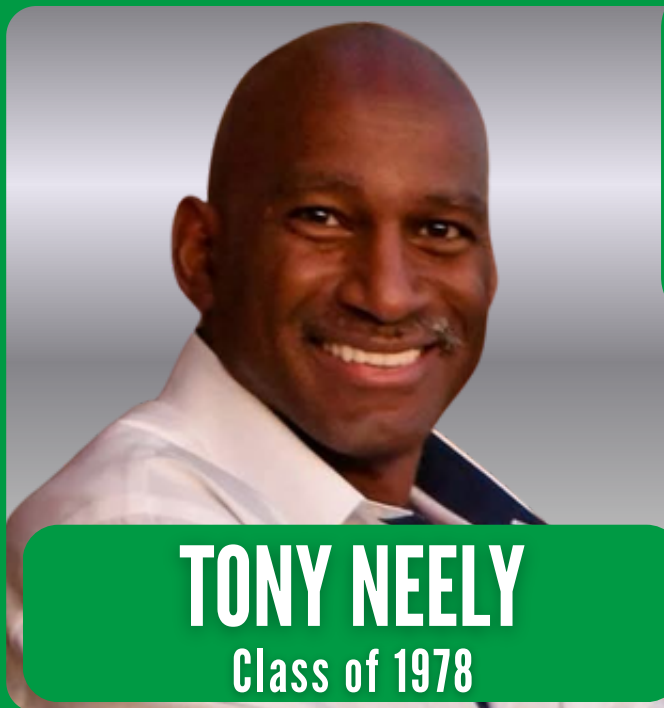




TONY NEELY
Class of 1978

2025 Hall of Fame INDUCTEE

A standout athlete from the start, Tony earned three varsity letters in both football and basketball during high school. His talent drew recruitment from over 50 major football programs and 10 basketball teams nationwide. After narrowing his choices to six powerhouse schools, he ultimately committed to the University of Arizona, where his legend began.

At Arizona, Tony was a four-year letterman and a defensive force to be reckoned with. In 1979, he helped lead the Wildcats to the Fiesta Bowl against the University of Pittsburgh. In his senior year, Tony tied for the Pac-10 lead in interceptions and return yardage, earning him an invitation to the prestigious Senior Bowl.

In 1983, Tony's football dreams took another leap when he was selected in the territorial draft of the inaugural USFL season by the Arizona Wranglers where he showcased his athleticism and resilience on a national stage. After hanging up his cleats, Tony shifted his focus to protecting and serving his community. He became a police officer with the Dallas Police Department, where he dedicated 10 years of service before returning to Arizona.

Back in the Grand Canyon State, Tony launched a commercial cleaning company in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area and grew his business over six successful years. Then, in 2005, a college friend, who had purchased the Phoenix Suns NBA franchise, contacted Tony to join the organization as Assistant Director of Security, a role he held for 18 years overseeing high-level security operations for players, VIPs, and events. During this time, he also served as a police officer at Grand Canyon University. Most recently, Tony was appointed as Deputy Constable for Arizona's Maricopa County. His entrepreneurial spirit continues to thrive as he and his wife, Cheryl, co-founded a payment processing company that helps businesses maximize efficiency and profitability, ultimately empowering entrepreneurs and small businesses to achieve financial freedom.

Tony finds his greatest fulfillment in family. He and Cheryl are proud grandparents, deeply involved in raising their four grandchildren. They enjoy traveling together, spending time in Arizona's White Mountains and relaxing in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Mexico.

