



## Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.

October 22, 1925 - November 25, 2021

Thomas Edmund Nelson, Jr. "Blue" of Centreville, MD passed away at his home on November 25, 2021, peacefully surrounded by his family. He was 96.

Born on October 22, 1925, in Centreville, MD, he was the son of the late Thomas E. Nelson, Sr., and Bertha Parks Nelson. Blue was a graduate of Centreville High School, Class of 1942. After graduation he joined the US Navy in 1943 and was a member of the Fleet Airwing II Torpedo Squadron. While serving in Guam he worked for the Navy News as a photographer and was honorably discharged as a US Navy Ensign- Photographer's Mate 2nd Class. In 1947 he opened the first self-serve grocery store "Community Store" with James E. Reynolds in Centreville. The store had a bakery on site and was located on Water Street. The store was the first to sell English Muffins, frozen food and was the only store selling Arnold Bread. In 1948, Blue joined the Maryland State Police Force. He married Jane Baker Downes on September 19, 1953, and they had two children, Amy Downes Nelson Leach (Ray Swincki) and Jill Parks Nelson Davis (Dale). In 1956, Blue went to work in the family business, Downes Music Company, until his retirement in 1991. After his retirement he explored his passion of woodworking, making numerous pieces of furniture for friends, relatives and for auctions at fund raisers. His furniture can be found in homes from Michigan to Georgia.

He was a member of the Lions Club, American Legion, and the Navy League

Eastern Shore Board of Directors. Highlights of his later years included guest of Atlantic Fleet Vice Admiral Albert Konetzni to Christening of USS Ronald Regan, USS Virginia and invitations to the Supreme Court Christmas Party and unveiling of Clerk of Supreme Court Michael Radak portrait. Blue enjoyed building various model ships and moved into RC planes in later years. He was a lifetime resident of Centreville.

In addition to his two daughters, Amy Leach and Jill Davis, he is survived by his second wife Elizabeth Kirby "Betty" McGlashan Nelson; 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife Jane Nelson on March 5, 2002.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, from 12-1 pm at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Centreville, MD, with a Graveside service beginning at 1 pm in Chesterfield Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compass Regional Hospice, 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617, the Maryland Troopers Association <https://mdtroopers.org/donate/> or to the charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **30**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Centreville Location  
408 South Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD 21617  
(410) 758-1151  
[info@fhfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fhfuneralhome.com)

## Graveside Service

NOV **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chesterfield Cemetery  
406 South Liberty Street  
Centreville, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Mary Palmatary Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.



Mary Palmatary Jones - November 30, 2021 at 09:39 AM



*Prayers to the family. I remember Blue working on the juke box many, many years ago when I was working in a restaurant in Chestertown. He knew his work so well. God Bless. Mary Palmatary Jones, Ridgely, Maryland*

Mary Palmatary Jones - November 30, 2021 at 09:41 AM

GE

“ Amy and Jill, I'm sorry for your loss, our thoughts are with you



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**Ginni Emanuel** - November 29, 2021 at 09:05 AM

SG

“ Jill and Dale,  
We are so sorry for your loss. You took great care of your Dad over the years-he was blessed to have such a loving family. We pray you find peace in knowing he is at rest. Cherish your fond memories of a beautiful soul. Thinking of you,  
Steph and Your Work Family



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**Stephanie Gilbert** - November 29, 2021 at 09:03 AM

MH

“ Jill and Amy, Royce and I are so sorry for the loss of "Blue". He was a great neighbor for many years and such a builder of beautiful furniture. May God Bless the family with many wonderful memories. May he rest in peace. Blessings.



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**Martha R. Herman** - November 28, 2021 at 09:21 PM

PW

*Blue was so loved by my family. He used to pick up pecans in our back yard for my grandfather. EB Goldsborough and clean his printing tiles after a day of printing. This was up where the Record of the Observer was on Lawyers Row. Blue always spoke so well of my Grandfather. He was always happy to do any jobs they had. I always loved Blue and enjoyed his tales of working for my grandfather.*

*We offer Condoleezza to his two daughters and their families.. And to Betty and hope someone can lovingly care for her for her years ahead. May he rest in peace.*

*Paige and Frank Walbert*

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**Paige And Frank Walbert** - November 29, 2021 at 07:24 PM

MN

“*Amy & Jill, Sharon and I are sorry to hear of Uncle Blue Passing. As a young person he inspired me to get involved with electronics and after I left the Sheriff's Dept. went to work for an electric utility and used my electronics skills. I loved watching him work on all of the Downe's pinball machines. I learned a lot from him. He was a kind and caring person. Sending our Love, Buster Nelson*

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**Milton L Nelson** - November 28, 2021 at 08:07 PM

JP

“*John & Phyllis Perkins lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



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**John & Phyllis Perkins** - November 27, 2021 at 06:55 PM

BN

“ *Bob And Genevieve Norris sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Bob and Genevieve Norris** - November 27, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Condolences to the family. An icon to the Centreville area. Grateful for his service to our country and community.*



**Elaine Dell** - November 27, 2021 at 11:49 AM

JE

“ *Jim And Mary Ann Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Jim and Mary Ann Edwards** - November 27, 2021 at 08:37 AM

JE

*Jill and Amy, We are so sorry you lost your dad and send our most heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Your dad was a very wonderful man. God Bless you .Jim and Mary Ann Edwards*

**Jim and Mary Ann Edwards** - November 27, 2021 at 08:45 AM

GP

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - November 27, 2021 at 07:49 AM

GP

Amy and Jill. What great memories on Hope Road since 1957. Where did the time go? Will always remember the Christmas Mornings, Blue fixing the swing set so we could put water on the sliding board to slide down it in the summer, making homemade ice cream, his beautiful furniture making and looking after mother when Daddy went into the Nursing Home. He would always be tapping outside making something and mother knew he was around. It was so much security for her. He is now at peace with no more suffering and with your mom. Our prayers are with you at this time and he sure was a legacy in the community. Hugs and luv ya, Lynda and Gene

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - November 27, 2021 at 07:57 AM

JL

Jill and Dale,  
I'm so sorry for the loss of your father. Please accept my condolences and let me know if there's anything I can do to help during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones right now. I hope you're able to find peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Jill Lydon - November 29, 2021 at 02:17 PM

JC

“ June Clark lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.



June Clark - November 26, 2021 at 09:19 PM

JC

*Jill and Amy,  
So sorry to read that your dad had passed away, my prayers are with each one of you. You must remember the happy memories you all made together and that will get you through each day. Again I am so sorry*

*June*

**June Clark** - November 26, 2021 at 09:22 PM

KC

“ *Thoughts and prayers with the family*



**Kay Councill** - November 26, 2021 at 07:28 PM

BH

“ *Brenda Hahn lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Brenda Hahn** - November 26, 2021 at 07:12 PM

PE

“ *Pam And Fred Edwards lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Pam and Fred Edwards** - November 26, 2021 at 06:32 PM

TS

“ *Tim And Esther Blackiston, Sudlersville sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Tim and Esther Blackiston, Sudlersville** - November 26, 2021 at 06:30 PM

FP

“ *Frank And Tish Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Frank and Tish Palmatary** - November 26, 2021 at 06:28 PM

CW

“ *Centreville Methodist Women sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Blue" E. Nelson Jr.*



**Centreville Methodist Women** - November 26, 2021 at 06:26 PM



*Sorry to hear this but know he has had it tough this year. He was a good man, kind and caring. Thinking of you Jill and Amy. Not able to be there on Tuesday but have you in my prayers!*

**Sara Jane Davidson** - November 27, 2021 at 05:00 PM