



George Howard Nelson

December 12, 1936 - May 8, 2026

A memorial service for George Howard Nelson, 89, of Lubbock, who died May 8, 2026, will be held Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 4600 48th Street, with Rev. Becky Fox officiating. For those unable to attend, the service can be livestreamed at the following link: www.covenantpresbylbk.com. A reception will follow at the Phi Gamma Delta Lodge, 1414 Orlando Ave., Lubbock. Private interment will precede the service.

George was born December 12, 1936, in Lubbock to G. H. (Hobert) and Aileen Hackney Nelson. He graduated from Lubbock High School in 1954, earned a B.A. in Government from Texas Tech University in 1958, and received his law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1961. He married his high school sweetheart, Joe Love Stogner, on August 31, 1957.

Licensed in 1961, George served as an Assistant District Attorney in Lubbock until 1965, then entered private practice as a third-generation attorney, including more than 20 years in practice with his daughter, Elizabeth. He was named Outstanding Young Lawyer by the Lubbock County Bar Association,

later serving as its president, and held leadership roles in state and regional trial and young lawyer organizations. A member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, he served as president of its West Texas Chapter and was a Fellow of the ABOTA Foundation. He served on the Texas Tech Law School Foundation Board and was a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, received the Meritorious Pro Bono Service Award, and was honored with the Justice James G. Denton Distinguished Lawyer Award (2014). After 50 years of practice, he led the Lubbock Private Defenders' Office (2012-2016) before returning to private practice.

George was active in faith, civic, and fraternal service throughout his life, including more than 50 years with MacKenzie Lodge (a 32nd Degree Mason and charter member of the Lubbock Scottish Rite Temple). A charter member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, he served as an elder and Sunday School teacher, and he was also active in the Lubbock Lions Club. His community leadership included service with the Lubbock Urban Renewal Agency, Lubbock Traffic Commission, Community Health Center of Lubbock capital campaign, United Way, Crossroads Samaritan Counseling Center, and KOHM Radio, as well as the Southwest Lubbock Pony League and the Lubbock High School Alumni Association. He was a longtime member of the Red Raider Club and Texas Tech Alumni Association. George enjoyed music, art, baseball, and golf; he composed and performed original songs, including one that he performed in a talent contest at Lubbock High beating, among others, Buddy Holly. In addition to composing music, George created several bronze works. A devoted Phi Gamma Delta member, he advised the Texas Tech chapter for many years, served on the international governing board, and received multiple national honors for distinguished service and chapter advising.

George was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; and his sisters, Mary Sue Johnson and Willella Nabors. He is survived by his brother, Bert A. Nelson of Lubbock; his sons, Eric and Henry John of Lubbock; his daughters, Elizabeth (Kirby Mauldin) of Lubbock and Margaret Keith of Charlotte, North Carolina; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Covenant Presbyterian Church Choir Scholarship Fund (4600 48th Street, Lubbock, TX 79414); Women's Protective Services of Lubbock (P.O. Box 54089, Lubbock, TX 79453); Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation-George Nelson (P.O. Box 4599, Lexington, KY 40544-4599); or Community Health Center of Lubbock (CHCL) Capital Campaign Fund (Joe Love & George Nelson Exam Room), 1313 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79401.

Cemetery Details

City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 E 31st Street
Lubbock, TX 79404

Tribute Wall



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



May 26 at 09:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of George Howard Nelson.

May 26 at 09:24 PM



“ *Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of George Howard Nelson.



Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity - May 26 at 10:32 AM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of George Howard Nelson.



May 21 at 09:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of George Howard Nelson.

May 21 at 09:44 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George Howard Nelson.



May 21 at 08:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of George Howard Nelson.

May 21 at 08:29 PM



“ Deborah H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of George Howard Nelson.

Deborah H. - May 16 at 04:41 PM

GP

“ George Nelson was more than just an advisor; to many of us, he was the living memory of Lubbock, Texas Tech, and our fraternity. For those of us who met him as pledges, he was a cornerstone of our experience, always ready to share a story or a bit of wisdom to help us find our way.

George had a unique way of getting his point across. Whether you were seeking guidance or just catching up, he always had a story tailored for the moment. Many of us will fondly remember standing outside the lodge, watching him puff on a cigarette while he regaled us with the history of the brotherhood he loved so much. His dedication was legendary. Who could forget the time he actually had his jaw wired shut just to ensure he hit his diet goal? That was George: a man of immense discipline and "massive imperfect action" when he set his mind to something.

He was a shepherd for the fraternity, leading us through the lean years and the difficult transitions. It is no exaggeration to say that without George's steady hand and the support of a few other dedicated graduate brothers, the successful turnaround of our chapter might never have happened. He loved us all, and he invested his life into making sure we succeeded.

Though he has moved on to the Chapter Eternal, his influence remains in the lives of the many Phi Gamms he mentored and the chapter he helped save. George, you will be greatly missed, but your legacy lives on in every story we tell outside the lodge.

Perge!

Greg Pratt - May 12 at 04:26 PM

EN

Greg, I cannot begin to tell you how much this means to me and my siblings. Thank you so much. Dad had many passions but none compared to his love and commitment to Phi Gamma Delta. It did not matter how much time was required of him, he did it out of love for all of you and his desire to see you all succeed.

Elizabeth Nelson - May 12 at 09:05 PM

GP

Thank you Elizabeth. He meant so much to so many of us. He touched our lives in such a positive way. In many cases he was our dad away from home. I'm so blessed to have gotten to know him and have some great moments with him.

Greg Pratt - May 12 at 09:24 PM

DF

I am so sorry to receive this notice. I have known George during my school days starting at Carroll Thompson Junior High and Lubbock High. We were in Senior Choir along with Jo Love. When they would quarrel he would come to me and I would get them back together. Every time I came back to Lubbock, I would call him. The last time I came home to stay, he offered me a job with his law firm. The last time I saw him was at our last school reunion. I loved both him and Jo Love. They are together again.

Doris Vest Fletcher - May 12 at 09:40 PM

SW

“ *My thoughts are with the family*

Steve Willingham - May 12 at 01:24 PM

EN

Thank you Steve. He enjoyed your friendship and I know you have missed the nice visits y'all had.

Elizabeth Nelson - May 12 at 10:19 PM