



Thomas Joseph Nelson

December 21, 1941 - September 26, 2020

Thomas “Tom” Joseph Nelson; Dad; Mr. Nelson; Papa

Tom Nelson left this world peacefully, surrounded by the comfort of his children, on Saturday afternoon, September 26, 2020.

Tom was born and raised in Union, NJ on December 21, 1941, the youngest son to the late Arthur and Mabel Nelson. He now joins his ever dear and loving wife, Claudia Nelson, in eternal rest.

He is survived by his three children: daughter Meghan Nelson and husband Dale Strawn, daughter Carolyn Nelson and Joey Daniels, and son John Nelson, as well as four grandchildren. In addition to his parents and his wife, preceding him in death were his brother, his sister, and their spouses; Arthur and wife Adelle Nelson and Patricia and Husband Daniel “Pat and Dan” Newhall.

After graduating college, Tom spent his time as a bachelor living in Buffalo, NY, occasionally commuting to California. A soft-spoken man with bold passions, he lived that life well; earning a pilot’s license, traveling, driving motorcycles, and golfing as much as life allowed. He moved to Florida in 1979. With the purchase of his home, nestled in farmland and no stoplights in sight, Tom began entwining his roots with the ever-growing oaks of Winter

Springs.

Tom always said that if he weren't married by the time he was 40, he would never marry. Fate breathed a quiet chuckle when he met Claudia at 39; and they were married the day before his 40th birthday. They wasted no time trying to start a family and their dreams came true four years later when they began the adoption process that would grow their family by three. Building on his legacy of helping others, Tom and Claudia would host parties to answer questions for couples considering adoption.

A brilliant electrical engineer, Tom was employed by Westinghouse and KTS for much of his career. He found great fulfillment in exercising his belief that everything can be fixed. Never satisfied without a project, he repaired TVs, computers, cabinets; once, he even tried to fix the bickering of his two daughters. He quieted one disagreement by building an addition onto the house so they would each have their own room.

Tom was an incredible cook – preparing and sharing food was a lifelong passion. A cooler filled with prime rib would always accompany him on visits to his favorite big sister in Philadelphia. At home, leftovers frequently populated the fridge. There could never be enough food. Tom always made sure there was room at the table for anyone who was hungry, room in his home for those who might need it, and room in his heart for anyone who sought it.

His children will be hosting a memorial reception October 24, between 2pm-6pm at Meghan's home in Sanford, FL. To friends and family who wish to pay their respects, you are welcome to come and go as you please. Further details will follow.

The family of Thomas Joseph Nelson invites you to leave a message of

condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his memory.

Tribute Wall

IH

“ I visited Tom and his parents in 1956 when I was 17 years old and Tom was 15, so we go back a long way. I had a happy stay in Union, New Jersey. Tom and I got along well - we had some serious discussions.

Then many years passed before I saw Tom again. Tom visited his father's family in Denmark a couple of times when he was in his thirties, and we toured Europe together. Among others we visited my friend Lone and her family in Italy.

Tom went home, met Claudia, and together they raised a family. After I lost my partner, Lone and I went on a tour around the world, and we had a happy stay with Tom, Claudia, and the children in Florida.

Over the last 15 years Tom has regularly once or twice a year been coming to the UK, where I have lived since 1984. The UK became like a second home to him. Tom got to know all my friends in the UK, Denmark, and Italy, and we have had great times together. Tom did not do small talk; but he was passionate about things which interested him. Tom got to know Kristen and John Mares particularly well. John is an electrical engineer like Tom, so they had a common interest.

I was an only child and I grew up with my Danish cousins. However, I lost contact with all the cousins on the Nielsen side in Denmark and only had contact with the American branch - namely Pat and Tom. We were on the same wavelength, and I always enjoyed being with them and their families.

On the 24th October Kristen and John will host a gathering in Tom's memory (we are only allowed to be 6 persons together)

Inger Hansson 12th October 2020

Inger Hansson - October 19, 2020 at 04:00 AM

CL

“ *Ridiculously intelligent, filled with compassion, common sense and pragmatic wisdom. He believed that people are nice and had a way of showing everyone that they were valuable to him even if they had no idea what he was saying when he tried to explain his work. He was the glue that held our family together, across generations, across continents across differences. Along side my parents he was one of the most influential adults in my life.*

I love you Uncle Tom

Say Hi to Grandma and Grandpa Nelson and the most spectacular Aunt Claudia in heaven for me. I picture a fantastic family dinner where my father no longer worries about over eating your meal and as always the conversation is amazing.

Carolyn Lynch

Carolyn Lynch - October 10, 2020 at 12:00 PM

JS

“ *Mr. Nelson was a great man. Actually, that's an understatement. There are no words adequate to describe him. He was a father figure to me in many ways, and did things for me that my own stepfather never cared to. Mr. Nelson fixed my car multiple times, taught me to change my own break pads, fed me, welcomed me into his family, and even mended a broken heart or two. He was a terrific cook. I always felt a bit intimidated by him, given his intelligence and my tendencies to say stupid things. I loved him very much and he will be missed. My deepest condolences to Meghan, Carolyn, John and families.*

Jennifer Goodwin Cook Shea - October 08, 2020 at 04:45 PM

CR

*Yes , what a wonderful person!
Met on the golf course!
He was such a friend to Pete !
Always agree no matter what!
Golfing! Happy Hours! And your FOOD will be missed!
A few out to dinner! But mostly at your home.
Friend Rest In Peace💔💔💔*

Carol Rogers - October 13, 2020 at 05:34 PM