curry; great-grandchildren, Oliver, Jack, Addy, Finley, Maddie, and Laura.

Also surviving are two sisters, Kathy (Clarence) Schneider, and Janice Molloy; brothers-in-law, John Canella, Walter "Terry" (Ginger) Bensman, and William "Bill" (Nancy) Bensman; sisters-in-law Bonnie (Bensman) Mills and Mary Lee Bensman. And many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his brothers Kenny, John "Jack" (Blenna "Blondie") Godar; his sisters Mary Ellen (John) Yeager, Carol Cannella, Joyce (Ralph) Zerr, and Betty (Lawrence) Spahr; and brother-in-law Tim Molloy.

Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 at Gent Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at St. Ambrose Catholic Church at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 27 with Fr. Steve Janoski officiating. Burial will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Godfrey, IL.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in honor of one of his good friends, Mr. William "Bill" Maher.

Services have been entrusted to Gent Funeral Home in Godfrey. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **26**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Ambrose Catholic Church  
820 W. Homer Adams Parkway  
Godfrey, IL 62035

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ Neil was the best boss I ever had. Such a great family man and person. I enjoyed working for him. RIP Neil

Armeen Williams - July 24, 2025 at 06:21 PM

CG

“ Neil was one of the nicest person I have ever met. He and Nancy were such a sweet couple and was in our group with us when we were younger and going to dances every Friday and Saturday nights. I know his whole family was close and miss him so much. My sympathy goes out to you and know if my husband was still living would be sad to know of his death. I thank God for letting Neil be part of our family of friends. ❤️ Cindy Kodros Garvey

Cindy Kodros Garvey - July 22, 2025 at 11:15 AM

DS

“ Sad to hear of Neil's passing. Great memories of him at Anderson Hospital. He and my late husband, Coert Shepard, were good friends. My sympathy to all his children and grand children. You were blessed to have such loving parents. It was obvious you all meant the world to them both. Keeping you in prayer.

Donna Shepard - July 13, 2025 at 11:15 PM

VG

“ Vicki & Mike Glass purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Neil Joseph Godar.



Vicki & Mike Glass - June 24, 2025 at 12:19 PM

MK

“ I have very fond memories of Neil at Anderson. He always greeted everyone by name. He was so nice and helpful. He has earned eternal rest. My condolences to his family.  
Mary Jo Kampwerth

mary jo kampwerth - June 24, 2025 at 07:44 AM

CG

“ My husband Gerry Garvey and I were good friends with zneil and Nancy and in our younger years spent most weekends going out and dancing. They were such a sweet couple and am so sorry to hear of his death. His family has a lot to be proud of with the parents they had. I am so sorry for your loss. Cindy Kodros Garvey

Cindy Kodros Garvey - June 23, 2025 at 05:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Neil Joseph Godar.



June 23, 2025 at 04:49 PM

LJ

“ Love, Jim & Lnda Jordan purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Neil Joseph Godar.



Love, Jim & Lnda Jordan - June 23, 2025 at 07:18 AM

RM

“ Neil & I were class mates at St. Patrick's & Marquette, friends for many years. I'm so Sorry to hear of his death. I'm sending love & prayere to all of his family. Rosie (Witt) Murphy

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**Rosie (Witt) Murphy** - June 20, 2025 at 07:24 PM

MZ

“ Neil was my Classmate at Marquette Class of '1957' and a Friend.Blessing to His Family,May He Rest in Peace. Mike and Pat Haynes.

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**mike zhaynes** - June 20, 2025 at 04:20 PM