



Nelson Ritsema

October 20, 1929 - August 13, 2016

Nelson Ritsema, age 86, of Kankakee, died on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at home surrounded by family. Nelson was born on October 20, 1929 to Richard and Carrie (Salm) Ritsema in Wichert, IL. He proudly served our country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He married Geraldine 'Jerry' Coy on July 10, 1953 in Momence, IL. He worked for Kroehler Manufacturing for 27 years. He was a business partner in Decker Furniture for 25 years. He was also a beloved fixture at his 'retirement job' at Mike's Corner Shell in Kankakee for 17 years.

Nelson is survived by his wife, Jerry of Kankakee, IL; one son, Richard (Erica) Ritsema of Kankakee, IL; three daughters, LuAnn (Edson Scudder) Ritsema of Charlotte, NC, Liala (George) Beukema of Chicago, IL and Jacqueline (Jerry) Kintz of Colorado Springs, CO; one sister, Cornelia Kaluf of Demotte, IN; one brother, Jacob Ritsema of Kankakee, IL and eight grandchildren, Carrie, Tessa, Kalli, Jesse, Carley, Isaac, Eve and Blake. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Herman Ritsema and one brother-in-law, Paul Kaluf.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until the time of Nelson's memorial service at 12:00 p.m. at Faith Church in Kankakee, IL. Cremation rites have been accorded. Inurnment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery will be at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Faith Church in Kankakee or to the donor's choice.

Please sign Nelson's online guestbook at www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421
(815) 423-9958
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 20. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Faith Church
2400 Waldron Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Service

AUG 20. 12:00 PM (CT)

Faith Church
2400 Waldron Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ *Nelson Ritsema*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *My heart goes out to the family. George was a sweetheart. I am going to miss talking to him. He really used to brighten my day. Prayers to the family.*



owaysha williams - August 26, 2016 at 11:40 PM



“ *My condolences to the Ritsema family. Nelson was a good friend of my late father.*

David Finch - August 18, 2016 at 01:40 PM



“ *We met Nelson many years ago when he and Jerry were visiting their daughter and son-in-law, LuAnn and Edson, in Charlotte, NC. Such a funny witty fellow. He will be missed greatly.*
Anna & Dale Gosnell



Anna Gosnell - August 18, 2016 at 09:48 AM



“ *I remember him was very polite and nice when I have him pump my gas. I'm going miss his smile.* ”



Renee Wills - August 18, 2016 at 04:23 AM



“ *Janet D G. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Nelson Ritsema.* ”



Janet D G. - August 16, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ *We didn't know your father but if he was like you Rick, he must have been a hell of a man* ”

Kevin Peterson - August 15, 2016 at 06:55 PM



“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. (Barb Jensen Jackson, daughter of Wanda Lee Arseneau Jensen)* ”

Barb Jackson - August 15, 2016 at 03:19 PM

LS

“ We were saddened to hear of the passing of Nelson. He and Jerry have been charter-pillars of the church since its inception and his presence will be missed so much by both young and old. In his later years we assume he served, also, as one of the church Historians as his knowledge of the RCA and Faith church was as wide and deep as was his service to the church through the years. May his legacy and influence carry on into the future along with the memories of the people who's lives he touched. May God Bless his family.

Linda and Vern Smith - August 15, 2016 at 02:27 PM

AB

Nelson (and Jerry) are two of Jesus' favorites. They are s special to me and my family. I say "they" because Nelson and Jerry have been "one flesh" all the time we've known them. I just picture that great reunion in heaven since Saturday. I am sure the celebration is still going on with all our loved ones who have gone before. We love you Nelson!

Arnie Bandstra - August 15, 2016 at 07:35 PM

BD

I remember many special evening Bible studies at Nelson and Jerry's house. They always made a point of including our kids. The kids even called them Uncle Nelson and Aunt Jerry. We were very blessed to have known Nelson.

Barb and Dale DeYoung - August 15, 2016 at 09:11 PM

GV

Nelson loved God...he loved his church...he loved his family and friends - what wonderful attributes! We were blessed to have known him and were uplifted by just a very small portion of his wonderful stories and words of encouragement and wisdom. Earth's loss is Heaven's gain.

Bob and Georgia Van Vossen

Georgia Van Vossen - August 16, 2016 at 12:24 PM

JB

(I tried to submit this before but am not certain if it went through. Sorry if it is a duplication!)

*Aunt Jerry, LuAnn, Liala, Jacque & Rick,
I am sorry I will not be with you on Saturday to celebrate Nelson's life.
And what a great life he had!
My husband, Bob, reminded me that Nelson spoke at my dad's (Leo) funeral twenty years ago. Liala reminded me that Nelson was asked at the last minute to speak & she described Nelson speaking from his heart. What Bob & I remember Nelson saying is that many people describe others as how great they were but Leo was a good man. Nelson, too, was a good man.
You all are in my thoughts & prayers.
Love your longtime & lifetime friend,
Jennifer Ludwig Brown*

jennifer brown - August 16, 2016 at 01:48 PM

LT

Love and prayers and good memories. L. Tallman and family

Lucille Tallman - August 16, 2016 at 02:21 PM

NV

Jerry and Family, So sorry for your loss, I worked with (Nellie as we always called him at Kroehlers) he was a Great guy,great foreman and just a nice guy and a dry sense of humor, he would say something funny and then just walk away, but you could see that little smile on his face after he said it. God and Peace be with all of you. Norma Vaughn

Norma J. Vaughn - August 19, 2016 at 01:48 PM

KS

“*Condolences to the family. Nice man. Enjoyed talking to him at Shell.
Prayers.*”



Kathy Sullivan - August 15, 2016 at 02:09 PM