



John S. Nelson

June 15, 1947 - April 14, 2025

John S. Nelson, a lifelong resident of Hebron, Illinois, peacefully passed into his eternal home. Born in Belvidere, Illinois, to the late Raymond and Lena (John) Nelson, John attended Alden-Hebron Schools and graduated with the Class of 1965.

John proudly enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving as an airplane engine mechanic from 1966 to 1970. After his military service, he married the love of his life, Suzanne (Wallace), and together they shared 47 wonderful years. Deeply rooted in his identity as a farm kid, John and Sue built their forever home on farmland in the country—a true labor of love. With the help of good friends and their two small children, they created a home filled with memories, including the special joy of picking out field stones for their fireplace, a detail that made it uniquely theirs.

John is survived by his devoted wife, Sue; his children, Shannon, Jason (Stephanie), and Amber Nelson; and his cherished grandchildren, Tommy, Arianna, Briana, Hayden, Hunter, Danny, Lilliana, and Juliana. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Caroline Nelson.

A pillar of his community, John was a 52-year member of the Hebron American Legion Post 606 and a life member of the Moose Lodge 1289 in Harvard, Illinois. He volunteered with the Hebron Fire Department and dedicated himself to youth sports, coaching Little League baseball and serving on the board of the Stateline Raiders Jr tackle football. John and Sue spent countless hours supporting their children, grandchildren, and their teammates,

driving far and wide to cheer them on—right up to the last basketball game for his grandsons.

In his younger years, John's classmates fondly remembered his love for scooters, which later evolved into his pride and joy, a 2003 Harley. He also had a passion for music, often singing and playing guitar to folk and country songs. His love for nature shone through in his favorite pastimes: hunting and fishing. John could sit for hours in a quiet field, waiting for that big buck, or rise at dawn to fish for the big bass. In the months before his passing, he found peace driving to the McHenry Dam, watching eagles soar to their nests—a quiet moment of reflection that brought him solace.

John's work ethic was unwavering. Over the years, he held positions at Vaughn & Bushnell, Peet Freight Line, Hebron Disposal Service, Walters Farms, and Hebron Township. He spent 30 years as a home construction laborer with Residential Development Group in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as a proud member of Laborers Local Union 1035. When the housing market declined, retirement wasn't his first choice—he was a hard-working man at heart—but he soon embraced it, reconnecting with old jobs and finding new friends who shared his love for hunting and fishing. Retirement, it turned out, was well deserved and far from dull.

Together, John and Sue built a lifetime of memories, from weekend getaways and long road trips to cruises and quiet evenings on their deck. Known for his care toward longtime friends and co-workers, John was always ready to lend a helping hand without expecting anything in return.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Hoops Restaurant 10521 IL Route 47 in Hebron, Illinois, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m, with military honors at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor John's memory may make donations to the Hebron Rescue Squad or the Alden-Hebron Athletic Department.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

HOOP'S Sports Bar and Grill
10521 IL Route 47
Hebron, IL

Military honors at 2:30 p.m. Sat at Hoops

Tribute Wall

JS

“ John and Donna Stancil purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John S. Nelson.



John and Donna Stancil - May 05, 2025 at 11:03 AM

JS

“ John and Donna Stancil planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John S. Nelson.

John and Donna Stancil - May 05, 2025 at 11:03 AM

BS

“ I remember John, his brother Ray, and his parents from long ago when I grew up in northern Illinois and particularly when I attended high school in Harvard in the 1950s. His father was one of my uncles in the large Nelson family. It's especially noteworthy when someone in "family" passes away. I will keep his obituary in my scrapbook. My condolences to his survivors
Bill Schrage, Laramie, Wyoming

Bill Schrage - May 04, 2025 at 03:49 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donna Stancil - May 02, 2025 at 08:27 PM

DS

You will be miss! Love John and Donna

Donna Stancil - May 02, 2025 at 08:28 PM

MH

“ *Mary Hayden lit a candle in memory of John S. Nelson*



Mary Hayden - April 29, 2025 at 11:00 PM

AT

“ *Sue, we're so very sorry for you and your family for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.* 🙏🙏

Artis Teresi - April 27, 2025 at 07:29 PM

LB

“ *Sue & family so sorry for your loss!*❤️

linda bugenhagen - April 27, 2025 at 04:26 PM

LN

“ *If love could have saved him he would have lived forever. Thinking of your family.*
Love, Lisa Neuhaus

Lisa Neuhaus - April 27, 2025 at 01:32 PM

TH

“ *Sue and family... my condolences .. I am so sorry to hear of Johns passing*

Terri Hurley - April 26, 2025 at 04:57 AM

SC

“ *In loving memory of a life well lived! John will be missed!
To Sue and family, so very sorry for your loss!
Steve & Judy Coulman*

Steve and Judy Coulman - April 24, 2025 at 07:59 PM

KB

David and I were very sorry to hear of John's passing.

You just believe that you're going to have a childhood friend and first cousin around forever. Sadly it was not to be.

I was surprised to read that John played the guitar. I knew he could really sing .. as all the relatives could sing, probably passed down from our grandfather Nelson, who was chosen by his village to sing for the King of Norway when his train passed through.

If there really are angels, he is in their choir for sure!

All through elementary and high school. I had him by my side. I was a tomboy so had lots of fun with him catching crawdads, playing baseball, climbing trees and eating ice cream or cookies when our mothers were together.

Sweetness just gets better and marrying the love of his life and loving and enjoying his extended family is the greatest legacy anyone can have in life

Our sympathy and love to you Sue, and to your whole family at John's passing.

May memories bring back the smiles and laughter again in the telling of tales of joy

*Love,
Kat Kooistra Benoy*

Kat Benoy - April 28, 2025 at 05:35 AM