



William "Bill" M. Nelson

January 25, 1947 - August 16, 2019

William "Bill" M. Nelson, 72, of Kearney, NE died Friday, August 16, 2019 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

A Memorial service will be Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at New Life Church in Kearney. Visitation with family will be one hour prior to services at the church. Pastor Mark Kremer will officiate and burial will be at a later date at Kearney Cemetery. There will be a reception at the church immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, Memorials will be used to create a UNK Football Unity Council Scholarship. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services are in charge of arrangements.

Bill was born on January 25th, 1947 to William M. and Audrey M. (Hueftle) Nelson in Hastings, NE. He attended Kearney High School and graduated with the class of 1965. Bill later attended Kearney State College and earned a Bachelors Degree in Education and later a Masters Degree in Kinesiology. He married Coni K. von Hoff on May 12, 1988. Bill was an educator, coach and also in sports medicine for NASCAR. Faith was a very important part of Bill's life as he led numerous bible studies as a member of the Berean Church of Lincoln. Bill and Coni would later attend New Life Church in Kearney.

Bill was a man of laughter. He was the best story teller there was. He could do

any personation you asked of him. Bill also loved music and had such an ear for it. He played the trumpet & organ in a rock band called The Elastic Band for one year back in his college days. He loved to sing at church when the choir sang and helped with worship every now and then. Bill had a passion and a talent for starting programs within a number of organizations including the Work Hardening Program at Kearney Orthopedic and Fracture Clinic, a fitness and rehab center for Motor Racing Outreach, and most recently, the Unity Council with the UNK Football Team. It was a dream come true for him to incorporate his love for mentorship, football and leadership. Most precious to Bill was being an "Uber Grampz" for his grandchildren. Nothing blessed him more than spending time watching them fulfill their passions whether on a court, a field, a stage, a rink, a lake or a golf course. Bill cherished his wife Coni above all things. He loved to cater to her by helping with housework, taking her for ice cream at Mc Donalds, waiting patiently for her to browse for hours while shopping, and taking her to and picking her up from work. She was the love of his life and his love for her was evident in all he did.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Coni of Kearney; children, Kyle and Julie Nelson of LaVista, NE, Jason and Lisa von Hoff of Lincoln, NE, Krisa and Jeff Smith of Bennington, NE, Nici and Todd Ahrenholz of Willmar, MN and Kylie and Glen Wolford of Kearney; sister, Cynthe and Keith Staehr of Kimball, NE; brothers, Scott and Teri Nelson of Lincoln, NE and Randy and Jeanne Nelson of Seward, NE; grandchildren, Ryan, Alexandria, Ashley and Kirsten Nelson, Tristin and Emmi von Hoff, Reagan and Reese Smith, Tedd and Henry Ahrenholz, Charlie and Hattie Wolford; numerous other nieces and nephews and other extended family and friends.

Bill was preceded in death by parents.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **20**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

New Life Church
2715 West 39th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Memorial Service

AUG **20**. 2:30 PM (CT)

New Life Church
2715 West 39th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *William "Bill" M. Nelson*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *I only met Bill once. He walked into my shop and wanted new countertops for his kitchen. He was so nice. When I asked him for his contact information he said Bill Nelson. Which made my jaw drop and my heart skip a beat. My dad who passed in 1995 his name was Bill Nelson. Come to find out they went to school together. And we used to get calls when I was a kid for a Bill Nelson who worked at the college, which was his dad. What a small world. I was so sad to see he had passed. He seemed like a wonderful man. I am sorry for your loss.*

Angie Nelson - September 06, 2019 at 11:40 AM



“ *To Coni and Family:
May the sadness you are experiencing today be turned to warm memories. We hope they will bring peace and comfort.
Our sincerest Sympathy, Bud and Rita Fleischer*

Bud and Rita Fleischer - August 25, 2019 at 01:06 PM

BS

“ Bill was the handsome, tan, well built lifeguard at the Harmon Park pool when I was a skinny geeky junior high girl. His crazy antics off the high board during break -clowning around like he was falling and making enormous splashes- made all of the young girls swoon. I thought of that every time I saw him!

Sounds like he never lost his sense of fun. Cherish the memories!

With heartfelt sympathy,

Betty Streff

Betty Streff - August 20, 2019 at 11:54 PM

KC

“ I met Bill and Coni during his NASCAR days. He was a knowledgeable and funny man. I always enjoyed being around him. Even when years passed he would keep in touch through social media and when my father had a life threatening accident he not only offered his prayers and support from afar he made it a point to come visit him in Maine. Although it had been years since the NASCAR days when we had seen Bill in person, it suddenly felt like we had just seen him yesterday and picked up right where we left off. He always had away to make you feel comfortable in an instant. His presence on earth will surely be missed. My deepest condolences to the family.

kristin carpenter - August 20, 2019 at 10:27 PM

DB

“ Coni, Kylie & the entire "Nelson" Family,

Love and prayers to you during this sad time. Bill was such a fun loving man that added laughter to any gathering. While we grieve with you in his loss we also rejoice with you knowing that Bill is with Jesus and that we will see him again.

