



Donald Palmer Nelson

March 28, 1941 - October 22, 2021

Donald "Don" Palmer Nelson, 80, of Rockford, IA died on Friday, October 22, 2021, 7 months to the day of his diagnosis with a brain tumor, at Seasons Hospice House in Rochester, MN. Donald received chemotherapy and other treatments prior to this diagnosis for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He made the decision to live out the rest of his life on his own terms and focusing on quality, not quantity. He was able to accomplish this with the support from his friends, neighbors, community members, hospice staff and family that allowed him to stay at home up until the last 2 weeks of his life.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. with a one hour prior visitation at the First United Methodist Church, 21 3rd St NW, Rockford with Pastor Dennis Burns officiating. Inurnment at Riverside Cemetery in Rockford will take place at a later date.

Donald was born on March 28, 1941 in Mason City to Merle and Ruth (Palmer) Nelson. He grew up on the family farm in Rockford and graduated from Rudd, Rockford and Marble Rock Community High School in May of 1959. He then went on and attended Iowa State University where he earned his Bachelor's in Economics in November of 1963. Donald served in the United States Airforce from December 1963-June 1968, where he rose to rank of Captain until becoming honorably discharged. After his service he enrolled in the University of Kentucky to further his education and graduated with his

Master's Degree in Agricultural Engineering in May of 1970. Donald was married to Linda (Olsen) Nelson and they had two children Michelle and Steven. The couple later divorced.

Donald was an avid photographer and especially liked to photograph birds. Bald Eagles were one of his favorites and he enjoyed monitoring local nests to capture photos. Despite his cancer diagnoses he continued his hobby of photography until he was no longer able to. Donald had a commitment to land conservation and redeveloping native Iowa Prairies. He practiced many different types of conservation on his land including farming practices to reduce soil erosion, planting strategic windbreaks, developing wildlife habitats, establishing Prairie Plots, and Pollinator Plots to produce native plants and wildlife back in Iowa.

Those left to cherish his memory include his two children, Michelle Nelson and Steven (Ramona) Nelson and their mother, Linda (Olsen) Nelson; grandchildren, Summit and Talon Nelson; Siblings, Carol (William) Hulbary and Robert (Diana) Nelson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Merle and Ruth Nelson.

In remembrance of Donald and to continue his legacy memorials may be directed to any of the following: Floyd County Conservation-Fossil and Prairie Park Foundation, PO Box 495, Rockford, IA 50468 <http://www.fossilcenter.com/PDFs/memorials.pdf>; Iowa Prairie Network, <https://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/>; and Iowa Native Plant Society <http://www.iowanativeplants.org/gifts.php>.

Fullerton Schumburg Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 302 West Main, Rockford, Iowa 50468 641-756-3311, www.Fullertonfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
21 3rd Street NW
Rockford, IA

Memorial Service

OCT **29**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
21 3rd Street NW
Rockford, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Palmer Nelson*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Jim and Melanie Nelson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donald Palmer Nelson.*



Jim and Melanie Nelson - October 28, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Palmer Nelson.*



October 28, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ *Roy A. Johnson and Sharon Nelson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald Palmer Nelson.*



Roy A. Johnson and Sharon Nelson - October 28, 2021 at 12:44 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Palmer Nelson.*



October 26, 2021 at 11:52 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald Palmer Nelson.*



October 25, 2021 at 09:56 PM