



Jim Nelson

February 18, 1972 - May 13, 2021

Jim Nelson – beloved husband, father, brother and son; empathetic counselor to thousands and devoted military veteran – lost a courageous battle with salivary duct cancer Thursday, May 13, at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie. He was 49.

He was born Feb. 18, 1972, in Richmond, a son of Steve and Roberta Nelson.

He provided counseling services in Henry County for more than 25 years. His work came in a variety of settings – Comprehensive Mental Health, New Castle Pediatrics, Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corp. as well as Henry Community Health's Family and Internal Medicine. He also served the Richard Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, working with Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans.

Jim was a 1990 graduate of New Castle Chrysler High School, where he was a member of the Trojan Marching Band and ran cross country. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history from Ball State University in 1995, where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He completed his master's degree in social work at Indiana University in 2002, graduating with honors. The IU School of Social Work named him a distinguished alumni/social worker of the year in 2012.

He was deployed in 2009 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served first as a lieutenant, then was quickly promoted to captain of the 55th Medical Unit, providing life-saving counsel to soldiers at multiple mental health clinics, including the Camp Liberty Mental Health Clinic.

He was a member and chapter secretary of the United States Military Veterans Motorcycle Club.

Survivors include his wife, Katy (McCormack) Nelson, who he married Aug. 5, 1995; two sons, Andrew, who just finished his freshman year at Purdue University; and Mark, who is finishing his freshman year at New Castle High School; his parents, Steve and Roberta Nelson of New Castle; his brother and sister-in-law, Drs. Tom and Abby Nelson.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 21, at Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle.

A celebration of life will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, May 22, at First Presbyterian Church in New Castle with Pastor Rod Smith officiating. Burial will be in West Lawn Addition of South Mound Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Wayne County Veterans Memorial Park, Trojan Aquatics Club or the New Castle High School Cross Country Team. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home or you may donate online here. (<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/online-payments-and-donations/>) Please specify memorial of choice in the note field.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Jim Nelson.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 21. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Celebration of Life

MAY 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
1202 Church St.
New Castle, IN 47362

Tribute Wall



“ *Sproles Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jim Nelson*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - May 20, 2021 at 02:04 PM

LS

Jim, you made such an impact on us. Thank you for your jokes, your smile and for just being you. You will be missed !!! Much love, Lexi and Shelly

Lexi Neil and Shelly - May 21, 2021 at 10:29 AM

BS

“ *This breaks our heart to hear of the loss of CPT Nelson. He was such an amazing member of the 55th Combat Stress Control Unit. He is remembered as a kind soul, dear friend to all that knew him and an amazing officer. He will so be missed and the world lost a good one. Hugs to his wife, children and anyone who had the the opportunity to know him.*

Brigadier General Salisbury (former 55th CSC Commander) and Soldiers of the 55th CSC

Beth Salisbury - May 24, 2021 at 02:38 PM

MB

“ Jim was my oldest and dearest friend since we learned how to walk. His family felt like my second one growing up. He and I would take turns living at one another’s homes for weeks at a time during the summers. It is so difficult to process that he’s gone so young. I feel incredibly proud of my old friend for what he did with his life that profoundly helped so many others. I’m thinking of Steve, Roberta, Thomas, Katie, and the boys every day.

Mark Bechtel - May 20, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Sproles Family Funeral Home - May 20, 2021 at 01:56 PM

CE

“ Cece, Andy and Emily purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Jim Nelson.



Cece, Andy and Emily - May 19, 2021 at 10:31 PM



“ One of the great experiences of growing up in New Castle was having Jim do civil war reenactment in my grade school class. It was the moment I was introduced to the power of storytelling to shape the world. Such a gobsmackingly great social worker who showed up for the people he served. Jim made this world better.