My favorite memory of Bill is him making pancakes for supper. Thanks Bill for sharing your "bubbly" secret with me!

May you find comfort in the love of Jesus that surrounds you.

Debbie Benson

D Benson - August 20, 2019 at 01:57 PM

RS

“ Coni and family,

I am so saddened to learn of Bill's passing from our lives, but am rejoicing that he is now in the arms of Jesus. I only knew Bill for a very short time - the last year you guys lived in Lincoln, but I came to know him as a wonderful, loving man. When I came over and helped you pack up for your move to Kearney, we were laughing and joking as if we'd known each other for many years. He will surely be missed.

I'm praying for peace and comfort for you, Coni, and for all your family.

Your BFF - Roxie

Roxie Stork - August 20, 2019 at 10:49 AM

TR

“ *Bill was one of those people you have as a friend and it will be a friendship for Life. Although we shared our own lives and did not speak often, when we did speak, it was like we visited every day. I cherished his humor, his smile, and his zest for life, as well as his friendship. Until we meet again in our final home, keep that smile glowing.*

Tom Ross - August 20, 2019 at 10:47 AM

JM

“ *Coni and Family, We were so shocked and saddened reading of Bills passing. We will be out of town Tuesday, but know we will keep you all in our hearts and pray the Lord's comfort upon all of you. With deepest sympathy.
Clyde & Joan E Mickelsen*

Joan Mickelsen - August 20, 2019 at 12:01 AM

BH

“ *We would like to send our condolences to the Nelson family. We attended church with Bill. Coni at new life assembly in Kearney. We were friends with the family. Bill's father was my student teacher advisor at Kearney State College. They had a very strong Christian background and Bill had a talent for music and leading Bible studies. They joined the NASCAR team and he led Bible study with the NASCAR team. We kept in touch as much as we could. We pray the family will draw from all the memories you have built through the years. May God bless your family.*

Bill Holliday - August 20, 2019 at 12:01 AM

LM

“ Love Bill & Tammy Musick purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Bill" M. Nelson.



Love Bill & Tammy Musick - August 19, 2019 at 07:34 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" M. Nelson.



August 19, 2019 at 05:22 PM

GH

“ Bill and Coni were my friends will they worked with Motor Racing Outreach. Bill was the funny one and such a joy to be around. A good man and that is an understatement.

Gwen Howard - August 19, 2019 at 04:09 PM

LB

“ Love & Prayers, Jim & Schellie Bach purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" M. Nelson.



Love & Prayers, Jim & Schellie Bach - August 19, 2019 at 02:33 PM

DB

“ *Diana Lundin Baker lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" M. Nelson*



Diana Lundin Baker - August 19, 2019 at 01:54 PM

BJ

“ *Coni, Peg and I are so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. Prayers of comfort for you and your family. We so dearly loved our time with you and Bill in so many ways. We think of you and Bill in Estes Park every time we go by your old camp site. What great memories. Be encouraged.*

Bob & Peg

Bob Johnston - August 19, 2019 at 11:48 AM

RO

“ *Robert sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Bill" M. Nelson*



Robert - August 19, 2019 at 10:58 AM

RO

I never met Bill but his son, JT is a very fine man. I hope peace and Love for the family. From what JT said Bill had a very full and happy life. His involvement with young mens lives will last a long time. He will be missed.

Robert - August 19, 2019 at 11:02 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William "Bill" M. Nelson.



August 19, 2019 at 10:29 AM



“ The Worship Arts Ministry & EPIC - LBC purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William "Bill" M. Nelson.



The Worship Arts Ministry & EPIC - LBC - August 18, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ Dr. Steve Bennett lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" M. Nelson



Dr. Steve Bennett - August 18, 2019 at 06:10 PM

DB

“ Bill was one of the first friends we made when we moved to Kearney in 1978. We were neighbors in a duplex on Central Ave. The adjoining walls were thin and Bill's voice carried throughout our side when he practiced singing the National Anthem. He played a trick on me and had a State Trooper friend visit me next door and actually put handcuffs on me and arrested me. Then Bill came thru the door smiling and laughing at my distress. Something I will never forget. R.I.P Bill Nelson

Dr.Steve Bennett - August 18, 2019 at 06:08 PM