



Lloyd George "Whistler" Nelson II

January 9, 1953 - August 10, 2019

Lloyd George "Whistler" Nelson, II, of Carbondale, passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2019.

He was born on January 9, 1953 in Tower City, PA to Lloyd George and Bessie (Thurston) Nelson.

Lloyd married Cindy Gerrish at Devil's Kitchen on October 18, 1980.

He attended Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA for his undergraduate studies, then to SIUC for his masters in Zoology. While at SIUC he was PA teaching in waterfowl.

He was employed for a short time in North Dakota with the Department of Natural Resources before returning to Southern Illinois. He was employed with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office as the animal control officer for over 38 years.

Lloyd played, coached and umpired softball, was the organizer for the Murphysboro District Park numerous softball leagues for over 30 years. He coached women's co-ed, Miss-n-Hitters and women's Hit-n-Misses for over 40 years. He was the founder of Southern Illinois Select Allstar High School Girls Fast Pitch Softball game. He was vice president of USA/ASA, Director of

Men's D and E State Tournament, and in 2019 was inducted into the USA/ASA State Hall of Fame.

He was an IHSA Football Referee for over 30 years. A strong supporter of Southern Illinois Special Olympics for 35 plus years.

He was also an avid hunter and fisherman, but his passion was rabbit hunting with his special friend, Scott Hale and their beagles.

Lloyd is survived by his wife, Cindy and his dog, Lucy. He is also survived by his USA/ASA Family and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, special companions, Barney, Coli, Foxy, Mollie, Rufus and his special Rosie.

A softball game in memory of Lloyd Nelson will be Sunday, September 15 in Riverside Ballpark, Murphysboro. Following the game around 5:00 pm there will be a Celebration of Life hosted by the family at the Moose Lodge.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to SI Select to the Lloyd Nelson Scholarship Fund and/or to S.I. Special Olympics.

“Heaven is fixin to have one hell of a softball league!!”

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lloyd George "Whistler" Nelson II*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Lloyd lived across the hallway from me in Trax Hall at Bucknell University our freshman year. There was no more happy go-lucky guy than Lloyd. I can recall him casting his fishing lures in the hallway of the dorm. I left Bucknell in my sophomore year and lost touch with Lloyd but often thought of him. The fellows in our freshman dorm were a band of brothers. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing.*

Rob Westover

Rob Westover - April 24, 2021 at 12:43 PM



“ *Lloyd and his mother Bessie were very special friends of mine during my high school years at Williams Valley High. Bessie encouraged me in art, and Lloyd and I would talk science. They were such kind and funny people, and like Lloyd, I was a bit of a loner and science nerd. I too hiked the woods and studied the animals and plants of rural Pennsylvania. After college, I became a marine biologist and I lost touch with both of them when life got busy in the 1980s. I am so sorry to hear of Lloyd's passing...he was such a kind, funny and gentle soul. I will forever see a dark haired young man, tall and slender, with a dog at his heels walking down a path in the autumn woods. Rest well, dear friend. Vicky Kissinger Crosby*

Vicky Crosby - March 06, 2020 at 01:30 AM

JU

“ *Lloyd was a good friend and classmate at Williams Valley High School. He was always available to help others if they were struggling with any school assignments. He will be missed*
Joe Underkoffler



JOE UNDERKOFFLER - August 15, 2019 at 06:32 AM

RH

“ *Lloyd was a good friend and fellow classmate at Williams Valley. I remember his kindness and friendship for all those years. I'm so sorry for your loss, and pray for comfort and peace for you and all who mourn in these days.*
Rev. Harold Hand, Strasburg, PA

Rev. Harold Hand - August 14, 2019 at 09:36 PM

JP

“ *Lloyd was my oldest and dearest friend since I was 4 years old. He was always there for me no matter what. Over the years I had come to view him as my touch stone. If I was having a problem or something great happened he was the first one I thought of going to. He kept me grounded and will be missed greatly. I was so happy to see he found such a good match with Cindy. He was a very happy man who shared himself with everyone.*

Jane Parker Petrilla - August 14, 2019 at 08:44 PM

LP

“ I have know Lloyd since moving to Illinois from Texas. He knew where I moved from and came to the Regional Office of Education one day to let me know I wasn't the only critter to move to Illinois from Texas as he had just seen an armadillo here. He always made us laugh. Will miss him a lot. Cindy, there isn't anything I can say to you to ease your pain, but hope you feel the love of his friends for you.

