



## Harry Raymond Nelson (Ray Nelson)

February 24, 1929 - April 5, 2014

Harry Raymond Nelson (Ray Nelson) of Cadillac on the evening of April 5, 2014 walked his final parade route into the welcoming arms of the Lord Jesus Christ with his wife of 62 years by his side. He was 86.

Ray was born on February 24, 1928 in Greenville, Michigan and was soon placed into the arms of Harry R. Nelson and his wife Eva (Cooper) Nelson of Cadillac. He led an idyllic life as a small-town American boy. The lakes, the streams, the woods were his places to be. He knew Lake Mitchell like a book and he could catch a dinner's worth of walleyes on Lake Cadillac any time it was needed. Later he became an expert fly fisherman with pictures to prove it! He loved to hunt partridge and pick berries.

In 1946, after graduating from Cadillac High School Ray enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Korea where he served until his discharge in 1948. In the fall he enrolled in Ferris Institute, where he planned to get a degree. Fate intervened when in the fall of 1950 he received marching papers to report for active duty and was sent to Korea again. There he served in combat duty until he was discharged in October of 1951. Once back home he eventually graduated from Ferris and began a teaching career of 34 years, mostly in the Chippewa Hill School system and retired in 1985.

In addition to his church and his family Ray considered the Cadillac Area Honor Guard the most important work of his life. His father was a WW I

veteran and the American Legion was the second home of all American Veteran, so it was natural for him to want to perpetuate the need for all local veterans to have proper last rites. Ray felt he was leaving the guys in good hands.

On June 7, 1952 in Cadillac Ray married the former Betty M. Dillon and they were blessed with three children: Susan Nelson (Brian France) of Okemos, Daniel (Sue) Nelson, newly of Cadillac, and Rebecca (Richard) Arnett of Denver, CO. And the best part, the grandchildren: Ryan Nelson of Conway, Ark, Katelyn Arnett of Boulder, CO, and Jaclyn Nelson of Grand Rapids. Also added to the family are Eric and Michelle Lopez and their four children: Cristian, Payton, Sophia and Gabriel of Grand Ledge and Jim Masseur of Virginia Beach, VA and his daughter, Hadley of Lansing.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac with Reverend Kenneth Pastotnik officiating and full military rites under the auspices of the Cadillac Area Honor Guard. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Friends may meet the family from 2-4 and 6-8 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cadillac Area Honor Guard or First Christian Church. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Betty, So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Bev Boyer** - April 14, 2014 at 10:09 PM

JL

“ *So sorry to hear about Mr. Nelson's passing. He was my teacher many years ago, when we were still Mecosta High School.*

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**Jerilyn Cross Lynn** - April 14, 2014 at 01:31 PM

CR

“ *Dear Betty and Family, I was so deeply saddened to hear of Ray's passing. I will always remember his smile, good nature, and that it was a pleasure to be in his company. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. May the comfort of God help you during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers will be with you all.-*

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**Char Church Rogers** - April 09, 2014 at 11:04 AM

KC

“ *Dan & Family, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your Father and Husband. I want to express my condolences and let you know you are in my thoughts during this difficult time.*

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**Kathy Church-Hotz** - April 09, 2014 at 09:25 AM

JS

“ Ray -- "  
May God be with you '  
till we meet again"  
, and I hope it'  
s on a great trout steam using your patented "  
Honker"  
flies. Your kindness will forever be remembered. If heaven has  
mushrooms, you'  
ll be sure to find them by the grocery bag full, big ones at that. My  
condolences to Betty and family. He was a great man and will be  
missed by many.

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**Jim Szabo** - April 09, 2014 at 01:56 AM

MF

“ Such a wonderful man; a true servant to others...he will be missed.

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**Mike Filkins** - April 08, 2014 at 10:20 PM

GT

“ Susan, Dan and families..Thinking of you all while you celebrate  
your father'  
s life! He has been promoted...RIP Mr. Nelson! ἡρόαότÑ

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**Genny Towne** - April 08, 2014 at 10:09 PM

BH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and family. He will be missed.

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**Betty Hadley** - April 08, 2014 at 05:39 PM

RC

“ I am so sorry to hear that your Father has passed. I hope that you can find strength and comfort in the love of your family. May it help you to know how many lives he brightened with his kindness. Such a wonderful person will never be forgotten. May his love live on in your memories and bring you peace.

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**Robyn Church-Mosher** - April 08, 2014 at 03:55 PM

CC

“ Betty and family,  
Ray has been a dear friend , and mentor of mine for many years. He will be greatly missed in this community by the many like myself, who have had the privilege of knowing him, Please accept my sincere and deep felt condolences for the loss of a truly great teacher.

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**charlie claytor** - April 08, 2014 at 12:22 PM

SH

“ Betty and family, Ray was such a wonderful caring man. I know that he is up there with mom and dad in heaven catching up. My thoughts and prayers to your entire family.

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**Susie Haggerty** - April 08, 2014 at 10:44 AM

JC

“ ”  
O may thy soldiers, faithful true and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and win with them the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!"  
So appreciate Ray and his service to our nation, community, his fellow veterans and his Lord. He will be missed.

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**Judy Coffey** - April 08, 2014 at 09:49 AM

CM

“ Prayers to ALL family and friends during this time of sorrow .Honor Guard will truly MISS this wonderful man .

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**Carla & Kevin Moffit** - April 08, 2014 at 07:53 AM

RM

“ Dear Betty & Family,

*Sorry to hear of the loss of Ray, he was the sweetest man we ever met and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love to you at this difficult time in your life.  
WE LOVE YOU !!!*

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**Rick & Cheryl Mapes** - April 08, 2014 at 05:37 AM

GM

“ To Betty and the rest of the family, my sincere Condolences.  
*I really enjoyed Ray when we used to fish for trout and fish fries and camping.  
We will miss you Ray.*

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**Glenn Miller** - April 07, 2014 at 06:59 PM