



Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025



Scan to Visit



Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 9



Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025

Donald Peter Nelson, 87, of Paris, MI, passed away surrounded by his family on February 23, 2025, at Corewell Meijer Heart Center in Grand Rapids. He was born on November 6, 1937, in Barton Township, the son of Alfred and Thelma (Harter) Nelson.

Don was raised in Big Rapids and graduated from Big Rapids High School in 1956. On June 6, 1959, he married the love of his life, Betty Lenon, and together they built a beautiful life filled with love, family, and cherished traditions. Don worked at Wolverine WorldWide for 27 years, and later at Ferris State University as a Supervisor of the custodial department for almost 14 years before retiring.

A longtime and faithful member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Don's life was centered around his faith, family, and his deep appreciation for the great outdoors. He was an avid fisherman, enjoying everything from ice fishing to casting a line from his boat. He loved deer hunting, camping, riding his tractor, and cutting wood; any activity that allowed him to be outside. Don also found joy in snowmobiling, polka dancing, gardening, and birdwatching, always making sure the birds were well-fed.

A quiet and kind-hearted man, Don was deeply devoted to his family. He took great pride in attending his grandchildren's events and was always willing to lend a helping hand to his children. He was a hard worker, always active, and cherished the simple joys of life.

Don is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 66 years, Betty; their children, Michael (Tracy) Nelson, and Kristine Nelson; grandchildren, Erin Nelson (Andrew), Jamie (Matthew) Drew, Matthew Nelson, and Amber (Christopher) Johnson; and great-grandchildren, Noah Drew and Isabelle and Avery Johnson. He is also survived by his brother, Duane (Debbie) Nelson; his sister, Margaret Anderson; his in-laws, Gerry Curtis, Linda (Jim) Cooley, Larry (Mary Ann) Lenon, Dan Lenon, and Connie (Jan) Settlemyre; and many nieces and nephews.



Obituary

Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister and brother-in-law Joanne (Alfred) Titcombe; sister Wilma Harter; brothers-in-law, George Anderson and Ron Curtis; and sister-in-law, Jeanne Lenon.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids. Don's family will greet friends from 5-7 p.m., Friday, February 28, 2025, at the Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home in Big Rapids, and beginning at 10 a.m. at the church on Saturday. He will be laid to rest at Hungerford Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in Don's name may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church.






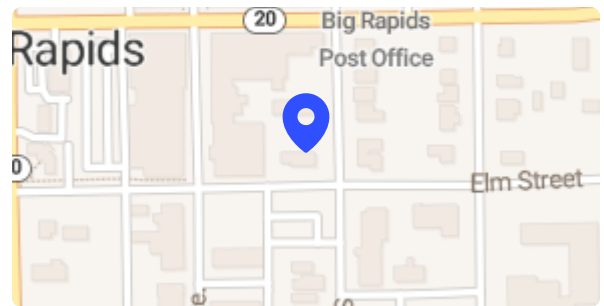
Events

Donald Peter Nelson




NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025

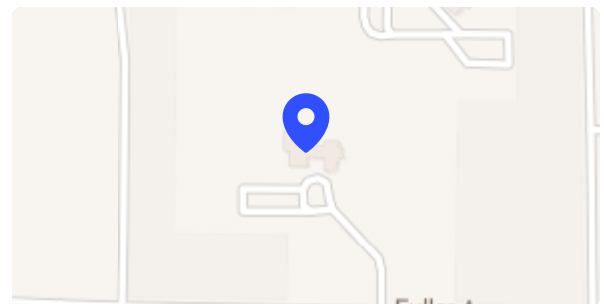
Visitation

-  **Friday**, February 28, 2025
-  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET
-  **Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home**
128 S. Warren Ave., Big Rapids MI 49307






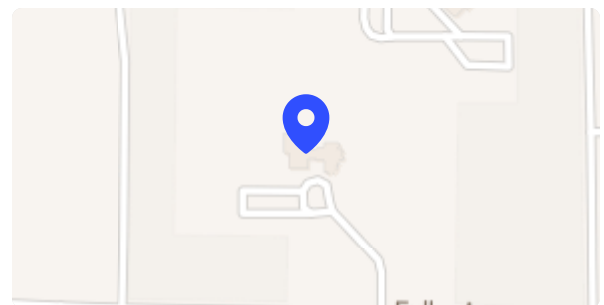
Visitation

-  **Saturday**, March 1, 2025
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
-  **Immanuel Lutheran Church**
726 Fuller Ave., Big Rapids MI 49307



Funeral Service

-  **Saturday**, March 1, 2025
-  11:00 AM ET
-  **Immanuel Lutheran Church**
726 Fuller Ave., Big Rapids MI 49307





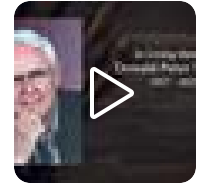
Tribute Wall

Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025



Janowicz Family Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



February 28 at 10:49 AM



Chuck Drake, For Fsuea posted:

Betty and Family, The Ferris State University Emeriti Association sends belated condolences for your loss of Don.

June 1 at 8:06 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Nelson family.



February 28 at 11:38 AM



David And Val Casterline posted:

Don was an amazing man and friend! His wide smile and the way he lived his life to the fullest will never be forgotten. He was fun and inspiring to be around. We will never forget all the great times we had together. He was a man of integrity and faith with a purpose for helping others in all he did. We will remember Don fondly and for his great humor and contagious laugh. He was fun to be around. We will miss him dearly but will always remember how he lived life to the fullest and positively touched those he came into contact with -- us included. Love, Dave and Val Casterline

February 28 at 4:55 AM



Dave, Matt, Brad & Amanda And Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Nelson family.



February 27 at 9:38 AM



Dave, Matt, Brad & Amanda And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.



February 27 at 9:38 AM



Tribute Wall

Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Nelson family.

February 27 at 7:00 AM



Paul And Mia Dreslinski sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Nelson family.

February 26 at 6:33 PM



Paul And Mia Dreslinski planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Donald.

February 26 at 6:33 PM



Char posted:

Oh so sorry Betty - such a beautiful family that I looked up to since I was so young. He was as handsome as you are beautiful (you who reminds me so much of Grandma Lenon. Now God must carry you thru but know so many of us love you Betty.....

February 26 at 6:26 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Nelson family.

February 25 at 3:52 PM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Nelson family.

February 24 at 9:44 PM





Tribute Wall

Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025



John Czarnecki posted:

Don was like a second Dad to me. His son Mike, my best friend, both took me under their wing to learn the love and respect of the outdoors especially deer hunting. Many times they invited me to stay the night, feed me and teach me. As a young college person whose parents were now on the east coast they gave me a home I did not have. I will always remember Dons humor and laugh. I still remember when I shot my first buck on Thanksgiving day on a deer drive how happy everyone was for me. As I attempted to field dress the buck his tail was in the way and I asked Don if I should cut it off. He said you can if you want to, but it was the way he said it that I knew two things, I should not and more importantly, if I did I would NEVER hear the end of it! Love you Don and will cherish my memories of you forever.

February 24 at 2:32 PM



Media

Donald Peter Nelson

NOV 6, 1937 - FEB 23, 2025



Janowicz Family Funeral Home shared a Video.

February 28 at 10:49 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

