



# Harold Lance Nelson

DEC 27, 1956 - APR 4, 2015



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Funeral Home and Cremation Services

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## Harold Lance Nelson

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**H**arold Lance Nelson age 58 of Fruitland Park, Florida passed away Saturday, April 4, 2015 at the Leesburg Regional Medical Center. He was born in South Hampton, Bermuda and moved to the Fruitland Park area 16 years ago from Ballston Spa, New York. Harold was a devoted 5th grade teacher at Triangle Elementary in Mt. Dora, Florida where his primary goal as an educator was to make a difference in lives of his students. An “Educator” at heart he did his best to teach his students, family, friends and colleagues how to think independently and evaluate all possibilities of a problem or issue to ensure they would make the best possible choices. Harold was a man who accomplished much because he focused on his goals and made sure whatever the task... he gave his very best. Before he became a teacher he served 20 years in the U. S. Navy retiring at the rank of Chief. Those closest to him describe him as a kind man of high expectations, loyal, and loving. He had a passion for all children and each summer he volunteered with the Downs Syndrome Foundation of Florida “ican” program which focused on teaching children affected with Downs Syndrome to ride bicycles. Some of his favorite things in life were Starbucks coffee, Pizza, riding his bicycle but most of all his family was his favorite pastime. He enjoyed teasing them with his quirky humor, and again challenging them to constantly push themselves to be better and reach higher levels of success. He leaves behind to carry on his memory his loving wife of 16 years – Carol; A mother-in-law to whom he always referred to as “Favorite” Lucille Morgan of Fruitland Park; Son- Christopher Nelson of New York; Daughters – Valerie (Billy) Pasternak of Fruitland Park; and Virginia Gatlin of Fruitland Park; a Sister – Heidi (Dean) Calvelage of Winter Haven; 5 Grandchildren – Stetson, Justin, Micah, Lyera, and Liberty; and 7 Great-Nieces and Nephews.



## Obituary

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The family will receive friends from 6:00 – 7:00 P. M. on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the Leesburg Church of the Nazarene with a Celebration of Life service immediately following at 7:00 P.M. with Pastor Greg Brown serving as Officiant.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to: Youth Department - Leesburg Church of the Nazarene -2100 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Leesburg, Florida 34748

Or

“ican” Program - Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida -  
PO Box 533462, Orlando, FL 32853-3462


Page-Theus Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been entrusted with all arrangements.

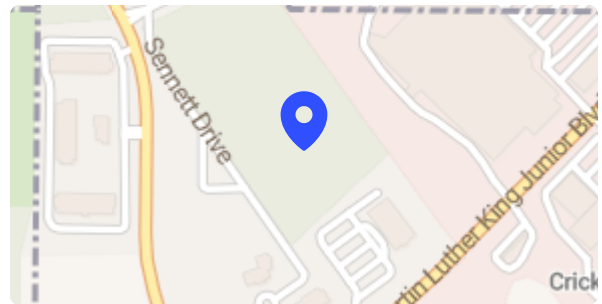


### Gathering of Friends and Family immediately before the service

 **Thursday**, April 9, 2015


 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


 **Leesburg Church of the Nazarene**  
2100 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Leesburg FL  
34748

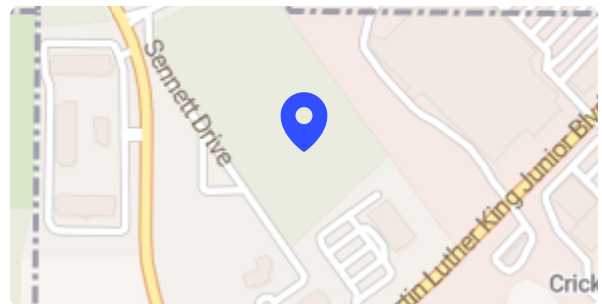


### A Celebration of Life Service

 **Thursday**, April 9, 2015

 7:00 PM ET

 **Leesburg Church of the Nazarene**  
2100 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Leesburg FL  
34748





# Tribute Wall

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**Dave Cockman** posted:

Harold was a very good friend of mine in High School and I lost touch with him over the years. I am very sorry to hear of his passing. My condolences and prayers are with the family. David Fields

June 4 at 5:50 AM



**Carol Nelson** December 25 at 6:00 PM

Thank You



**Eve And Jack Kenyon** posted:

We remember Harold fondly.....sailing on Saratoga Lake many times.....biking.....even a couple of century rides.....his wonderful leadership with FBC youth group.....being pals with our children.....He had such influence on our 2 sons and daughter.....he helped in forming them into such wonderful adults. We feel a sadness for us, but yet happiness for Harold in knowing that he is already singing and praising in God's presence right now. We feel honored to have called Harold our friend! May the whole family feels God's peace and comfort at this difficult time. Eve and Jack Kenyon Ballston Spa, NY

April 9 at 1:43 PM



**Carol Nelson** April 14 at 2:08 AM

Thank you. He had great memories of your family.



**Lynne Wiltshire** sent a Healing Tears - All White to the Nelson family.



April 9 at 9:41 AM



**Angelia "Angie" Johnson** lit a candle in honor of Harold.



April 9 at 8:56 AM



## Tribute Wall

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PF

**Pellegrino Family** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

Prayers for your family from a fellow educator. My sincere condolences.

