



# Neil H. Van Ginhoven

May 15, 1942 - September 12, 2020

## Neil H. Van Ginhoven Obituary

After spending Labor Day weekend surrounded by close family at his favorite retreat, Water Island, lifetime Patchogue resident, Neil H. Van Ginhoven, 78, passed peacefully on September 12th, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. Neil is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Irene, four children: Sheri Hone (David), Debra Remien (Jason), Wendy Moore (Daniel), and Cornelius Van Ginhoven (fiance Kathleen) along with his beloved eight grandchildren, sister Susan Bishop (Hewlett), Aunt Floss Frabizio and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A first generation American, Neil began working with his father and grandfather in the flower business at a young age, splitting bulbs grown in the family's tulip and daffodil fields in East Patchogue. From these roots, he grew the business to become one of the primary wholesalers of fresh flowers on Long Island. He is perhaps best known as the owner and proprietor of Patchogue Floral Fantasyland & H.N. VanTasia, which served the community for over 50 years. After closing the store in 2006, Neil always cherished reminiscing with friends, former employees, and customers while running about in his beloved hometown.

Neil's great passion in life was fishing. Whether it was deep-sea fishing off Montauk or Orient Point, fluke fishing at Fire Island Inlet, snagging a snook or sailfish from the coast of Stuart, Florida, hauling in a 100+ pound halibut in Alaska, or simply chumming for snappers off the "Big Dock", Neil found true joy on the water and always had a great story of a fish on the line.

Known to his family as "Papa Corn", Neil delighted in being a grandfather and spent countless hours sharing his love of the Great South Bay with his grandchildren: Jared, Justin, Emma, Conner, Gavin, Nathan, Madeline and William. He shared his passions of fishing, crabbing, and clamming and taught them to respect the wind and the tide. Most importantly, they learned from him how to be of selfless service to others and to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Neil taught family and friends many timeless lessons through his actions and the way he lived each day, positively impacting innumerable lives with his generosity, empathy and open mindedness. The values of “family first” and compassion for others were the guiding principles of his life. His sparkling blue eyes, gentle smile and casual wave will be truly missed, and his legacy will have a lasting ripple effect, impacting generations to come.

Visitation will be at Robertaccio Funeral Home in Patchogue on Thursday, 9/17 from 6-9 p.m. and Friday 9/18 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Prayer and a procession will be held Saturday 9/19 at 10:30 a.m. from Robertaccio’s Funeral Home to Cedar Grove Cemetery. Donations may be made to Mount Sinai Hospital by indicating “Liver Cancer Research” at [giving.mountsinai.org/donate](http://giving.mountsinai.org/donate) or to Guiding Eyes for the Blind at [donate.guidingeyes.org](http://donate.guidingeyes.org) in memory of Neil Van Ginhoven. Memories and condolences may also be shared on [RobertaccioFuneralHome.com](http://RobertaccioFuneralHome.com).

# Cemetery

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## Cedar Grove Cemetery

80 Jennings Avenue  
Patchogue, NY, 11772

# Events

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**SEP 17** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 09:00PM  
Robertaccio Funeral Home - Patchogue  
85 Medford Avenue, Patchogue, NY, US, 11772

**SEP 18** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM  
Robertaccio Funeral Home - Patchogue  
85 Medford Avenue, Patchogue, NY, US, 11772

**SEP 18** **Visitation** 07:00PM - 09:00PM  
Robertaccio Funeral Home - Patchogue  
85 Medford Avenue, Patchogue, NY, US, 11772

**SEP 19** **Religious Service** 10:30AM  
Robertaccio Funeral Home - Patchogue  
85 Medford Avenue, Patchogue, NY, US, 11772

# Comments

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 19, 2020 at 04:21 PM

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“ Dear Irene and family. We are so very sorry to hear of Neal's passing. He was always the kindest, most caring and generous friend to all. We all remember him with great fondness in community, business, and scouting activities. Sent with sincere condolences from Ursula and Bill Closson and family

ursula closson - September 19, 2020 at 02:31 PM

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“ We want to share with the family our deepest sympathies on the passing of our Friend Neil!!! What a terrific guy he was. I remember first meeting Neil when I was hired as a designer at Patchogue Floral Fantasyland, Neil was always so kind and so upbeat!!!! Marcel got to know Neil through his friendship with Margie Gubbins and developed the greatest respect for him. He loved life and made everyone around him feel special. A truly awesome soul!!!! All our thoughts and prayers to Neil's family and friends.

