



Frank Herbert Nelson

February 10, 1927 - August 12, 2020

Frank Herbert Nelson, 93 of Siloam Springs, Arkansas – also known as “Pepaw”, “Bank”, “Big Buck”, “Coach” and “Chief”, went to meet his Lord and Savior, Wednesday, August 12th, 2020 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was born February 10, 1927 to Herbert and Mary E. Nelson.

Frank grew up in the hills of Cushman, Arkansas. He graduated from Batesville High School and joined the U.S. Navy on February 8th, 1945 where he proudly served in the Philippines during World War II. When he returned from service, he attended Arkansas Tech University in Russellville on a full athletic scholarship. He was the point guard for the Wonder Boy basketball team that compiled a record of 103-25 during his playing years and won AIC National Championships in both 1948 and 1949. He also lettered in track and field all 4 years at Tech, and was so proud to be a Wonder Boy. He continued to be actively involved in Booster Club and many other events on campus throughout his life, as well as being inducted into The Arkansas Tech’s Athletic Hall of Fame, the T Club. Tech is also where he met and married Lois Nell Henry of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Together they had three daughters: Andrea, Teresa and Susan. They were the “Light” of his life. Frank and Lois were married for 45 years before her passing.

After graduating from Arkansas Tech, Frank and Lois moved to Piggott, Arkansas and then Siloam Springs where he served as Head Football Coach

for both high schools until 1962. While coaching in Siloam Springs, he received his Master's Degree in Education Administration from the University of Arkansas.

Moving on from his coaching career, Frank started a real estate and insurance company in Siloam Springs. In the early 60's he ran for State Senate in Benton County on the Republican ticket and was narrowly defeated despite campaigning through many small towns from the bed of an old pick-up truck with nothing but a bullhorn and his infectious personality. As his three daughters grew older, he started his own "wildcat" oil and gas company, FHN Energy, operating in South Texas and Mexico. By this time, he had traded in his athletic shoes and whistle for custom-made boots and a Cowboy hat.

Frank's top priority was his family. He loved Lois, Andrea, Teresa and Susan with an unrelenting passion. Later in his life, that love grew to include the grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as his sons-in-law Vic, Lon and Jim as well as the entire extended family. He was an example of a strong Christian man. He was a Prayer Warrior. He began each day reading the Bible and praying. He called out each family member's name with a specific prayer. He also kept very meticulous calendars of family events, achievements and moments that were precious to him. He loved unconditionally (Although, he would certainly let you know if he thought you were making a poor decision). He was kind, generous and thoughtful. He had a great sense of humor, always had a joke to tell and didn't miss an opportunity to sing a Country and Western song or his signature number The Green, Green Grass of Home.

After Lois Nell's passing, Frank was determined to not let his family suffer and became the rock of his family. He was present for births, birthday parties, athletic events, dance recitals, vacations, hunting and fishing trips and graduations. Everyone loved him. He had countless friends and associates throughout his exceptional life including, his best friend of the last 26 years,

Dana Stroud of North Little Rock, his thoughtful and caring neighbor from across the street to whom our family will always be grateful.

He is survived by his three daughters: Andrea and Victor Siroonian, Teresa and Jim Huson, and Susan and Lon Cearley; three granddaughters: Robin and Steve Sutton, Heather Gladd, and April and Shawn Hansen; three grandsons: Frank Nelson and Betsey Huson, Matthew and Melanie Huson, and Chad and Carrie Cearley; great grandchildren: Shelby Gladd, Sydney Gladd, Levi Gladd, Stephen Sutton, Lillie Bullington, Mary Catherine Sutton, Caroline Sutton, Landon Hansen, J.R. Huson, and Halee Huson.

Honorary pallbearers are Victor Siroonian, Jim Huson, Lon Cearley, Frank Nelson Huson, Matthew Huson, Chad Cearley, Steve Sutton, Stephen Sutton, and Garland Allison.

We will all feel the void of losing someone we all loved so much. He will be thought of every day in all of the wonderful memories we share.

A private military service was held on August 14, 2020.

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ I delivered Meals on Wheels to Mr Nelson for many years. He was my favorite one on my route; always cheerful and humorous And gave a Christmas card to me each Christmas. I just learned of his passing today when I walked by his house. I am so sorry for your loss. From his obituary, it is evident he led a wonderful life. I will miss him and will always hold a special place for him in my heart.
Karolyn Jones-North Little Rock.

