



## Neil Allen Springer Obituary

Neil Allen Springer, age 88, began his eternal life on Sunday, May 10, 2026, passing peacefully at his home in Naperville, Illinois, surrounded by the family he so dearly loved.

Born on May 2, 1938, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Roy and Lucille (Gerke) Springer, Neil remained a proud, lifelong Hoosier. He earned his BS in Accounting from Indiana University in 1960, the same year he married the love of his life, Janet Grotrian. Together they had three children - Sheri, Kelly, and Mark - who were Neil's pride and joy!

Neil began a distinguished thirty-year career in 1960 with International Harvester, Inc in Fort Wayne, IN, which later became Navistar International Corporation. Neil received his MBA from the University of Dayton in 1966 and later his CPA license. Neil and Janet moved their family several times eventually settling in Wheaton, IL in 1970. A respected leader in the industry, Neil ultimately served as Navistar's President and COO before retiring in 1990. In his retirement, he opened his own business and was a member of several corporate boards of directors. Neil remained an active Indiana University alumnus and his love of the Indiana Hoosiers was complete when the football team won the NCAA championship in January 2026!

While his professional achievements were many, Neil's life was defined by his unwavering Christian faith and his devotion to his family. He was a vibrant presence in his church community, serving as church treasurer in several churches, as well as singing in the church choir. Neil always found great joy in reflecting and sharing God's love with everyone he met, whether during a mission trip, a church event, or a family gathering. To his family, Neil was a constant, encouraging presence at every milestone—from sporting events and dance recitals to graduations, birthdays, weddings, and Hawaiian vacations. He took great joy in offering advice and ensuring those he loved had the support and encouragement they needed to thrive. His love of God, country, family, and friends permeated everything he did.

Over the past 40 years, Neil and Janet enjoyed the time they spent at their second home in Hilton Head, SC, golfing, relaxing, and immersing themselves in their local church – Island Lutheran. It offered a great getaway from Chicago winters and a great gathering place for family and friends.

Neil was preceded in eternal life by his parents; his brother, Ross Springer; and his beloved son, Mark Springer.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 66 years, Janet Springer of Naperville, IL; his daughters Sheri (Jay) Baumgartner of Bolingbrook, IL and Kelly (Steve) Gilligan of Naperville, IL; and his daughter-in-law, Julie Springer of Prosper, TX. His legacy lives on through his eight grandchildren: Ryan (Kalyn) Baumgartner of Oswego, IL, Liza (Dave) Schramm of Naperville, IL, Tyler Gilligan of Bolingbrook, IL, Hope (Jake) Breitbach of North Liberty, IA, Zachary Gilligan of Chicago, IL, Haley (Scott) Christopherson of Ft. Worth, TX, Hannah Springer of Prosper, TX, and Hunter Springer of Prosper, TX; as well as ten great-grandchildren; Riley, Kamryn, Teagan, Parker, Piper, Noah, Eli, Tenley, Micah, and Bennett.

A Visitation will be held Saturday June 27, 10:00AM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1310 Shepherd Drive, Naperville, IL. A Celebration of Life will follow June 27, 11:00AM in the chapel at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

In lieu of flowers, or for those who would like to leave a lasting tribute to Neil's Memory, donations may be directed to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Naperville.

“Well done good and faithful servant.” Matthew 25:23