Love, John Hannon and Marcel Paul

John Hannon - September 18, 2020 at 01:33 PM

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“ Thinking of all of you during this difficult time... Mr. VanGinhoven was always quick with a smile and a kind word. Bill enjoyed chatting with him about fishing and we all loved the times that we were able to spend on Water Island. Through the years, it was one of the most anticipated times of the summer. Thank you for those memories! I know you are in a better place, looking down on your beautiful family and sending them hugs. You will be dearly missed. With love and sincerity, Jeanmarie Rall

Jeanmarie Rall - September 18, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Neil’s passing. He was always so nice. Our condolences to the entire Van Ginhoven family. Barbara and Bob Searles

**Barbara Searles** - September 17, 2020 at 09:23 PM

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“ Irene and family, I have recorded an amateur video that I have been moved to make eulogizing Neil. It is something different for me, but wanted to express my deep loss regarding Neil's passing. I'm now in the process of transferring it to a medium in order to send it to you ASAP. Our prayers are with you, family and friends. All my love, your brother and Uncle Rich.

**Richard Ferris** - September 17, 2020 at 07:24 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 17, 2020 at 01:30 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 17, 2020 at 12:59 PM

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 17, 2020 at 11:29 AM

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“ A gentle kind soul. Always a smile for everyone. He was one of the good guys. Prayers and hugs to Irene and family. We all are better having known Neil.



Joan P. Olson - September 17, 2020 at 01:26 AM

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“ I will always remember the generosity both Neil and Irene had when they took me with the family on the boat to Fire Island when Seri and I were kids. I was always welcome to Fantasyland to learn and have fun with both he and grandpa V. Always a gentlemen with a beautiful spirit. Love to the whole family.

Dana (Van Kleef) Hanlon



Dana (Van Kleef) Hanlon - September 16, 2020 at 07:06 PM

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“ From Cornelius' friends at Comcast purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



From Cornelius' friends at Comcast - September 16, 2020 at 05:40 PM

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“ So sorry to hear about Uncle Neil's passing. I can remember when he taught me how to water ski over at Fire Island. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love Clint Ferris

Clint Ferris - September 16, 2020 at 05:33 PM

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“ 202 files added to the album LifeTributes



Robertaccio Funeral Home, Inc. - September 16, 2020 at 03:50 PM

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“ My memory of Neil is one I won't forget, you can't imagine a better boss. His smile and encouragement only made you work better and harder for this amazing man and his family. Patchogue Floral was my 2nd home before I finally gave up and went in to apply for a job, and it was 15 years for me there until I had to move away from LI. I loved Neil ,and his family and my heart is breaking for his loved ones but his spirit will live on and on in those grandchildren! My sincere condolences to his beautiful wife and family, may GOD give you strength through love and wonderful memories. With Love, Marilyn Piggott

Marilyn Piggott - September 16, 2020 at 01:23 PM

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“ From the Cassidy family: We all have happy and fun cherished memories of sharing Thanksgiving, Easter and Christmas Eve at Nana Sugar and Papa Hans house with. Uncle Neil As he always made us feel special With his nicknames and big caring smile and taught us all to enjoy the bay when fishing for blowfish. He will always be in our hearts



Linda (Cassidy) Scheibel - September 16, 2020 at 11:03 AM

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“ 35 files added to the album Dad



cckids2 - September 16, 2020 at 10:47 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about Neil's passing. My heart goes out to all of you especially Irene. Whenever I think of the VanGinhoven's it always puts a smile in my heart thank you to all of you for that. I remember Neil cleaning his freshly caught fish in the backyard at Grenville Ave he taught me a few tips

Karen Diamond - September 15, 2020 at 09:00 PM

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“ Lynne Ferris Gray lit a candle in memory of Neil H. Van Ginhoven



Lynne Ferris Gray - September 15, 2020 at 05:10 PM

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“ To all of the Van Ginhoven family, we have many memories of earlier days at the beach, clam digging, boating, laughing, and celebrating. Our hearts go out to you all in regards to your loss. Love, Lynne (Ferris) and Bill Gray.



Lynne Ferris Gray - September 15, 2020 at 05:10 PM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 15, 2020 at 03:47 PM

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“ I was so sorry to hear about Neil's passing. I will always remember his huge smile and warm greetings and the unique nickname he coined for me.. "Lissa Lou". He will be missed. Sending sympathy and warm wishes to the Van Ginhoven family.  
With Love,  
Melissa Ackerman

Melissa Ackerman - September 15, 2020 at 02:28 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 15, 2020 at 12:23 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 15, 2020 at 11:07 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



September 15, 2020 at 05:31 AM

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“ Love, The Families of Parsons Walk & Old Parish purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Neil H. Van Ginhoven.



Love, The Families of Parsons Walk & Old Parish - September 14, 2020 at 10:02 PM

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“ Adrienne Roddini lit a candle in memory of Neil H. Van Ginhoven



**Adrienne Roddini** - September 14, 2020 at 05:46 PM