



## David Eugene Nelson

December 20, 1948 - December 12, 2024

David Eugene Nelson died on Thursday, December 12, 2024 in Lady Lake, Florida surrounded by family. He was born on December 20, 1948 in Lafayette, IN. He graduated from Montmorenci High School in Montmorenci, Indiana in 1967. After graduation, he enlisted and proudly served in the United States Army. He lived and worked in Indiana for much of his life, raising a family there. He worked at Eli Lilly for many years before retiring in 2001. After retiring he moved to the Villages in Lady Lake, Florida where he remained active in many communities and committed to various philanthropic causes that were close to his heart. He was an active member in the Indiana Club of the Villages, Villages Parrot Head Club, VFW, American Legion, the Forty and Eight, AMVETS, and the 25th Infantry Division Association. David proudly served in the 3rd Squadron 4th Cavalry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division from 1968 to 1969 in Vietnam. He enlisted in the US Army in 1968 and served until being honorably discharged from active duty in 1971. He remained active in veteran

communities

throughout his life, including a stint as the president of the 25th Infantry Division Association.

David is survived by his daughter Heide and son-in-law Craig Howard; grandsons Clayton, Christian (wife, Mikayla), and Camden Howard; brother Gary Nelson (wife, Darlene); and aunt

Sonja Weigand (husband, Ronald). He is preceded in death by his mother June, stepfather

Harold Smith, father Francis Nelson, and brother Randy Nelson.

David is remembered by friends and family as a larger-than-life personality with a

compassionate heart who always made sure to live each day to its fullest.

Always the life of the

party, he cherished the community and friendships made during his time in the Villages. He was

known to his grandchildren affectionately as Papaw and was always a source of laughs and

inspiration.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 20, 2024 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Beyers

Funeral Home at 134 N Highway 27/441, Lady Lake, FL 32159. A graveside service will follow

at 1:00 pm at Florida National Cemetery at 6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513.

In lieu of flowers, donations of cash can be made in support of American Legion Post #347

(Lady Lake).

# Cemetery Details

## Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 20. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Lady Lake  
134 N US Highway 441  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
(352) 753-4444

## Funeral Service

DEC 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Lady Lake  
134 N US Highway 441  
Lady Lake, FL 32159  
(352) 753-4444

## Burial Service

DEC 20. 1:00 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue  
Bushnell, FL 33513



# Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David Eugene Nelson*



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**Beyers Funeral Home** - December 19, 2024 at 12:29 PM

RM

“ *Dave was a good friend - he and I served in the 3/4 Cavalry but Dave was after my time. I met him many years ago down at the Howard County Kokomo, IN. Reunion every year. The first time he attended he was standing off to the side when I was going to take the picture of the 25th Infantry Division former Soldier's. So I went over to him and said did you serve in the 25th, he said yes. I then said what Unit he said the 3/4 Cavalry, so I said so did I, but Dave was after my time he '68-'69, me '65-'66. Have seen him at many of our 3/4 Cavalry Reunions and our 25th Infantry Division Reunions. Rest in Peace Brother - Paratus Et Fidelis, we will miss you. To your families we are so sorry for your loss. God Bless Dave and All of you.*

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**Roger & Cathy McGill** - December 18, 2024 at 04:59 PM

MS

*Dave and I met while playing golf with the Villages Parrotheads club when he offered his special recipe 'birdie juice' to me and others. We remained friends and dated for a few years. We always had fun and he was always willing to do just about anything to enjoy his life. He would always sit with his 'harem' (the Fugawis) at phlockings , events and on any trips. Dave will be missed and in our thoughts always as the fun, interesting and caring person he was. RIP Big Dave*

Mary Jane Stewart - December 19, 2024 at 12:01 PM

MF

*Dave:  
I always enjoyed being around you the times we were together! You lifted my spirits and was so kind to me! Never have found out if you are a relative on the Nelson side or not! I am so glad I had the time we visited each other and the calls and texts. I texted you with a pic when we got our first ground cover snow but you never responded.... I didn't get a response and that was not like you. I didn't know for a few days after that that you met your maker! RIP my friend! Hope to see you again up yonder!*

Marcia Foster - August 16, 2025 at 06:29 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Eugene Nelson.



December 18, 2024 at 08:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of David Eugene Nelson.

December 18, 2024 at 08:40 AM

PK

“ Dave and I were classmates and we usually found a way to get into trouble. He was on his way to South Dakota a few years ago and stopped by to visit. My husband said he loved watching us reminisce about our days at Montmorenci and classmates. Dave could always make you smile. I will miss our phone calls and the “do you remember when” discussions. Although we both graduated as the first class of Benton Central Dave always insisted he was a Montmorenci graduate. A true Morenci Tiger.

Phyllis (Nichols) Kasowski  
Class of 1967

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Phyllis Kasowski - December 17, 2024 at 10:32 PM

RF

“ David was a friend and co worker at Lilly, Lafayette. We had a lot of good times playing sports with Lilly Leagues. We also had fun times going to Cubs games with a group of Lilly workers several times. What a good time it was to be around this wonderful person. He will be missed by a lot of good friends in the Villages. My sincere prayers go out to the family.

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Richard Whiteman, The Villages Fl. - December 17, 2024 at 09:01 PM