



## Fred Naxera III

April 22, 1925 - September 3, 2018

Mr. Fred Naxera III, a lifelong resident of Louisiana, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 3, 2018, at Mother of Good Counsel Home in St. Louis where he had resided since March of this year.

Mr. Naxera was born in Louisiana on April 22, 1925, to loving parents, Fred Naxera Jr. and Mary Naxera (Zezula). His parents and grandparents left a deep imprint on Fred who was profoundly proud of his Bohemian ancestry and strived throughout his life to honor their hard work and courage.

Fred enjoyed a vigorous and diverse life. In his earlier years, Fred relished adventures with his friends such as frog-hunting, playing cards and dancing. (The man could dance!) In high school, he was active in football, basketball, track and student government. A dutiful and popular young man, he was elected President of the student body during the challenging years of World War II.

He graduated from Louisiana High School in 1943. Prior to graduation he enlisted in the US Navy at age seventeen like many others of “the Greatest Generation.” He enrolled in the V-5 Mid-Shipman’s training program of the Naval Air Corp and later was shifted into the V-12 program—the same accelerated program attended by the late President John F Kennedy. His training included concentrated studies at Northwest Missouri State College, Princeton University and Northwestern University. He received his commission at Northwestern and earned the rank of Lieutenant JG. He then served on the USS Solomon Aircraft carrier until the end of the war and continued serving

his country as a member of the US Navy Reserves for many years.

On May 13, 1950, he married Fern Imogene Griffith, making him “the happiest man alive.” They settled in rural Louisiana and together ran a business that included grain crops, cattle and swine. Though Mr. Naxera had strongly considered making the Navy his career, he grew to love farming and all it entails. Mr. Naxera worked hard and was a distinguished third generation farmer in Pike County. He built and operated the first hog confinement system in the county and his successful stewardship of his land and farming efforts earned the honor of Missouri Farm Family of the Year in the early seventies. Mr. Naxera was a man of deep yet simple faith and a life-long member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Louisiana. He was also actively involved in the community, as President of rural BONCL elementary school for over 15 years; the oldest and longest serving member of Louisiana BPOE 0791 (seventy-five years); and member of the Louisiana VFW and the Louisiana American Legion Post 370, where he recently earned a cherished seventy-year member certificate.

Most of all, Fred enjoyed the devotion of his wife and time spent with his children and friends. A reluctant traveler, preferring time spent on his own land, he was persuaded to and grew to enjoy wonderful trips with his wife and children throughout the US and several memorable trips to Europe. He loved drives throughout Pike County and the surrounding communities, always appreciating the hard work and efforts of his fellow farmers. Other interests included keeping up on latest in US markets, college football and basketball. In recent years he looked forward to keeping up with the activities of his children, grand-children, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Naxera is survived by four children, eight grand-children and two great-grandchildren. They include daughters Carolyn Patrice “Pat” Vallar (Dr. Mike) of Louisiana, Sally Naxera Benson of Naperville, IL, Nancy Zezula Naxera of Louisville, KY, his son, Fred Naxera IV of Louisiana; his grandchildren; Carrie Vallar Teeter (Dr. Miriah), Dr. Kelly Jean Vallar, Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Benson, Curtis Michael Benson, Matthew Scott Benson, Mackey Reese Middleton,

Jacob Price Middleton and Molly Renae Naxera , great-grandchildren; Gavin Michael and Weston Vallar Teeter, brother-in-law TV Elder Sr, nieces and nephews Tim Vern Elder Jr, Rita Jo Elder Branstetter, Robert Fred Elder, Thomas and Ed Backer, Lisa Griffith Kent and Joseph Griffith.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters Anna Naxera Elder and Mary Naxera Backer, brothers-in-law Buckner Backer and Myron Griffith, niece Mary Ann Elder Fox and son-in-law Gary Peter Benson.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 2:00pm Friday, September 14, 2018, at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Louisiana, MO with Fr. William Korte and Fr. Lou Dorn officiating. Interment will follow at the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 10:00am until 1:30pm on Friday, September 14, 2018 at the Collier Funeral Home, in Louisiana, MO Serving as active pallbearers will be Curt Benson, Matt Benson, Mackey Middleton, J.P. Middleton, Charlie Chapuis, and Dick Rule. Honorary pallbearers will be Jim Pitzer, Jim Grimm, John Carroll, Sam Kilby, Charlie Pratt, Tim Ray, Carl Littrell, Otto Maly, and Danny LaRue.

