



# Leonard "Lenny" M. Nelson, Jr.

DEC 14, 1933 - MAR 17, 2016



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## Leonard "Lenny" M. Nelson, Jr.

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**L**eonard (Lenny) M. Nelson Jr. of Rehoboth Beach passed away Thursday, March 17, 2016.

Lenny was born in Newark, Delaware to Leonard M. and Ethel J. Nelson. He graduated from Newark High School in 1951 and served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1962 where he loved playing football and driving about town in his MG convertible. It was there that he met the love of his life, Roxanne K. Nelson.

After a few years as a New Jersey high school football coach, the family moved back to Delaware where Lenny worked for the next 28 years as a physical education instructor for the University of Delaware campus in Georgetown. Known as "Coach" by his students, he coached the basketball team and introduced many popular physical education classes including backpacking, sailing, canoeing, skiing, tennis and racquetball. He loved sharing his lifelong passion for the outdoors with his family and students.

Throughout his life, Lenny and Roxanne enjoyed travelling around the U.S., especially sailing and boating on the Chesapeake and cruising the 7,000 mile Great Loop. He planned and built their homes along the Rehoboth Bay wetlands where he never tired of watching the birds and wildlife.

Lenny is survived by his loving wife, Roxanne; his two children Zoanne Nelson and husband Alwin Chan, and Michael Nelson and wife Cheryl; his five grandchildren Clay and Chase Nelson, Kyril Panfilov, Leo and Emily Chan; and his brother Harry Nelson and wife Margaret.

Memorial Services will be held at 2:30 PM on Friday, March 25, 2016 at Parsell Funeral Homes, 16961 Kings Hwy, Lewes, DE 19958 where friends may visit beginning at 1:00 PM. Interment will be private.



## Obituary

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In memory of his great love of the outdoors, donations may be made to Friends of the Cape Henlopen State Park, P.O. Box 132, Nassau, DE 19969.

Please sign the guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED BY 10 AM, FRIDAY MARCH 25, 2016 TO PARSELL FUNERAL HOMES, LEWES, DE.





## Events

**Leonard "Lenny" M. Nelson, Jr.**

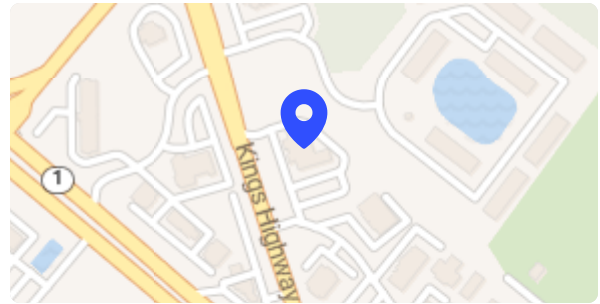
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### Visitation

 **Friday**, March 25, 2016


 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

 **Atkins-Lodge Chapel - Lewes**  
16961 Kings Hwy, Lewes DE 19958

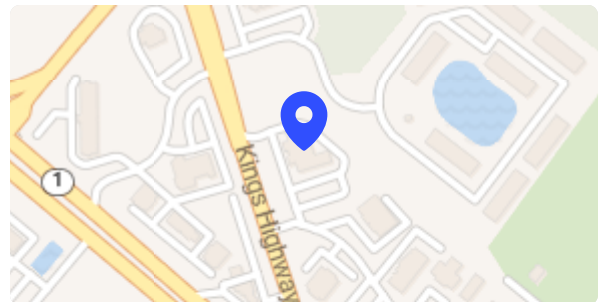


### Memorial Service

 **Friday**, March 25, 2016

 2:30 PM ET

 **Atkins-Lodge Chapel - Lewes**  
16961 Kings Hwy, Lewes DE 19958





# Tribute Wall

**Leonard "Lenny" M. Nelson, Jr.**

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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a **Tribute Video**.



