



William Dale Nelson

July 27, 1944 - December 15, 2012

William Dale Nelson, son of the late Floyd C. Tye and Nellie L. Fluesmeier, was born at home in Wellington, Missouri, on July 27, 1944. He died at Mercy Hospital in Lebanon, Missouri, on December 15, 2012.

William (Bill) served in the United States Navy from 1962 until 1967. On December 15, 1962, while on boot camp leave, he married Patricia Ann (Pat) Totton, his wife of 50 years.

Left to mourn Bill and cherish his memory are Patricia and cat Beckett of the home; siblings: Diana Sims, Teresa Dicavolo, Joe Nelson and Mary Cooper of the Dallas, TX area and Laura Kruse of Holden, MO; many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, Pat's relatives, best friends Betty Lou Richardson and Gail Gilbert, and other faithful friends.

He is predeceased by his parents, his grandparents, several aunts and uncles, and his sister Wanda Arbuckle.

After the military, Bill owned a Standard Oil Service Station in Kansas City, Missouri, and worked in the plumbing field until he entered college at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri, where he attained a BSE degree with honors and a double major in Social Studies and Industrial Arts in 1977.

He became a real estate agent in Warrensburg and Kansas City, Missouri, for a time, taught school at Holden, Odessa, and Wheatland, all in Missouri, and owned and operated a plumbing business in Kansas City. After that, he and Pat dropped out of the economy and lived as far off the grid as possible on a tiny acreage in the Current River Valley in Southeast Missouri for six years. It was a time of increased freedom, imagination, and creativity.

Bill re-entered the teaching profession at Laquey, Missouri, for three years, after which he went back into business as creator, owner, and operator of American Tri-Co Plumbing in our local area for twenty years. Bill thrived on the self-direction, freedom, and independence of self-employment. He loved problem solving, fixing things, and building things.

Bill was part of the establishment of the Pulaski County Library System, being on the building committee and participating in the tear out and rebuild of the existing building of the Richland Branch and serving as president of the Richland Friends of the Library during the critical years following the change-over from the Kinderhook Library System. He also served for a short time on the Richland Park Board.

Bill often gave others a leg up. He fed the birds and was extremely kind to all animals. He protected Pat and took all of life's difficult and unsavory chores upon himself. He worked hard all his life; he said that is what he enjoyed.

Outside of work, Bill's interests included gardening, wood working, metal work, fishing, reading, music, learning, researching, nature, pets, history, home life, home maintenance (he fixed everything) and much more.

Bill requested direct cremation with no services. Pat is organizing a scholarship fund in memory of Bill to benefit a graduating Richland senior who

will pursue a career in teaching. Donations to this scholarship fund in memory of William D. Nelson may be made at First State Bank in Richland or St. Robert. Arrangements are under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of William Dale Nelson*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *William Dale Nelson*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Becky And Chuck Dunne lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson*



Becky and Chuck Dunne - January 04, 2013 at 02:23 PM



“ *Carman Blanchard lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson*



Carman Blanchard - December 30, 2012 at 10:00 PM



Mr. Nelson was my 7th grade history teacher and I learned a lot from him. He had patience with and was a very kind man. He will be missed. Thank you Mr. Nelson for being a part of my education.

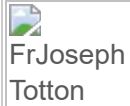
Carman Blanchard - December 30, 2012 at 10:03 PM

JT

“ I only have fond memories of Uncle Bill. I recall a very strong and well-built man with a kind heart who was perpetually in a good mood. He had an imposing presence, but was the nicest and friendliest person you would ever meet. I remember that he was very self-reliant and possessed great strength (physically, mentally and emotionally) yet was incredibly gentle and patient. He loved the outdoors and took the time to teach me (and Joseph) a thing or two about the natural world that he so loved. I imagine that he relied heavily on his patience when he was peppered with many silly questions that two young city boys had about the woods. I can remember spending time with Uncle Bill and Aunt Pat at their home in Doniphan and many times at the Lake of the Ozarks. Regretfully, I did not see Uncle Bill very often. The last time was 2004. I spent a couple of hours talking with Pat and Bill in Richland. I still remember a very pleasant discussion and Uncle Bill’s million-dollar smile. He was an encyclopedia of knowledge. I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and wish that I had spent more time with him. I miss talking with Uncle Bill and I am very saddened that there are no further opportunities to visit with him. But I consider myself very fortunate to have so many wonderful memories of a wonderful uncle.

