



## Lt. Col. Michael Joseph Neyland

June 3, 1949 - September 4, 2025

### Celebrating a Life of Family, Service, and Legacy

Lt. Col. Michael Joseph Neyland (USAF, Ret.), beloved husband, dedicated father, cherished grandfather, and esteemed brother, has passed away, leaving behind a legacy woven with honor, devotion, and love.

Michael was born in Biloxi, Mississippi to Raymond and Laverne Neyland, the eldest of five children. After graduating from the University of Hawai'i with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, he was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force, continuing the tradition of military service started by his father who served in the Army Air Corps before transitioning to the Air Force. He continued his education by obtaining his Masters of Science in Public Administration from Troy State University. Through his service he met the woman who would become his wife, Mary O'Connell. They served together, traveling the world and eventually having children of their own, Michelle Marie and Michael Allen as well as Breyan Nicole from his previous marriage.

He retired as a Lt. Col after 22 years of distinguished service, eventually settling in Virginia after a career that took him and his family across the world. And, for fifty beautiful years he remained devoted to his spouse, Mary. Their enduring partnership stood as a testament to the strength of love and commitment. Together, the family they raised and the family their children went on to raise, remained the center of Michael's world.

As a loving grandfather, Michael's joy multiplied with the arrival of his grandchildren: Maddie Juliet Strickler, Jayden A. Ordaye, Maverick G. Ordaye, and Michael Altemus Neyland, each a unique reflection of his warmth and guidance.

Michael shared his journey with his siblings, David, Robert, Jeffrey, and Becky, whose bonds endured through life's triumphs and trials.

In a life marked by service and compassion, Lt. Col. Michael Joseph Neyland touched all who knew him, friends and family alike. His legacy lives on in the stories, traditions, and laughter of those he loved. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

He is survived by his daughter, Breyan, and his son, Michael, who carry forward the values and wisdom instilled in them. Though he mourned the loss of his daughter, Michelle, her memory remained ever close to his heart.

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Patricia Dickerson lit a candle in memory of  
Lt. Col. Michael Joseph Neyland* ”



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**Patricia Dickerson** - January 22 at 09:12 AM