



James "Brad" Nelson

October 26, 1942 - December 25, 2018

James W. B. Nelson
Kearney Resident

James W. B. "Brad" Nelson, 76, of Kearney passed away on December 25, 2018 at Kearney Regional Medical Center in Kearney. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 31, 2018 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Military honors will be provided by the American Legion Post #52 and VFW Post #759 in conjunction with the Nebraska National Guard Honors Team. Visitation will be 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are suggested to American Radio Relay League or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Association. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Brad was born on October 26, 1942 in Lawrence, Kansas to James Iden Nelson and Mary Gertrude (Mumert) Carlson. Although he lived in various states while growing up, he spent his later years in Phoenix, Arizona and Spring, Texas before moving to Kearney in 2016.

He graduated from Campbell High School with the class of 1960 and married

Patricia M. Chavanu in 1965. After graduating from Kearney State University in 1966, he joined the U.S. Army. He served from 1966-1970 in the Army Security Agency and was a Vietnam Veteran.

He worked for the Houston School District for almost thirty years.

His hobbies included reading, genealogy research, photography, astronomy, and ham radio. He was a member of the local ham radio club, ARRL (American Relay Radio League), the Torch Club, and the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia M. Nelson; son, Michael Nelson; granddaughters, Breeah and Abrielle Nelson; daughter, Michelle DePaepe and her husband, Tom DePaepe; granddaughter, Sierra DePaepe; and his sister, Katie Snyderstrup and her husband, Joe Snyderstrup.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Janie Auld and his step-brother, Harold Carlson.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

DEC **31**. 10:30 AM (CT)

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4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
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Tribute Wall



“ James "Brad" Nelson

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ I always enjoyed our talks before and after the Friday night NARS hamclub meetings. Brad was a pleasure to talk to and share experiences and ham radio stories with. Hated to see you move away, but so glad you got to return to your roots, of only for a short time. You are missed, OM.
Bill - N5BIA.

Bill Buoy - December 31, 2018 at 12:29 PM



“ James Wiliam Bradford Nelson was my nephew ---a treasure to love and for whom I give thanks to God. He was interested in and showed respect for all of God's and man's creation. Now I am looking forward to time with him in heaven. Sending my love to Pat and all the family, Mary Lou Penny

Mary Lou Penny - December 30, 2018 at 05:26 PM



“ Mary Lou Penny & Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James "Brad" Nelson.



Mary Lou Penny & Family - December 30, 2018 at 04:31 PM

MP

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mary Lou Penny - December 30, 2018 at 03:06 PM

PC

“ *PJ, Katie, Olivia, Madeline, and Sophia Chavanu purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James "Brad" Nelson.*



PJ, Katie, Olivia, Madeline, and Sophia Chavanu - December 29, 2018 at 07:12 PM

MF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Marty Fitzgerald - December 28, 2018 at 07:11 PM

MF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Marty Fitzgerald - December 28, 2018 at 07:08 PM



Michael Nelson

Thank you for the photo. This was actually one of the F-14's from my squadron when I was in the Navy at Point Mugu, CA. It was quite funny because I remember him sending me the picture and showing it to me. I laughed and told him that was our squadron and wondered where they were going. Who knew it was going to a Houston Airshow where my dad was working? - Michael Nelson(Brad's Son)

Michael Nelson - December 28, 2018 at 09:04 PM

JP

“ *As President of Midway Amateur Radio Club and Amateur Radio Emergency Services Coordinator for Buffalo County, I would like to express how much respect and companionship we all felt for Brad. He was a real asset to our group and he is greatly missed. He must have really enjoyed working on projects -- we talked many times about an antenna he was building in his yard. I loaned him some tools, and he gave me several books and Ham Radio Caps. Brad was an absolute pleasure to know. WD5GNI SK Jan Parker wa0lst*

Jan Parker - December 28, 2018 at 05:24 PM

JF

“ *Juanita Eppenbach and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James "Brad" Nelson.*



Juanita Eppenbach and family - December 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

MF

“ Brad was a good friend, neighbor, and fellow HAM operator. He was a former President of the Northwest Amateur Radio Society and participated in many events that we held. He will be sorely missed.
Marty/W5MF

NARS will be making a donation to the ARRL in his honor, thanking him for his service to the community.

When word got out many of his friends wrote:
So sorry to hear of his passing. Brad was a always friendly and pleasant to talk to. He will be missed.
73, Bill

RIP OM will miss you.
Ray (NC9P)

Sorry to hear Brad's gone. We spoke briefly at the airport a buncha years back. He was indeed a good guy, very interesting, and modest about his own professional accomplishments. He'll be remembered. Sincerest sympathy to his family.
/mmx

I was saddened to hear of Brad's passing. I enjoyed working with Brad at the Redd School teaching kids to solder and assemble electronic kits. He will be missed.
Tom KK5YU

A good guy. A family man.
I have a vintage Heathkit Keyer model HD-1410 in the shack in use today that was repaired by Brad. It was built in 1977 when I was first licensed, but went dead about 10 years later. I could not find a source for repair until I mentioned the problem to Brad at a NARS board meeting when Brad was president. He said he would take a look at it to see if he could fix it.
Sure enough, he not only repaired the unit, but made a modification to allow use with modern transceivers. He even labelled the case

with "D5 and R27 Jumpered For use with Solid State Rigs."

Impressive!

Will miss seeing Brad, as was the case in the recent past when he made trips from Nebraska back to Houston from time to time.

Keith NM5G

When I got re-licensed after a long absence from radio, in 2001, my first exposure to the NARS family was at Victor's Deli at a Saturday morning NARS breakfast in February 2001. The first ham I met was Brad. I agree with all said already about his friendliness... a nice guy. I saddens me to know he's gone.

Two years ago, just before Brad moved to Nebraska, he put his tower, beam, and rotator for sale on the NARS reflector, and I purchased the whole setup. It was more than a year before I got around to having my site prepared to erect the antenna and I bugged Brad with a few phone calls and he was good with helping me. I never got a chance to have a Q with him Texas/Nebraska with his antenna. I was just thinking about how we'd still do that some day when I got the news of his quick demise.... or did he know he had leukemia for a while? It has been almost a year since I last spoke with him.

Well, I hope he got the comfort of being back "home" in Nebraska his last couple years. But he could easily have said Houston was his home, too, maybe even more so, with all his ham friends.

ROD / W5IE

He was always so gracious to be an "elmer" for my ham radio students, to answer on-air questions (that's why the NARS repeater got dubbed "the answer repeater"), and serve as VE. Definitely missed hearing his call the past couple of years...

Patricia Reiff

I only knew Brad briefly, but he was nice guy.

Best, Richard KF5WRD (NARS President)

TK

“ Tammy Kral lit a candle in memory of James "Brad" Nelson



Tammy Kral - December 27, 2018 at 09:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Brad" Nelson.



December 27, 2018 at 05:44 PM

MF

“ Mr. & Mrs. Edward Swidriski and Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of James "Brad" Nelson.



Mr. & Mrs. Edward Swidriski and Family - December 27, 2018 at 02:20 PM