

Obituaries 2022

The Ogden Surgical-Medical Society extends its sympathy to the family and friends of our colleagues who have passed on. Their presence and contribution to medicine will be momentarily missed.

Richard W. Nielsen, MD

January 15, 1944 – October 31, 2022

Richard W. Nielsen “Rick” was born in Rochester, Minnesota on January 15, 1944, the first son of Wendell Lorenzo and Janet Keeney Nielsen.

His early childhood was spent in Lima, Peru where his father worked as a physician. After several years the family relocated to Idaho where Dr. Nielsen graduated from Idaho Falls High School in 1962. He later enrolled at the University of Utah where he graduated with honors in Biology.

On June 10, 1967, he married the love of his life, Maralyn Jensen Nielsen. Dr. Nielsen attended Creighton Medical School and completed a residency in Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Utah. After completing his medical training, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years in Frankfurt, Germany. After his military service he settled in Salt Lake City where he joined the Ear, Nose and Throat Center as a partner.

Dr. Nielsen was a practicing physician in the Salt Lake Valley for over 40 years. He was loved and respected by his patients and colleagues. His love of humanitarian work took him all over the world. He served the people of Chile, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia, Philippines, India and Nepal.

He will be remembered for his infectious laugh, positive attitude, passion for service, and love of skiing. He was an avid reader and had the amazing ability to recall information. He was a conversationalist and an amazing storyteller. His greatest passion, outside of his family, was traveling the world in search of the perfect powder run. His greatest quality was his good nature, generous spirit, and ability to find the good in all situations.

Dr. Nielsen’s greatest source of pride and joy were his three adoring grandchildren: Emma, Ben and Isabelle. They were the light of his life. He taught each of them how to ski and never missed an athletic event, recital, play, dance performance or graduation. He was the ultimate grandpa!

He was preceded in death by his wife, Maralyn and son, Jason. He is survived by his son, Christian (Elizabeth); sisters Suzy and Johanna, brother Robert; three special and beloved grandchildren; Emma Jane, Benjamin and Isabelle.

John Christian Nelson, MD

June 14, 1940 – October 21, 2022

John Christian Nelson, age 82, died quietly with his family at his bedside on October 21, 2022, after a heroic battle with vascular dementia. He was born on June 14, 1940, in Denver, Colorado, to Elroy

and Alice Nelson. He attended school at East High and graduated in 1958. He later met the love of his life, Lynne Sanders Nelson, and they were married and sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on July 17, 1964. Following the completion of medical school, they moved to Iowa City for his residency in Ophthalmology. A few years later, they returned to Salt Lake City where he established his private practice.

Dr. Nelson lovingly cared for his sweetheart Lynne in her final days as she passed of a brain tumor in 1999. Following the death of his wife, he married Mary Ann Warren. He faithfully took care of Mary Ann during her last years as she battled breast cancer until her passing in 2016. He had the opportunity to marry Karon Sorenson in 2017, who supported and cared for him through his final days.

His love for his family will be fondly remembered. His example was poignant in his generosity and service to all. He gave us the gift of laughter through his sense of humor and was instrumental in cultivating our passion for music. He relished conducting our family musical celebrations and enthusiastically played his viola with his loved ones. Whenever classical music is played, he will certainly be near.

Dr. Nelson was preceded in death by his mother and father, Elroy and Alice Nelson. He is survived by his six children, Christine Nelson Gregory (Kent), David C. Nelson (Melisa), Catherine Nelson Bohman (Wayne), Matthew John Nelson (Kelli), Steven Sharp Nelson (Julie), Camille Nelson Schwendener (Alvin), and his 19 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his three brothers: Art Nelson, Hank Nelson, Jim Nelson, and one sister, Tina Nelson Preston.

Joseph H. Nelson, MD

November 1, 1932 – October 9, 2022

Joseph Harold Nelson died early on October 9, 2022, in Logan, Utah. He was born on November 1, 1932, to Thelma and Harold Nelson in Grace, Idaho, and was the second born out of seven children. Joseph spent his early years in Brigham City, Utah. Later, his family moved to Logan, Utah, where he attended Logan High School and was elected Junior Class President. Afterward, he graduated from Utah State Agricultural College (USU) in 1954. He married Nanette Gibbons on July 25, 1956, and they spent sixty-six years together. Dr. Nelson graduated from the University of Utah School of Medicine in 1958. Afterward, Joseph and Nanette moved to Washington, D.C., and then Hawaii so that he could finish his internship and residency. Then, the couple moved to Colorado, where Joseph became the chief of orthopedic service at the Fort Carson Army Hospital. Later, he was also the chief of a 450-bed orthopedic service in the Vietnam War close to Tokyo, Japan, and received the Army Distinguished Service Award. Finally, Joseph and Nanette returned to Logan, Utah, so that he could begin his private practice, and together they raised six beautiful children. Dr. Nelson was a talented surgeon and repaired and built many hips and knees. He was a member of the Army Reserves, served in Germany through Desert Storm, and was ranked as Colonel when he retired in 1996.

Joseph was preceded in death by his wife, Nanette, brother Larry, and great-granddaughter Sapphire. He is survived by his children, Barabra (Don), Ronald (Kristi), Katherine (George), Jennifer (Mitch), Beverly (Travis), and Merrienne (Steve); forty-nine beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

siblings Pauline (Walt) Wagner, Judy (Al) Lindsey, Carol (Don) Alcorn, Sue (Lyle) Heaps, Merri (Bob) Rock, and sister-in-law Mary Ann Nelson.