



## Albert Thomas Nelson

April 28, 1949 - June 29, 2021

Albert Thomas Nelson, 72, of Bloomington, IN passed away on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at his home with his family by his side.

He was born on April 28, 1949, in Princeton, KY, the son of Ralph Albert and Helen Ernestine (Burns) Nelson. He was raised in Mayfield, KY and attended Mayfield HS. He then enlisted in the US Navy and was stationed at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center as a Hospital Corpsman during the Vietnam War. Al married Penny Jacobs on April 17, 1971, in Silver Springs, MD and they were blessed to celebrate their 50th anniversary this year.

Al worked for the Veterans Administration as a supervisor in Material Management at the VA Hospital in Louisville, KY retiring in 2002. His bronze sculpture, "Enduring Light of Freedom", adorns the front entrance of the hospital along with "She Served, Too" located at a dedicated park on the grounds. "Hearts in Harmony" at the YMCA and "Let's Play Ball" at the Louisville Slugger Museum are among many of his works. As a Stone Carver and Sculptor, Al had a love of the fine arts and along with his wife founded Nelstone, LLC in 2003, working with schools and organizations to educate children and adults on the art of stone carving.

Al was a member of the Speed Memorial Church (Speed, IN) and St Leonard Catholic Church (Louisville, KY). He and his wife worked with the KY Museum of Art & Craft and Arts in Healing at the KY Center for the Arts. He was a musician and wrote over one hundred songs recording his own vinyl albums in 2020. His passions were history and his family. He will be greatly missed by all

who loved and knew him.

Albert is survived by his wife, Penny J. Nelson; two sons, Peter A. (Samantha) Nelson and Lucas B. (Sarah Marvell) Nelson; two grandchildren, Albert B. Nelson and Mabel M. Nelson, all of Bloomington, IN; two sisters, Pat Nelson and Ann (Howel) Carr; one brother, Ernie Nelson, all of Mayfield, KY; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Candy J. (Gary) Glenn; Earl (Jackie) Jacobs, all of NY, and a whole host of nieces, nephews, family and friends who will cherish his memory forever.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Ernestine Nelson; two sisters, Mary Ruth (Donald) Elder and Martha Nelson (Tucker) Thomas; two brothers, Jim Nelson and Bill Nelson; sister-in-law, Teddy Jacobs.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at Speed Memorial Church, 328 US Hwy 31, Sellersburg, IN. (mask will be required).

Rev. Dr. Mike Donahue officiating. A bereavement dinner will follow.

Cremation Rites have been accorded.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hand In Hand Ministries, 518 N. 26th St., Louisville, KY 40212.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory (Sanders, IN) have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at

[www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

Speed Memorial Church  
328 US Hwy 31  
Sellersburg, IN 47172

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *My condolences to Albert’s family and friends. I’m very sorry to hear of his passing. I appeared at his studio out of the blue one day in 2007 and he welcomed me in as if I was expected. He shared with me a bit of his life and art for this short video. Much later I sent him copies of it and I hope the family has those. If not, feel free to reach out to me at [jkmcadory@yahoo.com](mailto:jkmcadory@yahoo.com)*



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**Jeff McAdory** - July 08, 2021 at 11:08 PM

CM

“ *Penny,*

*I am so sorry. I have good memories of Al, you and two little boys. I have seen his work at Yew Dell, always about “love”.*

*Connie Keith Morgan*

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**Connie Keith Morgan** - July 07, 2021 at 06:42 PM

LH

“ Penny, I believe we were meant to meet during jury duty. Then I was able to see you again and meet Al during the St. James Art Fair. I purchased the cardinal he sculpted. It is one of my most treasured items. They say when cardinals appear, angels are near. Thinking of you.  
Love,  
Lynn Hartman



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lynn hartman - July 06, 2021 at 07:18 PM

EF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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elise fazio - July 05, 2021 at 08:49 PM

CG

“ Carol A Gross purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Albert Thomas Nelson.



