



## Floyd Paul Nelson

January 24, 2015

### Obituary of Floyd Nelson

Floyd Paul Nelson of Leesburg died peacefully early Saturday morning on January 24, 2015 at the age of (96). Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to immigrant Norwegian parents, Floyd was the youngest family member of three boys and one girl. His mother died when he was a young boy and he was raised during the depression era by a father who spoke broken English and his older siblings. Floyd excelled at sports during high school and at NW University, and competed in Hockey, Boxing, and Platform Diving, (which he competed in nationally while preparing for the Olympics). His plans for the Olympics were interrupted when he was called upon to serve his country and was drafted into military service during World War II. During his military service Floyd served with the First Armored Division. He sailed on the Queen Mary to Ireland to train and made the initial invasion of North Africa. During his service in North Africa he fought in key battles in Algeria, Tunisia and in Kasserine Pass against the German Africa Korps. He was later wounded severely during a tank battle, and was later rescued in a nearby French village weeks later by an American unit, badly burned and barely alive. Floyd survived and returned home to meet his wife of (64) years, Shirley Nelson. They settled in Minnesota, where they spent their early years, before raising a family and moving to South Dakota, Arizona, Colorado and Florida. Floyd worked as a mechanical engineer with Martin Marietta, Grumman, Chrysler,

and on several programs, to include the Gemini and Apollo programs at Cape Canaveral. After retirement he and Shirley spent their summers at the cabin in northern Minnesota, visiting their grandchildren Andrew and Ryan in California, and working at the Nelson farm in Chuluota. They taught Ballroom Dancing, played Bridge with friends, interacted with community events, and laughed and enjoyed life to the fullest. Floyd was preceded in death by his wife Shirley Nelson, his brothers Ray Nelson, Art Nelson, and sister Evelyn. He is survived by his daughter Culiece Nelson of Melbourne Beach, his son Tait Nelson of Chuluota, and son Keven Nelson of Temecula, California, and two grandsons Andrew and Ryan Nelson.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Floyd was an amazing and talented person, a great man, and the most wonderful and loving father. God Bless you father, may you have the peace you deserve.

# Tribute Wall

EJ

“ *Tate and Vicki, My sincerest sympathies for the loss of your father  
Elisa Johnson Colleague Caradonna Dive Adventures*

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**Elisa Johnson** - February 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *Sending condolences to Tait, Vicki and the whole family. What an  
amazing survivor he was - his story is truly inspirational. I'm sure he  
will be greatly missed, but hope that this loss is mitigated by all of  
the memories of a long life well-lived.*

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**Ann Louise Tuke** - February 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ *I am pleased and grateful to have known Floyd Nelson and his  
wonderful son Tait and wife Vicki. While you were here just a short  
96 years I would dare to say you got 200 hundred years of  
experience and joy out of your life on earth. An inspiration and a  
benefit to all around you. I will visit and have a toast to a life well  
lived on the porch of the Bait shop and maybe hear a little soft shoe  
coming from above. My thoughts and prayers to all of your family.*

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**Vicki Koberman** - February 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Floyd Paul Nelson*

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**Joe and Ann Reich** - January 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Our sympathy is extended to the family of Floyd Nelson and his dear friend Phyllis Schelske. His vibrant personality and shared love of music will be remembered by all of his Organ Club for Music Lovers family. Ann and Joe Reich*

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**Joe and Ann Reich** - January 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *###GESTURE###*

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**Joe and Ann Reich** - January 31, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *###GESTURE###*

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**Jean MacDonald** - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Floyd Paul Nelson*

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**Jean MacDonald** - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *We wish to express our deepest sorrow at Floyd's passing. He and Phyllis came to our house a few times when we hosted our monthly Organ Club get-together. Floyd would play a ditty on the organ without any music and it was just delightful. When a polka was played, he and Phyllis would get up and dance. It was inspiring to see him and Phyllis dance and showing up all us "kids." We will miss him at our concerts and our social club meetings. Our prayers are with him and his family. Jean and Sandra MacDonald, The Villages, FL*

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**Jean MacDonald** - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Although the obituary is beautiful mere words can never describe the dynamics of this true gentleman. He lived life to the fullest, and shared a smile, and firm handshake, to friends as well as strangers. A warmth and kindness that is rarely found, especially as one who continued with the same vibrancy for life up to the last breath of his 96 years here on earth. How many people in heaven will now learn how to really do the Waltz?? Angels will be dancing ! He will be sorely missed until we are able to re- join him..

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**Melanie Waite** - January 29, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Floyd Paul Nelson*

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January 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM