



## Lyle Harold Nelson

January 8, 1931 - December 7, 2020

Dr. Lyle Harold Nelson, 89, a long-time resident of Muskogee, died on December 7, 2020.

Lyle was born on January 8, 1931 in McAlester, OK to Audrey and Dr. LeRoy Nelson. He told many stories of growing up in the post-depression era and how the world events impacted even a small town in Oklahoma. He talked of going to visit with the POW's at the camp in town. It also seems that many of his stories ended up with trips to the dentist or doctor after colliding with something. He also spent a lot of time on the golf course, where he developed a life-long love for the game.

As with many of his generation, he watched as his older brother served in WWII. Lyle later enlisted in the navy and served aboard the USS Yancey (AKA-93) in the Korean war. He spoke often and fondly of his time in the navy and always smiled as he would tell stories about his shipmates and their experiences. He loved the opportunity the navy provided to visit locations around the Pacific which also developed his appreciation for Asian art. He graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and would tell stories about hitchhiking back and forth on the weekends. He then enrolled at Southern School of Optometry in Memphis to follow his father and brother into the family profession.

Before he left for Memphis, he met Marlene Roberts, who was working part time at his dad's office. They had a whirlwind courtship and after a few months, he asked his dad if he should marry her, who replied 'you'd be a fool

not to'. They were married and moved to Memphis for him to complete his studies.

Lyle and Marlene then moved to Muskogee, where he opened his optometry practice across the street from the new Lakeland shopping center on Callahan. He practiced there for over 30 years and loved providing for his patients. He still enjoyed writing notes on paper pads from his office that listed his phone number as 'murray 3-1021'.

Lyle was an avid golfer, almost never missing his Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning group. A scratch player for many years, he also was able to shoot his age many times in his 70's and 80's. He was very also proud of his eight holes-in-one.

He and Marlene had a great love of music and theater with season tickets to events in Muskogee and Tulsa. After Marlene passed he still looked forward to the new season. He never tired of Broadway shows and would call family to remind them a show would be coming on public television.

Lyle and Marlene were life-long members of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Over the years they both served on various committees and boards and were part of many Sunday school classes. Lyle still looked forward to church every week. His church family was a big part of his life.

Lyle was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marlene; his brother, LeRoi Nelson and sister, Eleanor Hopper, both of McAlester. He is survived by his sons, Rob Nelson and his wife Cindy of Edmond, Oklahoma, Steve Nelson and his wife Rosemarie of Austin, Texas; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Even as his health declined, when asked "how are you doing", he'd reply "I'm doing great". He was always positive and appreciated everyone that helped him. He made it within one month of his 90th birthday, which was a target he wanted to reach. He will not be here for us to celebrate with him in January, but we know that he will be able to spend that day in heaven with his Marlene and his Lord.

In lieu of flowers the family would request that donations be made to the

Muskogee Little Theater.

Services will be conducted by the family at a later date. He will be available at Cornerstone Funeral Home for viewing Wednesday, December 16, 2020 from 9AM-5:30PM.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Mausoleum

Muskogee, OK

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **16**. 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory  
1830 North York Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403  
(918) 682-1500

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Harold Nelson*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Dr. Nelson was the optometrist for myself, my sister and our children. If you had a problem he would go to any lengths to find the solution. Always friendly and helpful. Any time I drive by his former office I think of him and the good he has done for the community.*



**Charlene Hibbard** - December 18, 2020 at 10:36 PM



“ *Whenever I drive by Callahan and East Side Blvd, I always think fondly of my childhood experiences with Dr. Lyle Nelson. He was always the sweetest man and treated us with kindness and compassion. Over the years, I always compared the services of my optometrist to Dr. Nelson. When you start out with the best, the rest of them just don't measure up to him. I want the family to know how much he impacted the lives of Muskogeeans for years - and we will all miss him. Rest in peace, Lyle. We will never forget you!! Edwynna Synar*

**Edwynna Synar** - December 16, 2020 at 02:20 PM

JO

“ We started attending St. Paul's three years ago and one of the first people who greeted us was dear Lyle. During these past years, we were blessed to have his smiles, friendship, love and hugs.....We so missed him when covid hit. We would always comment to each other and various others, that it just didn't seem right without him with us. Blessings for all of his family and friends. We were so blessed to know him. We are happy he is no longer suffering, with Marlene and his God!! He was truly a man of God!!!! Steve and Joan Odell..

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**Joan Odell** - December 10, 2020 at 09:23 PM