Darcy Tower - May 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ I'm so saddened by this news. Jim was my very first best friend of my life. We shared so many memories together. His parents and my family shared such a special bond. I will never forget my days of playing between our houses together. I was ecstatic 2 years ago to run into him and get to introduce my husband to him. He looked directly at Michael and said “take care of my girl”. I truly truly loved him. I'm so sorry I can't be there this weekend to hug you all and to be next to him. All my love, Traci

Traci Thalls-Chalk - May 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM

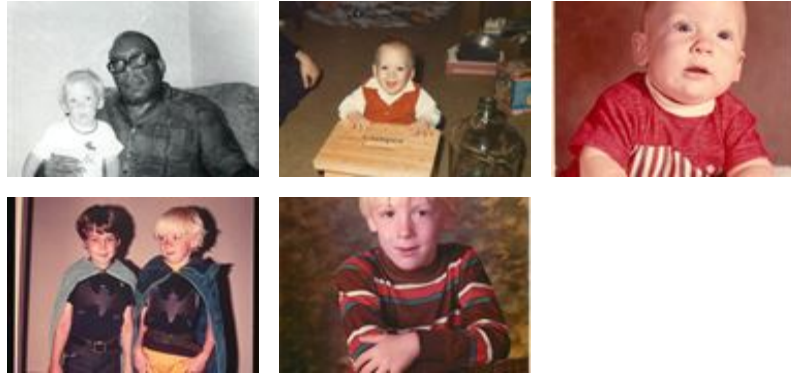


“ We are holding you close in thought as you mourn, cherish and honor Jim's extraordinary life. Frank and Julie OBrien

julia and Frank OBrien - May 19, 2021 at 04:13 PM



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - May 19, 2021 at 02:21 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Jim Nelson.



May 19, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ *I will always remember Jim as a friend and colleague at Kennard Elementary. Jim's love and care for my students was beyond measure. Our community has lost a valued member and friend. Much love to Katy, his boys, and his parents.*



melody radford - May 19, 2021 at 08:41 AM

BP

“ I'm so sad to hear that Jim passed. I got to know Jim and Katy at Kennard Elementary. Jim was truly a sweet person. My heart goes out to Katy and the Nelson family.

Beth Pribble - May 19, 2021 at 12:50 AM

TD

“ Teddy & Shawnda Dickerson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jim Nelson.



Teddy & Shawnda Dickerson - May 18, 2021 at 09:20 PM

JS

“ I'm so saddened to hear about Jim's passing. My heartfelt condolences to you all.

Jennie Stilts

Jennie Stilts - May 18, 2021 at 02:19 PM

ME

“ Am shocked and saddened by the loss of a childhood friend and neighbor. Haven't seen Jim in 25 years but know he was such a nice guy in school and growing up next door to him all those years. He left this world too soon, and will be missed. Love and prayers for the family. Mary Evans (Trese) and family

M Evans - May 18, 2021 at 10:10 AM

JP

“ I'll always remember Jim as wanting to go dirt biking with us from as early as I can remember him. I'm so sorry for your loss Jim and Berta. May the good Lord accept and keep him until you are united with him again....John Pagano

John Pagano - May 18, 2021 at 08:41 AM



“ Memorial Honor Blanket was purchased for the family of Jim Nelson.



May 17, 2021 at 09:24 PM

JD

“ 4 files added to the album Gumper



JOHN DECK - May 17, 2021 at 09:15 PM

BH

“ We first knew him as Sweet Baby James. From the cutest little blonde toddler to a fine man he will be missed. Beth and Jay Hernly

Beth and Jay Hernly - May 17, 2021 at 06:00 PM

JT

“ Jeff T. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jim Nelson.



Jeff T. - May 17, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jim Nelson.



May 17, 2021 at 01:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jim Nelson.



May 17, 2021 at 10:56 AM

BB

“ Barbara, Mark & Ruchi, Jeff Bechtel purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Jim Nelson.



Barbara, Mark & Ruchi, Jeff Bechtel - May 17, 2021 at 09:55 AM

JH

“ *Joanna Heshher lit a candle in memory of Jim Nelson*



Joanna Heshher - May 17, 2021 at 09:49 AM

MH

“ *I first worked with Jim at CMHS all those years ago when I was a therapist and Jim was a case Mgr. He went on to become a phenomenal therapist and a man whom I respected greatly and who changed many lives. Our community has lost a rich asset and I have lost a friend, colleague and the smile he always brought to my face. My heart reaches out to Katy and the family at this time of loss and change.*

Mark Herbkersman - May 17, 2021 at 09:38 AM

SG

“ *So sorry for your loss*



Shelbi Gysin - May 16, 2021 at 04:59 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Jim Nelson.*



May 16, 2021 at 04:49 PM