In lieu of flowers it is requested that donations be made to St. Joseph's Church, the Elks Club, or your charity of choice. The family would like to thank Mother of Good Counsel Home nuns and staff for their loving care.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Louisiana, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 14. 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Collier Funeral Homes, Inc.  
117 Barnard Dr  
Louisiana, MO 63353  
(573) 754-4800  
collierfuneral@att.net

## Funeral Mass

SEP 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
508 N. 3rd St.  
Louisiana, MO

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fred Naxera III*

November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ *Fred Naxera III*

November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ *Deb Skirvin lit a candle in memory of Fred Naxera III*



**Deb Skirvin** - September 14, 2018 at 10:42 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Fred Naxera III.*



September 13, 2018 at 10:14 PM

JA

“ I am truly sorry to see this! I'm pretty sure I can recall about 4 generations all of whom were local treasures in so many ways. From my early grade school years on up through high school and even his and Imogene's wedding when I was eleven. My Grandmother Taliaferro was a Confirmation Sponsor for his sisters way back before I was born...so much wonderful history! A family to be honored & truly proud of!

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**Judy Allwood** - September 12, 2018 at 07:15 PM

JM

“ Pat, Sally, Nancy and Fred:  
So very sorry to learn of Fred's passing. I remember him fondly with his big, wonderful smile and kind greeting—often with a little teasing sprinkled in. “Big Fred” as I called him was truly a blessing to family, friends and the BONCL community! I also witnessed first-hand what a wonderful son-in-law he was when I moved across the street from Miss Leona in her later years. I know he will be deeply missed. He was truly a gentleman in every sense and I feel privileged to have known and shared a community with him.  
With Sincere Sympathy,  
Janet Luck Miller

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**Janet Luck Miller** - September 12, 2018 at 04:02 PM

HA

“ So very sorry for your families loss. Also a loss for his friends. Henry always enjoyed his company. Of course Mom and Dad also liked being around him and joking with him. You were so lucky to have him for so long.

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**henry and Lana Aantacruz** - September 12, 2018 at 02:59 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Fred Naxera III.*



September 12, 2018 at 02:46 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fred Naxera III.*



September 11, 2018 at 05:12 PM



“ *Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fred Naxera III.*



September 11, 2018 at 03:56 PM



“ *From all of us at MK Systems. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Fred Naxera III.*



**From all of us at MK Systems.** - September 11, 2018 at 01:00 PM

MV

“ We are very sorry for your loss. We have fond memories of our times with Fred. We were Always tickled by how much enjoyment he got from watching the girls play basketball. He did a lot of special things for the girls and we really appreciated that. So sorry that we can't be there but we are sending our thoughts and prayers to everyone.

*Mark and Michele Verticchio*

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**Mark and Michele Verticchio** - September 09, 2018 at 10:48 AM

JJ

“ Such wonderful memories of the farm on Rte D. Fred always had a welcoming smile for anyone gracing his doorstep. Great farmer and passionate Notre Dame fan. I was privileged to have known him!

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**John Middleton, Jr** - September 08, 2018 at 10:05 AM



“ So very sorry for your loss. May your many great memories help you through this difficult time.

*Ginny Wood*

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**Ginny Wood** - September 07, 2018 at 11:36 PM

JA

“ So terribly sorry for your loss! Such a wonderful family that has been such a community treasure for a century or so! Fred really enjoyed teasing me when I was growing up during Church activities and events especially and I was usually gullible enough to always fall for his tales! I know he and Imogene will have some catching up to do!

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**judy allwood** - September 07, 2018 at 09:34 PM

JE

“ Janet Elliott lit a candle in memory of Fred Naxera III



Janet Elliott - September 07, 2018 at 12:36 PM

JE

I'm so sorry for your loss. Fred was a wonderful gentleman. I enjoyed his stories.

Janet Elliott - September 07, 2018 at 12:39 PM

JF

“ Jerry Smith and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Fred Naxera III.



Jerry Smith and Family - September 07, 2018 at 10:57 AM

Tammi  
Ries-  
McPike

“ Fred was an absolutely. A wonderful gentleman. Big hugs an prayers for comfort!! Will be missed by many 🥹❤️



Tammi Ries-McPike - September 07, 2018 at 07:30 AM

DD

“ Sympathies to Fred’s family. He truly was a neat man to know. May the Memories of him comfort and give you strength during this time.

RIP Fred! ☩☩☩



Delores Davis - September 06, 2018 at 10:00 PM

CO

“ CINDY POYSER OSBORNE lit a candle in memory of Fred Naxera III



CINDY POYSER OSBORNE - September 06, 2018 at 06:25 PM

DC

“ I want to extend my sympathy to Fred's family and friends. He was an interesting person and will be missed.

D. Randall Cone, Louisiana, MO

D. Randall Cone - September 06, 2018 at 04:52 PM

RC

So sorry Naxera family, we was a great man and father.

RICHARD d Cottrell - September 06, 2018 at 06:34 PM

CS

My deep sympathy Pat, Sally, Nancy and Freddy. I am pretty sure it was a hog provided by Naxera Farms that stands out in my memory as the very best whole hog roast I've ever had. The kraut stuffed inside was the crowning touch. I'm glad I had the chance to know your parents. All of you and yours are in my thoughts and prayers. P.S. Freddie, how is your math?

Carolyn Swope - September 07, 2018 at 10:30 AM