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Carol A Gross - July 05, 2021 at 04:10 PM

LD

“ I met Penny and AL when I was 13 and I turned 60 yesterday. Even though they had a young family of their own and weren't that much older than me, they took me in to their lives, and hearts. They saved my life. There are no words that can encompass their kindness, their goodness, their grace. When I needed a reference for the adoption of my daughter, I turned to them. To see Lily, all of these years later and know that I have been able to be her mother for 13 years because of Penny and Al is the most priceless gift I could ever receive. Al was simply the best man I have ever known. He and Penny were two halves of a whole. My heart aches for her and Pete and Luke and all of the Nelson family. If it is truth that grief is the price of love, then the cost of losing Al will be far too high. But I will carry him in my heart every day of my life, and try to live the kind of life that he and Penny showed us - one full of love and kindness.  
Love, Linda DeRosett

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Linda derosett - July 05, 2021 at 10:31 AM

MW

“ In my thirty plus years of service at VA Medical Center, I know of no other person I enjoyed working with more than Al Nelson. His commitment to making everything work in support of best care for the veteran patient was so helpful to those of us providing direct care. Never was there a time that Al expressed impatience or reluctance to manage a request. He treated everyone with respect and never lost his warm sense of humor or genuine kindness in his approach. His sculptures placed at the Medical Center and in Louisville were admired by us all. My sympathy goes out to his family. I will keep them in my prayers.

Kevin Wintergerst RN

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Mary Kevin Wintergerst - July 05, 2021 at 09:29 AM

LS

“ *What lovely memories of Al Nelson come flooding back - in the late 1970s I was also a stone sculptor, and a great admirer of Al's work. He was my favorite sculptor, and we had a mutual-admiration connection. I bought his sculpture "Wave", which has been prominently displayed in my home all these years. I have remembered him with great affection on a daily basis, as I pass this lovely piece dozens of times every day. We used to have long chats at the St. James Art Fair every fall, and he was always so supportive and enthusiastic. My life was enriched by having known him, and my sincere sympathy goes out to his family. May he rest in peace.*



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Lynn Shea - July 03, 2021 at 12:32 PM

CS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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Cynthia & Sandy - July 03, 2021 at 11:12 AM

CS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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Cynthia & Sandy - July 03, 2021 at 11:08 AM

SR

“ *Several years ago Albert created a limestone sundial for Thomas Jefferson (now All Peoples) Unitarian Church in Louisville. I think of Albert whenever I pass it.*  
*Steve Reeves*

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**Steve Reeves** - July 03, 2021 at 10:21 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Albert Thomas Nelson.*



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July 03, 2021 at 08:25 AM

AG

“ *Unfortunately we never new this amazing individual BUT he was a member of a very special family. As fine craftsmen we are a dying breed it will take many decades to see a resurgence of individuals of our life experience, diversity and talent. Rest In Peace you will be sorely missed..*

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**alex & gail** - July 02, 2021 at 10:53 PM

KC

“ I have the great honor to know Al and Penny both personally and professionally. They are one of the greatest couples you will ever know.

You might remember seeing Al Nelson during the St. James Court Art Show. Al and his wife Penny exhibited in the St. James Court Section for 13 years in booth SJ-229 at the fountain. Al would ceremoniously place his director's chair out in front of his booth to intentionally interrupt the flow of traffic at the fountain. This tall, pleasant man of few words and great talent would carve small sculptures from stone with his bare hands right there on the street to the crowd's amazement. Al Nelson was always willing to lend a helping hand, always willing to listen, always present.

*Rest In Peace Al*

*Karen Clayton*

*Director*

*St. James Court Art Show*

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**Karen Clayton** - July 02, 2021 at 02:51 PM

OP

“ I worked with Al Nelson at the VAMC for many years, Al was a US Navy Corpsman and so was I. I returned from Vietnam after serving with the USMC as a combat medic and met Al at the VA working in SPD . We were friends for many years and I am lucky enough to have 2 pieces of his stone carvings. I was a RN-BSN employed by the VAMC and worked close with Al ! R.I.P. will see you on the other side ! Semper Fi !! Doc Otis Phelps U.S.N. Corpsman!!

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**Otis Phelps** - July 02, 2021 at 08:34 AM

PN

*Otis, you are such a treasured friend of Al. So glad you were a part of his life*

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**Penny Nelson** - July 02, 2021 at 05:51 PM

SW

“ Al shared his talent of stone carving with Mercy Health Fairfield Hospital in a beautiful sculpture of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. It's displayed at the front entrance of the hospital for all to see and admire. He also did a sculpture for Mercy Health West Hospital using the same theme. He involved the retired Sisters of Mercy as well as the employees at Mercy Fairfield by letting them take a scored piece of the stone and having him carve a simple cross, flower, etc as a memento. Al's genuine love of people and his gift of sculptures will never be forgotten... Rest In Peace, Al as you see your God face to face! Sister Sharon Wiedmar, RSM.

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**Sister Sharon Wiedmar, RSM** - July 01, 2021 at 08:34 PM