



William Edward Nelms

May 8, 1928 - January 3, 2020

William Edward “Ed” Nelms, 91, of Star Tannery passed peacefully in his home Friday, January 3, 2020.

He was born May 8, 1928 in Montrose, Arkansas the son of AG and Mae Holland Nelms.

He was married to Melicent Joyathene “Joy” Layne Nelms for 69 years as of November 15, 2019.

Ed was a long haul trucker for many years and previously owned Nelms Excavating in Fairfax, Virginia. Ed worked many jobs starting from an early age including selling ice cream, training hops and logging in California, driving taxi, and working at Campbell’s Soup to name a few. He was known for his strong work ethic and retired from full time work in his 70’s to drive for Marker Miller Orchards into his 80’s. In his spare time, he enjoyed making bird houses, gardening, and watching Westerns. He was a faithful member of Open Door Baptist Church.

Ed served in the Korean War with the Army’s 45th Division. While excavating roads ahead of the front lines he was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged in 1952.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Wayne Nelms and his wife, Judith of Coupon, PA, Christopher Nelms and his wife, Yvonne of Florence, SC, Shelly Nelms-Perez and her husband, Edward of Warrenton, Jennifer Whitehead and her husband, Kerry of Martinsburg; 20 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren; siblings, Jesse and

Eugene Nelms, Marie Abbott, and Flora Mae Peek.

His siblings, Howard, Orville, and James Nelms, and Julie Newell preceded him in death.

Friends will be received 6-8:00 pm Wednesday Jan. 8 in the funeral home.

A service will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday Jan. 9 in Phelps Funeral Chapel 311 Hope Drive officiated by Pastor Ken Smith.

Burial will be in Lebanon Church Cemetery, Lebanon Church Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice 333 W. Cork St. Winchester, VA 22601 or Open Door Baptist Church 333 Jeremiah Ln. Clear Brook, VA 22624.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral & Cremation Service
311 Hope Dr
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 722-2424
travislnesselrodt@gmail.com
<https://phelpsfunerals.com>

Service

JAN 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of William Edward Nelms.* ”



January 09, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Edward Nelms.* ”



January 08, 2020 at 10:16 AM



“ *Dorothy, Cynthia, Lydia, Loria, Eric & families purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of William Edward Nelms.* ”



Dorothy, Cynthia, Lydia, Loria, Eric & families - January 07, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ *A gentle and gracious man, he'll be greatly missed.* ”

Neva Franks - January 06, 2020 at 07:19 PM

ML

“ Jennifer, I am so very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Sending prayers for comfort.

Machelle Lewis - January 06, 2020 at 12:48 PM

JF

“ Jesse Nelms and Family purchased the Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White for the family of William Edward Nelms.



Jesse Nelms and Family - January 06, 2020 at 09:41 AM

Chris Nelms

“ Thanks Dad!



Chris Nelms - January 06, 2020 at 09:41 AM

TA

Chris, Wanted you and family to know that Robert and I are thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers. Love and hugs , Tanya & Robert Godlove

Tanya - January 18, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of William Edward Nelms.



January 06, 2020 at 05:39 AM

RN

“ Ron Nelms purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of William Edward Nelms.



Ron Nelms - January 05, 2020 at 08:40 PM

SE

“ Steve Eichelberger lit a candle in memory of William Edward Nelms



Steve Eichelberger - January 05, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of William Edward Nelms.



January 05, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy was purchased for the family of William Edward Nelms.



January 05, 2020 at 02:32 PM