April 9 at 8:20 AM



BM

**Bernadette Mcmanus** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 9 at 7:40 AM



DS

**Dee Spearman** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 9 at 3:32 AM



CM

**Chris Maggio** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 9 at 1:06 AM



PN

**Pastor Bill And Dolores Norris** posted:

Harold Nelson from teen to adult was always about finding purpose for his life. Even though he will be missed, and our heart aches, he left his footprints in the lives of many. Carol, our prayers are with you for Gods comfort and strength.

April 8 at 11:34 PM

AG

**Alicia Garry** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

Mr. Nelson was a great mentor during my internship at Triangle Elementary. I am thankful for having the opportunity to work with him. He truly loved teaching. My prayers go up for the Nelson family. Matthew 5:5 Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted.

April 8 at 5:02 PM





## Tribute Wall

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TA

**Theresa Allen** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 8 at 1:49 PM



LD

**Linda Duncan** posted:

I work with Mr.Nelson at Triangle. He always had a smile. Mr. Nelson had a great love for teaching and caring for our students and staff. Our school has lost a great creative teacher, he will be missed by his students and our school family. My prayers are with you and your family.

April 8 at 1:43 PM

LD

**Linda Duncan** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 8 at 1:31 PM



DS

**Debbie Spencer** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 8 at 10:13 AM



LW

**Lisa Wenninger** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

Sending prayers for all. It was a true honor to volunteer in Mr. Nelson's classroom.

April 8 at 6:54 AM





# Tribute Wall

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**Donna Martin** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

We moved back to Central Florida in July of 2013 and my son Cameron was placed in Mr. Nelson's 5th grade class at Triangle Elementary. We didn't know then, but do now that it was an extreme blessing. Mr. Nelson made him feel so comfortable and welcome in his new school, and Cameron had a wonderful school year. He was an incredible teacher and mentor and will be sadly missed. Our prayers go out to all his family and loved ones.-Donna Martin



April 8 at 6:00 AM



**Carol Nelson** April 24 at 11:41 AM

Thank you for sharing. Harold loved to teach and help his kids to become ALL they could be.



**Virginia Gatlin** posted:

Harold was my dad. He was my friend. He was a coworker. He was so much. He filled so many spots in my life. I just want to live the rest of my life to make him proud. He would text me every few mornings or so and say, "I love you princess have a good day." I will miss that. He loved my mom so well. He was my kids' papaw. He was so much to so many. It seems so unreal. I will miss you dad. I love you. I took a great picture Saturday and I was looking forward to seeing how you would edit it and now you'll never see it. It's those little things I'll miss.

April 7 at 6:24 PM



**Carol Nelson** April 24 at 11:42 AM

He sees that picture and I am sure he has already put it in some new amazing app.



**Kylie Nave** lit a candle in honor of Harold.



April 7 at 4:59 PM



**Autumn Jacunski** sent a virtual gift in honor of Harold.

Mr. Nelson was the first teacher I worked with at Triangle. I admired him. He was an amazing example of what all teachers aspire to be. I was blessed to have met him and to have been taught by him.



April 7 at 4:51 PM



## Tribute Wall

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MB

**Marie Baugh** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 7 at 4:02 PM



DS

**Diana Buerkle Snyder** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 7 at 3:32 PM



KR

**Kay Robinson** posted:

Carol ,Im sorry for the passing of my friend. Harold was a great man and a loving person. Way to soon but God must have needed him.My God be with you and your family.

April 7 at 1:42 PM

MB

**Melinda Bernard** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 7 at 11:46 AM



TD

**Tom Dooley** posted:

I worked with Harold at Triangle Elementary School for several years after he was hired. His loved for student learning was contagious to his colleagues. I happened to being visiting TRE the day of his heart surgery and his school family was extremely concerned with this endeavor. I was deeply sadden to hear of his passing. We both have a passion for bicycling and shared many stories of our rides. My thoughts and prayers are with his immediate and school families.Tom Dooley, Winchester, VA

April 7 at 8:23 AM

LF

**Lynn Felts** lit a candle in honor of Harold.

April 7 at 3:42 AM





## Tribute Wall

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DW

**Diane Watson** posted:

Since our teenage years, Harold has always been a "bigger than life" figure. He has made us laugh, cry (because we laughed so much!), and appreciate his sense of humor. He will leave a huge hole in our hearts, but we know he is with our Lord celebrating some wonderful homecomings! Our love and prayers will be with all the family.

April 6 at 6:20 PM

LS

**Lisa Schutz** April 7 at 3:15 PM

Such a good person and a wonderful fifth grade teacher. I enjoyed working with Harold at Triangle Elementary.

MB

**Melinda Bernard** April 7 at 11:43 AM

My son is a Student at Triangle & he is so saddened by this but wants to let his Family know that he cared and had a love for Mr. Nelson & was so looking forward for him to be his Teacher, he always put my son in the car & said with his kind words "you folks have a good afternoon"

CA

**Carol Arvia** April 7 at 10:53 AM

I worked with Mr. Nelson for several years at Triangle. He was always a pleasant and caring person as well as a teacher. He touched many lives in positive ways. He will be missed, but God must have plans for him!

MR

**Melba Reid** April 7 at 9:41 AM

I didn't know Harold extremely well, but I know he was kind and funny. And he loved and protected Carol. I know he is in heaven now and one day we will meet again. God speed Harold.

MW

**Marla Wolfe** April 7 at 7:18 AM

I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for you and the whole family, and passing on the funeral information to my parents.



## Media

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**Donna Martin** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 8 at 6:00 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Harold by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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