

# O'Bannion, William 'Neal' | 1949-2017

*Published Wednesday, January 18, 2017*



William O'Bannion

William "Neal" O'Bannion, 67, died Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017.

Service was Jan. 14 at Jones Family Funeral Home in Bridgeport with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Neal was born Jan. 21, 1949, in Waxahachie to Conise Moses and William Nathaniel O'Bannion. The family later moved to Dallas, where he studied the French horn at Southern Methodist University while attending W.W. Samuel High School.

From a young age, Neal had a great love for music and was inspired by his father to master the French horn. Neal earned a full scholarship and received a Bachelor of Music from the Juilliard School in New York in 1971. Upon graduation, Neal pursued a career as a professional musician. After working in both classical and contemporary fields, he returned to Dallas, where he worked as a musician, a music teacher and in the printing business.

Neal was a car enthusiast and member of the Studebaker club for several years, later focusing on restoration of Volkswagens and custom dune buggies. He founded and organized the Texas Manx Club and contributed as an active member, website designer and graphic artist. Neal also enjoyed his role as a horn player in the Metropolitan Winds group, which afforded him the opportunity to perform locally at Bass Hall and the Myerson. He particularly enjoyed performing the compositions of John Williams.

In his later years, Neal dedicated his time to creative writing and musical composition. Neal will be remembered for his accomplishments as a gifted teacher, musician, inventor, graphic artist, author and composer. He will be remembered even more often as a loving father, grandfather, husband, brother and friend.

Neal is survived by his wife, Linda Elsom Lambert; brother David Lowell O'Bannion; children Mindi Mae O'Bannion and William Neale Aaron O'Bannion; stepchildren Chanci Nicks, Mark Lambert and Michael Lambert; and 10 grandchildren.