Jody Totton

Jody Totton - December 30, 2012 at 05:17 PM



“ *Uncle Bill was a giant of a man. I say that not only about his physical stature (he towered above the Tottons!) but especially about the breadth of his interests and the impact he made on the lives of his family, friends, associates and neighbors.*

I have vague memories of your life in Kansas City, but I was so small, I cannot piece much together, except that I remember "The Snake" and a doorway covered in a curtain of beads!

I fondly remember the time (was it only once?) when we visited you during your homesteading years "off the grid" in Doniphan. And I came to appreciate how Uncle Bill (and Aunt Pat) truly enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. Living off the land, fishing, building furniture with his own hands and improving the simple dwelling they had acquired.

I will never forget that summer afternoon when I was stranded with a broken-down car at the Lake of the Ozarks. Having just been "hood-winked" by one shady mechanic, I was frantic to get the car fixed and as I was frantically flipping through the yellow pages at the phone booth, I noticed "American Tri-Co. Plumbing" and I suddenly knew I could call upon family! Uncle Bill wasted no time heading up to the lake to pick us up (I was vacationing with my Aunt Irene from Michigan) and drove us back to Richland, where you both rolled out the red carpet and made us feel right at home.

A couple years later I received a very meaningful gift upon my graduation from High School - the latest edition of Webster's College Dictionary, with the simple inscription: "A few words on your graduation! Love Pat and Bill" That gift was a token of the great value both Uncle Bill and Aunt Pat placed on education. "Few Words!" Indeed, as Uncle Bill was generally quiet, but it was a serene quiet which betokened wisdom.

He was a renaissance man with a love of learning and the practical know-how to fix and or create whatever he set his mind to.

I always enjoyed my visits to Richland, though they have been very infrequent in recent years, and I regret not having spent more time with that Giant of a man who quietly imparted his wisdom by example.

Uncle Bill, you will be missed. Be assured of my prayers, Aunt Pat.

Love, Joseph

FrJoseph Totton - December 29, 2012 at 10:59 AM

LC

“ *Lisa Lafranc Collins lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson*



lisa lafranc collins - December 25, 2012 at 06:25 PM

TC

“ *Trisha Boyd - Collins lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson*



Trisha Boyd - Collins - December 25, 2012 at 05:36 PM

TC

I know you and my mom are in heaven playing like little kids again I love and miss you both give mom a hug and kiss for me and tell Grandma I miss her as well.

Trisha Boyd - Collins - December 25, 2012 at 05:38 PM

PN

They all went before their time, as is often said.

Patricia A. Nelson - December 26, 2012 at 06:39 PM

DB

“ *Dana Beltz lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson*



dana beltz - December 25, 2012 at 04:56 PM

DB

I can always remember Uncle Bill as beings a soft spoken gentle man,who was caring and kind, and had a big kind heart. He had endless stories of how him and Aunt Pat met ,and the thing they did if you ever stopped to listen to him they were awesome stories, didnt always get to see my Uncle Bill but i had the utmost respect and admiration for him and Pat

dana beltz - December 25, 2012 at 05:14 PM

PN

Thank you, Dana. Thank you, so much

Patricia A. Nelson - December 26, 2012 at 06:21 PM

BR

“ Dear Pat and Bill: Since early childhood, there has been an unbreakable chain that has bound us together. Now a link is missing. I cannot bear to think of Pat only--to me it will always be PAT AND BILL.

We have shared so many of each other's joys, challenges, and sorrows. Just saying thank you for being such an unfaltering part of my life journey does not convey adequately my heartfelt feelings of gratitude for always accepting me as I am and caring about me. My heart is also suffering as your's is, Pat.

I love you, PAT AND BILL!

