



## Craig Nelsen

December 11, 1947 - March 18, 2010

Craig L. Nelsen, 62, of Kearney died of CJD on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at his home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM, Monday, March 22 at Grace Fellowship Church with Pastor Mitch Ivey officiating. Burial will be in the Kearney Cemetery with military honors by the Nebraska National Guard Honors Team in conjunction with American Legion Post 52 and VFW Post 759. Visitation will be 5-7 PM Sunday, March 21 at O'Brien - Straatmann Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Foundation. O'Brien - Straatmann Funeral Home of Kearney is in charge of arrangements. He was born on December 11, 1947 in Minden, NE to Buddy Lee and Thora (Anderson) Nelsen. He graduated from Kearney High School in 1966 and received his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Kansas. He served in the U.S. Army in 1969 and 1970 in Vietnam. On May 15, 1971, he married Connie McMurtry. They made their life in Kearney and were blessed with four children. Craig worked for Crossroad Ford for many years as a mechanic. He rebuilt antique cars and was an avid gardener. Craig was a member of Grace Fellowship Church. He loved his family and spending time with them. Survivors include his wife, Connie of Kearney; son Jeremiah and wife Pilar of Kearney; daughters Dustina Putnam and husband Kirk of Kearney, Sharon Catterson and husband Scott of Omaha, and Charlotte Brockman and husband Chris of Morganfield, Kentucky; six grandchildren, David and Amanda Brockman, Amber and Brooke Putnam, Nick and Kaylee Catterson and one granddaughter due in May; brother Randy Nelsen of Kearney; and

sister Sandra Sivits of Kearney. He was preceded in death by his parents.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Craig Nelsen*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

“ I lay awake early this morning, and felt that God was filling our room as we slept with his love. As I began to Pray for the day ahead a few things came to my heart to share about Craig who was myFather-In-Law. I used to be afraid of Craig Nelsen when I first met him and started spending time with is Son Jeremiah. He seemed to grunt more than spoke, And He had and urgency about him. He didn't sit still for very long at home. He seemed to be constantly moving. When He got home from work, If it was gardening season He was always going in and out of the house tending his garden. In the Winter months after work you could find him resting on the couch in front of the TV flipping channels. He could even flip channels in his sleep, so Connie(His wife) had to be sneaky about trying to change the channel, He might actually be awake! When I close my eyes I can see him in his Ford garage uniform, his hands are dirty and oil stained from a hard days work, and one hand has a cigarette in it(Even though he was always trying so hard to quit) He did finally one day. It wasn't until I married his son Jeremiah that I started to see who Craig Nelsen really was. He was not a quiet man because he was upset all the time or a mean person. He was quiet because he was thoughtful, and a hard working provider for his family. I learned he served his counrty in Vietnam, and once I knew that I could also understand a lot of things had made him a quiet person.I respected that a lot. At our wedding he showed up in my line during the dollar dance to dance several times. That was when I started to realize that He was not a Hard man, but a lot like my new Husband. He had layers of kindness, and a streak of mischief. He also had to need to be Unique, fun, and set apart from everyone else. In the months and years to come I learned that Craig was really good with Children. His Grand-Children adored him, and he was also kind to animals, like the stray kittens in his back yard. When Craig got sick, none of us thought that with all the bells and whistles of modern medicine it might eventually lead to this day. This discease is so rare, and only God knows the reasons why, but it picked this family, and this time. It makes me sad that he will not get to meet our baby, and Connie said he would have really liked to. All I know, and find comfort in, is

*that Craigs heart changed when he became a Christian this last year. He could finally bring some of the warmth he held inside, outside so all could see. Craigs wife Connie is one of the strongest Christian women I have ever known. Her prayers for her husband all these years did show fruit. We all saw it over this past year. During the really hard months and last few weeks of Craigs life Connie was an example because she was there for her Husband in both sickness and health. Someday's I would ask myself how she could keep going, but then I would rememeber it was not actually her. It was Christ through her that gave her the strength to care for her mate the way she did. Just like it says in God's word. "I can do all things through Christ who strenghtens me." It doesn't just say some things, but ALL things. By God's Grace and love this family has been able to do ALL things through Him. I learned we can decide to live in that stength and peace. Like Connie said on one of the bad days, "I have decided I am going to just live in God's peace." I know we will miss Craig very much. I also know Craig is now able to fully rest in God's peace eternally, in Heaven where we get to see him again someday.*

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**Pilar Nelsen** - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

SM

“ *So many of my childhood memories include summers spent in Kearney with, my cousins Craig, Randy and Sandy. I also have many special memories of Craig as we grew up. I don't even know if Craig realized how much I cared about and respected him. I will never, ever look at a garden without thinking of Craig.*

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**Sharon Manzer** - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

CB

“Dad is my hero and I miss him so much that it hurts. I'll always keep the things I've learned from him close to my heart; and continue on in the way that he would want me to. He taught us to be brave, to never give up, and to keep learning about everything. Thank you, Dad, for your consistency, your patience, and the love you had for Mom.

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**Charlotte Brockman** - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM