



## Neal Colby Finch

July 26, 1920 - June 16, 2012

Mr. Neal Colby Finch, age 91, of Bolivar, passed away Saturday, June 16, 2012 at his home in Bolivar.

Mr. Finch was born on July 26, 1920 in Optima, OK the son of Thomas Edgar Finch and Fern (Reams) Finch.

Neal was united in marriage to Shirley Eileen Warner on May 20 1945 in Ottawa, KS and to this union Six Sons were born.

He was a United States Navy veteran also a veteran of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Neal worked for many years for the United States Government in Intelligence and with his work, Neal and Shirley lived in many places, including Colorado Springs, CO; Denver, CO; Phoenix, AZ; Kansas City, MO; Washington, D.C. Upon Neal's retirement, they moved to Bolivar 25 years ago.

One of Neal's passions was his Music. He was an accomplished Tenor Sax Player and in his early years was in and had his own Jazz Ensemble Groups. For the past 15 years in the month of October he had hosted a jazz concert at Southwest Baptist University known as the "Special Edition Jazz with Neal Finch presenting The Prime Time All-Stars" with many musicians from this

area, including Bolivar, Branson, Springfield and other outreaching areas of the music world. He had already laid the ground work for Special Edition Jazz XVI this October.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son Scott Finch and his wife Shirley Finch.

Surviving are Five sons, Jack W. Finch and wife Grace of Appleton, WI; Jeffrey T. Finch and wife Marilyn of Kill Devils Hills, NC; Christopher D. Finch and wife Ellen of Stafford, VA; Patrick N. Finch of Stafford, VA; and Mark Finch of Lexington, KY. Also a daughter-in-law Crystal Finch of Amissville, VA and sister-in-law Helen Warner of Bolivar, MO. His brother, Gene Finch and wife Norma of Albuquerque, NM and his niece, Susan Finch of Albuquerque, NM.

12 Grandchildren and 7 Great Grandchildren.

No visitation will be held.

No funeral services will be held.

A Private inturment will be at Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar, Missouri at a later date. Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar, Missouri.

Friends and family may sign the guestbook or leave private condolences at [www.butlerfuneralhome.com](http://www.butlerfuneralhome.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Neal Colby Finch*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Neal Colby Finch*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Neal and Shirley were like my second set of parents while I was in college, I was saddened to hear of his passing. My deepest condolences to his family. I will never forget the dinners and games of UNO. Thanks for the memories.*

**Gary Jones** - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace, Neal, and blow that tenor sax for us in the next world. I'll be waiting to hear it.*

**William J Smith** - July 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace, Neal. Your friendship and music will stay with me always.*

**William J Smith** - July 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Please accept our sympathy. Carolyn and Shirley were friends at CMHCF.*

**Dr. John E. and Carolyn Russell** - June 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ We were so sorry to hear about Neal. He was a nice man, always full of stories, always fun to talk to. We will keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Huse Family** - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Neil and Shirley were good friends, and I will miss them both. It was a great pleasure to perform with Neil and the "All Stars" many, many times, and I was always happy to hear his distinctive voice when he would call, just to say hello and to ask about how my family was doing. Goodbye Neil . .

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**Sid Norris** - June 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Mr. Finch was a very nice man I always enjoyed talking to him.

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**elizabeth harris** - June 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ We send our thoughts and prayers from Anchorage, Alaska to the family. We'll miss the great music tapes that would come every October!

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**Vicki and Steve Portwood** - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SJ

*“ What a guy!Remember 1st time I met him when I worked at Cardiac Rehab in Bolivar.He wanted to know where I was brought up.I told him the suburbs of Halfway.That was it,we were friends.How great to meet someone who had such a love for his wife and jazz.I use to look forward to him coming in to Cardiac Rehab. How many people do you know that still had a swagger when the walked.. at his age. Blessed to have met him..blessed to have thought of him as my friend. Saxophones are playing in heaven and he & Shirley are dancing.For his family and friends..ya have to hear his music in your head and smile. Love love Love*

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**Suzi (Halfway) Johnson** - June 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

*“ Twice a week Neal would come to brighten our day at CMH. He was loved and will be sorely missed. He always had a smile and a joke. He made you feel important to his day and he was important to mine!*

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**Debbie McGinnis** - June 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

*“ so sorry for your loss...he was such a wonderful neighbor to my mother and will be missed dearly. our loss is heaven's gain. may his music continue to live on.*

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**Jeff & Terri Park & family** - June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GP

*“ I am so sorry to hear about Neal. He was such a dear neighbor to me and i will miss him terribly. He was a dear friend and i will miss our chats together. May God bless you all.*

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**Gayla Painter** - June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Met Neal on the tennis courts when Bolivar Tennis Association met every Thursday night. That was in the early 1990's.  
What a character. Lost track of him after BTA disbanded.  
Then in 2003 my wife and I purchased Simon B's Eatery from the Linders. Bill indicated to me he only gave the privilege of a reserved table to a guy named Finch. I said. "Neal Finch?" and that began the new adventures of Neal and Shirley.  
From his "secretive" gov't job to his Canadian flying days, never was there a dull story to be told.  
We were fortunate to serve the "Not Ready for Prime Time Players" every October. That allowed us to meet several very special artists and participate the the yearly SBU event.  
Happy to say I was able to have a great conversation with him a little over a month ago.  
A true American through and through. He will be missed by many.

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**Jackie Ray** - June 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM