



## Lester K. Newell

May 12, 1946 - December 23, 2021

Major Lester K. Newell, United States Marine Corps (Retired), 75, passed peacefully on December 23, 2021, at Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, VA surrounded by family.

Les was born May 12, 1946, in Tyler, Minnesota to the late Kenneth and Vyonne (Nomeland) Newell. Les grew up on a working farm where he learned the values that he carried with him throughout life including work ethic, sacrifice, commitment and love of God.

Les enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1965 and retired in 1988. During his 23-year military career, he served two tours in Vietnam and was afforded the opportunity to obtain a degree from the University of Maryland in Computer Science. Les was awarded a Purple Heart in 1966. Les was a “Marine Mustang”, working his way through the enlisted ranks and becoming an officer in 1973. Following his military career, Les worked in leadership roles in the private sector as well as the public sector at TSA and NASA where he served as Headquarters Chief Information Officer. Les retired from NASA in December 2018. After retirement, Les purchased a business with his son, Brian, serving as the President of Pegasus Support Services, LLC.

Les lived a “life well lived”. He was loved by all that met him, people and animals alike. His favorite activities included long walks, time with his wife and

kids, and spending time with his beloved grandchildren. Les loved “lake life” at Lake Anna, VA where he spent much time with family and friends. Les also enjoyed spending time supporting veterans and speaking at veterans’ events around the country. Additionally, he was actively engaged in humanitarian efforts in South Vietnam. He supported Project RENEW Vietnam which is focused on restoring the environment and neutralizing the effects of the Vietnam War, with finding unexploded ordnance.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; three children, Brian, Brent (Kathy), and Leslie (Brandon); 8 grandchildren; and two brothers, Jeff (Joan) and Bill (Joyce) and many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, from 6-8:00PM at Pierce Funeral Home (9609 Center St. Manassas, VA 20110). A memorial service will also be held at The Marine Corps Museum Chapel (18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Triangle, VA 22172) on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 10:00AM. Interment with full military honors will follow at Quantico National Cemetery at 11:30AM. In lieu of flowers the family requests a donation in Les’ name to one of the two charities that Les supported. Project RENEW Vietnam (<https://renewvn.org/>) or Dale K. Graham Veterans Foundation (<https://dalekgrahamveteransfoundation.org>) which supports Military Veterans and their families.

# Cemetery Details

## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Road  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Marine Corp Museum Chapel  
18900 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ One great man, to have as a brother n law ,thank you !🇺🇸🇺🇸🙏❤️

tom leonette - January 07, 2022 at 08:46 PM

CA

“ I remerber once i was in Raleigh visiting friends, Les and Martha stopped by and all 5 of us went out to eat. When we were finished eating, Les paid for ny lunch and the tip. Thank you Les and. MARTHA.HE was a GOoD man..

Carolyn - January 05, 2022 at 12:45 PM

GT

“ Greg Mellors & C&I Team sent a virtual gift in memory of Lester K. Newell



Greg Mellors & C&I Team - January 04, 2022 at 10:41 AM

GT

“ Greg Mellors & C&I Team( lit a candle in memory of Lester K. Newell



Greg Mellors & C&I Team( - January 04, 2022 at 10:40 AM

WA

“ I met Les Newell at a gathering of Marines as a Celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday on November 10, 1993 in Washington D.C. I came to know Les to be one of the most honorable men I have known and a man who loved his family and his God with all his heart. He epitomized the Marine Moto "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful). It was the way he lived and never in question to anyone who knew him. He was a credit to his country, to the United States Marine Corps and to his family. His greeting to me every time we met was "Semper Fi Devil Dog" Well, today, rest in peace Devil Dog, you're home. You will be greatly missed.

Walt - January 03, 2022 at 12:30 PM

HE

“ Sending prayers during these saddest of times to all of the family. May his memory be a blessing. With deepest sympathy and love,  
Heidi



heidicherry - January 02, 2022 at 10:54 PM

MM

“ The respect and love that Les and Martie shared was truly a unique love story. Les was a hero and a protector, not only in the military but to his family and to those who knew him. We are deeply saddened by his passing.  
Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with his family.  
Margaret and Salvatore Forelli

Margaret Marciano-Forelli - January 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM

LL

“ When Les married Martha, he accepted us all as family. I marveled at the way he advised our sons when they were considering jobs in the area. He was one of us at our daughters home for parties and anywhere we gathered. He and Martha lovingly acknowledged Tom with placement of a brick at Quantico. I appreciated his honest and kind conversations. We just didn't have his guidance and sweet smiles long enough. We appreciate how the family has embraced Martha. He was her true hero, and ours as well.

*Linda and Tom Leonette*

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**Linda Leonette** - January 01, 2022 at 03:52 PM

DT

“ A remembrance: I don't know if you have ever heard of the famous Les Newell Cowboy Gang of the 1950's. Sometime in early elementary after watching cowboy programs on television Les decided to organize his cowboy gang. At noon lunch break we would play cowboy. We were to bring our cap guns to school the next day. The principal put a quick stop to that and the gang never made it to Texas! He also was the poster boy for posture. I don't know how many times we heard "sit up straight like Lester".

*Our condolences and we hope this story brings a smile - the Class of 1964.*

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**Darrell R Thomsen** - January 01, 2022 at 09:33 AM

BR

“ *Hard to believe you are gone Dad, I know you are in a better place, pain free, walking your miles and protecting the gates of heaven! Know that I'll take care of the family and make you proud! Miss you Dad! I love you!*



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**Brian** - December 31, 2021 at 11:26 AM

JB

*Les was my best friend for many years and he will be missed. I'm so grateful I called him last fall to thank him for helping me establish my career. He believed in me and always encouraged me to do the best and be the best that i could be.  
May the family find peace in your memories.  
Jeanette Bennett*

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**Jeanette Bennett** - May 06, 2022 at 10:53 PM