Betty Lou

Betty Lou Richardson - December 22, 2012 at 10:00 AM

MO

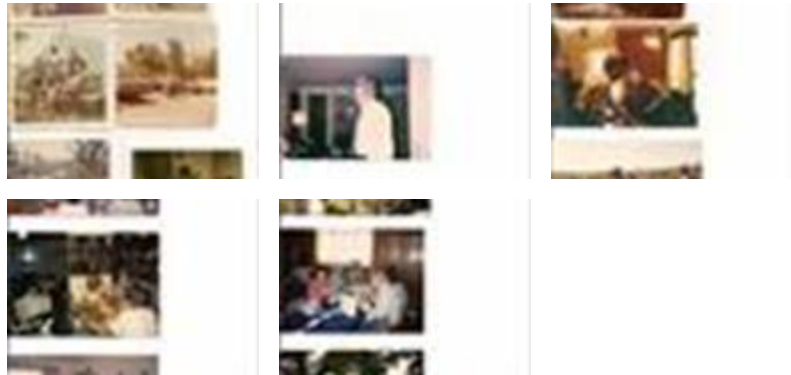
“ Mike & Rachel Oliver lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson



mike & rachel oliver - December 22, 2012 at 08:03 AM

KW

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Kathy White - December 21, 2012 at 09:36 AM

KW

“ I know it had been a while since i seen my uncle but we both knew we loved each other. i remember times when i was a kid going to his house to fish, and going to see the caves, and get a break from day to day life. One thing that stands out to me the most was when i completed my basic training, he sent me a letter telling me how proud he was. That hit me hard and made me happy coming from my uncle and fellow military man! I wish i would have had the chance to come down one more time but i know he is up there watching over me and my family and will be keeping us save!
Your nephew
kyle

kyle waddell - December 20, 2012 at 08:42 PM



“ Rose Blankenbiller lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson



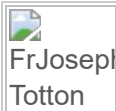
Rose Blankenbiller - December 20, 2012 at 01:29 PM

VE

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Veronica Elliott - December 19, 2012 at 12:46 PM



Hilarious!!! Thanks, Ronnie, for sharing this memory of Uncle Bill!

FrJoseph Totton - December 29, 2012 at 10:31 AM

VE

“ 5 files added to the album Tribute Wall



veronica elliott - December 19, 2012 at 11:01 AM



“ *It is with deep regret and sadness that we learned of Mr. Bill's passing. He was a special man, who always treated us fairly in our dealings with him. He always seemed to have a smile on his face, and seemed to be happiest when we would give him a challenging situation to fix. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family in this loss. May God truly bless you and give you strength.*

Martin Georgia White - December 19, 2012 at 12:35 AM

KW

“ *Beautiful story. Wonderful, gentle man. Valiant battle. Gone too soon.*

Rest well, Bill.

Gary and Kathy

Kathy White - December 18, 2012 at 07:47 PM

MS

“ *Marlin Stevens lit a candle in memory of William Dale Nelson*



Marlin Stevens - December 18, 2012 at 11:02 AM

PN

“ I now pronounce you for the rest of your life
I now pronounce you man and wife

*It was a good time, it was the best time
It was a party, just to be near you
It was a good time, it was the best time
And we believed it would last forever
We would stay together and share the laughter
With never ever a morning after
It was a good time, it was the best time
It seemed a short time, but such a good time*

*Since you're gone and won't be mine again
There are many stars that will not shine again
Except some time deep in my reverie
You return and then I remember when*

*It was a good time, it was the best time
It was a party, just to be near you
It was a good time, it was the best time
And we believed that it would last forever...*

Songwriters: DAVID, MACK/CURB, MIKE/JARRE, MAURICE

Patricia A. Nelson - December 17, 2012 at 08:28 PM

TM

Beautiful song and such tender thoughts. My thoughts are with you at this time, Bill will be truly missed, he was a gentle man with a beautiful smile. I so appreciate the time he that he let Jimmy work with him.

Tana Mitschele - December 18, 2012 at 02:37 PM

PN

“ *My treasure is gone.*

Pat

Patricia A. Nelson - December 17, 2012 at 08:13 PM

MC

“ *To my loving big brother, you will truly be missed. I will always remember you as the strong man you were. I do remember spending good times with you as I grew up. We might have drifted apart but not in heart and mind. I truly enjoyed our last visit and will always cherish it. I know that you are in heaven with Mom. I will always love you and remember you as one of the most intelligent and gentle man I have ever known.*

Your loving little sister Mary

Mary L. Cooper - December 17, 2012 at 07:20 PM

TD

“ *Bill, I don't know where to start. There are so many memories and too many words to describe you. Some that come to mind are , caring, loving, intelligent, witty. Those are just a few. To me you were the strongest person I knew. I love you very much and the comfort that I have is that I know that you knew that and I knew that you loved me to. I truly enjoyed our visits. I will miss you so much.*

Your baby sister (as you so sweetly called me)

Teresa

Teresa Dicavolo - December 17, 2012 at 05:40 PM