New Jersey News

Giamarese Farm and Orchard Received the NJ Agricultural Society's Gold Medallion Award 2024

The Gold Medallion, the NJ Agricultural Society's highest honor, is presented to individuals who have dedicated their lives to New Jersey agriculture, making significant contributions to the industry. Recipients include farmers, agribusiness members, and career employees who have provided leadership in various statewide agricultural organizations, created advanced marketing plans or business management tools, or otherwise taken extraordinary steps to advance the industry.

Jim Giamarese and his wife, Sue, currently farm about 35 acres in East Brunswick. It all began after the Depression back in 1941 with his great grandfather who immigrated from Italy. He farmed in what was known as Springfield, Long Island where he would load up his truck with produce, travel across the Brooklyn Bridge to the city to sell wholesale. Jim's grandfather joined him and they worked together until the farming business eventually moved to New Jersey.

The farm consisted mainly of grain and hay. Jim grew up around his family and, over time, learned the farming business. As the agricultural industry evolved, so too did Giamarese Farm led by his innovation and instincts to focus on fruits and vegetables while also bringing customers onto his farm to pick their own. In fact, Jim claims to be the first farmer in the area to develop a "you pick" pumpkin patch. Not only is he passionate about his harvest but he also loves tractors, trucks, and motorcycles - repairing, restoring, and rebuilding them for utility and pleasure.

Jim and Sue Giamarese, owners of Giamarese Farms

For a video of the farm operation and more information see https://www.njagsociety.org/news

C. Evans Neale

C. Evans Neale age 80, of Richwood passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024 in Punta Gorda, FL. Born in Woodbury to the late Charles Walter Neale and Esther (nee Elkins), he graduated from Glassboro High School 1962. After high school, he continued to work with his father on their fruit farm raising peaches, apples, vegetables for farm market and making cider. In 2004, he received the "Outstanding Fruit Growers Award" for Outstanding Management and Leadership in the fruit industry from the NJ State Horticultural Society. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the GC Board of Agriculture in recognition of unselfish and outstanding service to better agriculture in Gloucester County. Evans was a founding member of Eastern ProPak and worked there after leaving the farm. He was a member of Jersey Fruit Co-op as an Operations Associate. Evans was a member of the Harrison Twp. Historical Society, Richwood Academy Association (he went to kindergarten there), NJ Horticultural Society, Fruit Committee on Gloucester Co. Board of Agriculture, NJ Farm Bureau, New American Farm Bureau, NJ Peach Council, NJ Peach Promotion Council, Jersey Fruit Marketing Co-op & Board, and Vineland Produce Cooperative.

He is survived by his wife, Faith Neale (nee Fagundus); children, David Andrew Neale & his wife Ariane Ackley, Daniel Alan Neale & his wife Jennie Yeow and their daughter Natoma Zell Neale-Yeow, David E. Siebert & his wife Melissa Zarreke Siebert, Kathryn Siebert Holdeman & her husband Seth F. Holdeman, and their children Samuel F. Holdeman, Julianna G. Holdeman, and William S. Holdeman, and Mark D. Siebert & his wife Jennifer Gotti Siebert, and their daughter Norah Mae Siebert. Evans was predeceased by his sister, Kathleen Neale Leslie.

As an expression of sympathy, contributions can be made to Richwood United Methodist Church, PO Box 7, Richwood, NJ 08074 or Harrison Township Historical Society marked "Richwood Academy Maintenance", PO Box 4, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 or visit www.harrisonhistorical.com to donate online. Memories and condolences can be shared at www.smithfhmantua.com.

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