Linda Polete - August 14, 2019 at 02:03 AM

MW

“ Cindy I very sorry to hear about Lloyd Dut was just telling me he saw the big guy in Decatur. Sherry and I loved bowling and playing ball with you guys. Seeing you guys at coed state was special. Manny and Sherry

manny wei - August 13, 2019 at 10:55 PM

DV

“ Cindy so sorry to read of Lloyd's passing. Praying for you. Danny Vaughn

danny vaughn - August 13, 2019 at 08:47 PM

Sherry
Engle

“ My heart goes out to everyone who was fortunate enough to know Lloyd, and call him family or friend. Cindy, I know there are no words that will make this better or any easier. I may have moved to St. Louis in 2007, but I never forgot you or Lloyd. This picture is the last one I took of you guys and Mike before I left the shelter. Working at the shelter was always very difficult, but Lloyd would come in, and always have a story for us. He always came in whistling a tune, and always had a smile on his face. Sending my love to you.

Sherry



Sherry Engle - August 13, 2019 at 03:46 PM

DS

“ Cindy, I am so sorry, but I Pray you're at Peace knowing he was doing what he Loved.

I met Lloyd first, then Cindy through Softball, when I played at SIU in the late 70's, Summer Fast Pitch with the Carbondale Flyers, and the Carterville Cougars into the 80's. When I was too old to play Fast Pitch, I converted to Slow Pitch, and that's where I met a Kindred Soul when it came to the Love of Softball. Lloyd was one of the most Knowledgeable Softball enthusiasts out there, and I would always pick his Brain when I Coached Softball. Throughout the years, I have tried to convey to people, especially Softball players, that they wouldn't be as far as they are without Lloyd Nelson as their biggest Supporter. For that, I am Eternally Grateful!

When I Retired from Teaching in 2015, I became as involved as I could in Special Olympics. I renewed my Friendships with Lloyd and Cindy. Lloyd basically became my Mentor for the annual Spring Games held at SIU. His Loss will sure be felt when I'm ready to hear that familiar Starter's gun go off.

My most Heartfelt Condolences to Cindy and to all of us in Southern Illinois who are missing this man.

Dee Stull - August 13, 2019 at 10:23 AM

CH

“ So very sorry to hear this news. I worked at the courthouse for many years and it was always a pleasure to talk to Lloyd. Jackson County will be a poorer place without him.

Cathy Hines-Boulton - August 13, 2019 at 10:06 AM

LW

“ I first got to know Lloyd when we were members of SIUC’s Animal Care Committee in the 1990s. I quickly learned how intelligent, knowledgeable, compassionate, and practical he was — and how he could diffuse a tense situation with a funny remark or an observation of the world beyond the sterile research labs. My husband and I knew him, too, as Jackson County’s animal control officer. Lloyd responded patiently and immediately to our requests to check on a dog running loose or living on a chain or without shelter, water, and fresh food. He saved many domestic and wild animals in pain or great distress and he taught pet owners how to be responsible and loving. He was constrained by the county laws he had to work under, but he knew how to stretch them a bit depending on the situation. He told me once that a dog, even on a chain, was the only love — to receive and to give — that some children had in their lives. The Friends of Giant City Park gave Lloyd life membership for his work at the park to rescue hurt and abandoned animals. I am so very sorry to learn that Lloyd is no longer in our community. My sincere condolences to Cindy, his family, his many friends, and his animal buddies.
— Laraine Wright

Laraine Wright - August 13, 2019 at 09:56 AM

CO

“ Cindy, I am so sorry to hear about Lloyd. We had great times working together on Special Olympics together through the years. Of course that “we” includes you. You two were quite a team! God Bless.

Cathy o. - August 13, 2019 at 09:32 AM

MO

“ *Lloyd was the grad student teaching assistant for a waterfowl management class I took in the 1970's when I was and undergrad at SIU. He made the class fun.*

Cindy sorry for your loss.

Mark A Ottis - August 13, 2019 at 07:09 AM

JS

“ *What a guy!!! Oh man oh man you will b missed!! Yes there is gonna be one heck of a game in heaven. Cindy I pray for you and your family 🙏*

joni sisky - August 13, 2019 at 05:34 AM

DH

“ *Cindy, I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in my thoughts at this difficult time. Lloyd was a special guy and will be remembered by many in Southern Illinois.*

Deb Hudson

Deb Hudson - August 13, 2019 at 03:56 AM