Karolyn Jones - October 03, 2020 at 06:02 PM

JB

“ Joe & Cheryl Burns lit a candle in memory of Frank Herbert Nelson



Joe & Cheryl Burns - August 23, 2020 at 01:41 PM

SC

“ I remember my parents (Ruth & Virgil Alexander) and also my Aunt Peggy and Uncle Jerry running around with Frank and Lois. I remember Frank, Virgil and Jerry playing pranks on people a lot. One Christmas one of them put a wig on and rode around town with the other two just to see if people would notice. They were always having lots of fun together especially at Dawn Hill. Frank always had that big smile on his face. They fondly called him Cherokee and that's the name I knew him by. I am sending my deepest condolences to Teresa, Andrea and Susan and their families. I know Heaven is a happier place with his smiling face 🙏❤️

Susan Alexander Case

Susan Alexander Case - August 19, 2020 at 01:59 PM

MG

“ Uncle Frank was special to me because he was special to my mother. I am so thankful for the phone calls we shared with each other, and will certainly miss hearing him say he loves me. It makes my heart happy to know he is now with his Savior and all his family. He will be missed by so many, but am thankful that I will get to spend eternity with him.

Mary Grabill - August 18, 2020 at 09:19 PM

SK

“ Uncle Frank was one in a million. A special man with a special heart who always had time for you. He will be missed by everyone who knew him but heaven will be a better place with him there. I will always be grateful for his interest and caring for Joe and me.



Sue Bailey Kyzer - August 18, 2020 at 09:03 AM

BE

“ Frank and I were long time friends from the early 1950's. Willie and I got married in his and Lois.s home. Many dear and sweet memories. Burton Elliott

Burton Elliott - August 17, 2020 at 03:19 PM

MB

“ In the late 50's Frank called my dad to help him manage Lake Francis Boy's Camp. My father, Ab Bidwell was the head track coach at UofA. He gladly accepted the offer because he loved working with kids. He asked me to go with him and we spent a large portion of the summer with Frank. To a nine year old like me he seemed larger than life. We stayed in the old Lodge, went swimming in the concrete pool, he taught me to water ski on Lake Francis, and we went camping on the Illinois river down by the gypsy camp. I even remember the name of the lady that prepared the meals at the lodge. Her name was Mrs. Towns. I say this to let his family know that when a person leaves lasting memories in the mind of a nine year old boy like me, that person is pretty special. If dad was still alive he would say the same thing, as would all the young men Frank and dad mentored

michael bidwell - August 17, 2020 at 01:26 PM

TH

“ When coach and Mary Lou passed chief took there place. for me. He made every time he was in Russellville he would come buy and talk to me and my family and made sure we were ok. I spent homecomings with him and he was my coach and friend. Of all of dads players he was the closest to me, so sorry to hear about chief. I will miss him dearly. Tommy Hindsman. Coach hindsman. Oldest son. He. Was. Great

tommy hindsman - August 16, 2020 at 09:52 PM

LM

“ L. A. John Meeker lit a candle in memory of Frank Herbert Nelson



L. A. John Meeker - August 16, 2020 at 07:06 PM

RA

“ Frank was my High School coach and a good friend! He also was a football referee working with Dave Camfield and others in NW Arkansas and NE Oklahoma. I was privileged to work with him. RIP coach! Ron Anderson 1954 - 1956

Ron Anderson - August 16, 2020 at 11:23 AM

CD

“ Sending prayers to you Andrea- and to all of your family- treasure the beautiful memories you have of times with your daddy

cathy deweese - August 16, 2020 at 10:37 AM

RW

“ Debbi and I had the privilege of being around Frank on many occasions and enjoyed his friendly and joyful personality. He had a lively spirit that we will always remember.
Ron&Debbi Witherspoon

Ron Witherspoon - August 16, 2020 at 09:04 AM

RA

“ Frank was my Coach and a good friend. RIP Coach! Ron Anderson 1954 - 1956

Ron Anderson - August 16, 2020 at 08:28 AM

LF

“ Loree Warren Foreman lit a candle in memory of Frank Herbert Nelson



Loree Warren Foreman - August 15, 2020 at 10:48 PM

LR

“ *Liz Reading lit a candle in memory of Frank Herbert Nelson*



Liz Reading - August 15, 2020 at 02:46 PM