



In Remembrance

Neil Shafer 1933-2023



The SPMC and numismatics as a whole have lost a great stalwart, collector, author and all-around good guy. Neil Shafer passed away on August 25, 2023 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife of 59 years and one daughter and two sons, one Joel who was often seen with this father at paper money shows. A collector who concentrated on world banknotes, he was the author of many books, periodicals and articles. A member of many numismatic related clubs, he often gave lectures at their annual meetings.

Neil was member #687 and life member #30 of the SPMC. He was awarded the Award of Merit in 1968 and 1985 and the Nathan Gold award in 1967. Finally, he became a member of the SPMC Hall-of-Fame in 2018.

Neil was inducted into two other Halls-of-Fame as well—The IBNS and the ANA in 2008.

A 50-year member of the ANA he received an Award of Merit in 1990, a President's Award in 1996 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

For his writing, Neil received the Numismatic Literary Guild's Clemmy Award in 2004.

Neil played the viola and was a member of the Air Force Symphony in Washington D. C.

SPMC governors and authors remember Neil

President Vandevender says "As a research enthusiast, author, and SPMC Hall of Fame member, Neil was a real asset to our numismatic community and will be greatly missed. I wish to express my condolences to the Shafer family."

Vice President/Secretary Robert Calderman says "Neil was always very kind to me and a pleasure to talk to! His knowledge was incredible."

Past President Shawn Hewitt says "In June 2018, as SPMC president, I had the pleasure of presenting the SPMC Hall of Fame award to Neil. The first paper money book I ever bought was the green-covered Modern United States Currency authored by Neil, in 1974 when I was ten years old. I brought this book to the award ceremony and had Neil autograph it for me. It was one of my favorite moments as president."

Governor Pierre Fricke says "Neil was the consummate paper money collector and researcher. His dedication to the hobby manifested itself in his numerous publications and his dedication to the Society of Paper Money Collectors. I enjoyed many conversations with Neil on a wide range of topics and learned something in every interaction. We miss him."

Columnist Joe Boling says "I have known Neil for decades. He has been a perennial participant in MPCFest, three times (and then retired from competition) national champion in military numismatic trivia, and holder of most if not all of Fest's other achievement and service awards. Over the years he contributed substantially to my collection of counterfeit paper (particularly in 19th century Argentina and Spanish Civil War fantasies). His collection of short snorters is probably unsurpassed - but will be hard to market except for the celebrity-signed pieces."

Long time members, governor, exhibitors John and Nancy Wilson say "With Neil Shafer's passing we have lost one of the greatest numismatists who ever lived. For most of his life he has advanced our hobby in many ways, especially in World Currency and Depression & Panic Scrip. He will be missed by his thousands of friends around the world. We are fortunate that his son Joel will carry on his great achievements."