March 31 at 4:05 AM



**Patti Deptula** lit a candle in honor of Leonard "Lenny".



July 28 at 7:35 AM



**Mike Lude** posted:

Roxanne & Family and All :I was Lenny's position football coach at the University of Delaware. I encouraged him to attend the University and play football. I can assure anyone who is reading this memorial tribute that Lenny and all of Blue Hen Nation are not at all disappointed that he joined us in that venture. Dick Broadbent is right on and the nickname "earthquake" was coined and always stuck. At that time he was one of the largest linemen I was Privileged to coach.. I always loved, respected and cared deeply for and about Lenny. He was and always will be one of Mike's Boy's" I pray that God will welcome Lenny into his kingdom and God will not be disappointed for he will be a great" TEAM PLAYER:" Coach Mike Lude

March 26 at 9:23 AM



**Scott Taylor** posted:

Len was a very special man who had a very deep affinity for the Chesapeake, Rehoboth, and Delaware Bays and the sailing lifestyle. Over the years he developed skills and instincts that allowed him to thoroughly enjoy great adventures on the water. I will deeply miss Len and wish him always to enjoy fair winds and following seas.My best wishes of peace to his family during this difficult time.Scott Taylor Annapolis,Md.

March 25 at 3:55 PM



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**Dr. Doris Person** lit a candle in honor of Leonard "Lenny".

Praying for Nelson family!

March 24 at 5:59 PM



**Doris Person** March 24 at 6:06 PM

Praying for the Nelson Family. May God provide comfort and peace as you celebrate the life of a man who impacted the lives of so many people.



**Gordon Meyer** posted:

Lenny was my late wife's uncle. I will remember him as someone who always had a smile for us and genuinely wanted to know how we were doing. Very fondly remember how he and Roxanne opened their home (and boat) to my family for beach vacations. My thoughts and prayer for Roxanne and family. With much fondness, Gordon Meyer

March 24 at 1:13 PM



**Kay And Dave Hackett** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Nelson family.

March 24 at 10:27 AM



**Jim And Jane Erisman** posted:

Dear Roxanne and Family: Jane and I were saddened to read of Lenny's passing. However, we reminisced about the good old days at the U of D and the many fond memories we had of the good times when we were together. We laughed out loud remembering the Birdwatchers Picnics (The Lincoln Avenue Literary Tea and Birdwatching Society). Lenny was in charge the year before I was so we worked together facilitating the University's greatest party. Lenny always gave dignity and strenght to everything he did. He will be missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Jim and Jane Erisman

March 24 at 7:27 AM



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PI

**Paul Ives** posted:

Dear Roxanne, Although Jerri and I have become full time residents of Vero Beach, Florida, we will never forget our many years in Lewes and our friendship with you and Lenny. We are so sorry to hear of Lenny's death and we send our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to you and your family. How could we ever forget the wonderful times we shared at Chincoteague and on the Chesapeake with our boats. Our prayers and love are with you always. Jerri & Paul

March 24 at 5:10 AM

JE

**Jeff Evans** posted:

Coach was always kind, patient and generous. All things that inspired me and so many others. I know his place in heaven includes a bunch of kids around a campfire and a guitar. Fair winds and calm seas Coach. Jeff Evans CSA and DTCC

March 22 at 11:25 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sacred Duty Spray to the Nelson family.



March 22 at 6:57 AM

DB

**Dick Broadbent** posted:

I went to college with Lenny at U of DE and was in most of his classes and played football with him too. One time my head met his knee and I was knocked senseless. After that we called him, "EARTHQUAKE" because he was big and strong and you felt like an earthquake had hit you after he did. He was jovial and kind and made friends easily. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be with him and his family forever. Dick & Carol Broadbent

March 22 at 5:53 AM

JC

**Julie Cooper** posted:

Coach was a terrific person. We "water people", as he called us, really enjoyed his sailing and canoeing classes. He taught us a lot while still having a lot of fun. Julie Cooper

March 22 at 3:52 AM



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**Pat Merrill** posted:

Lenny meant the world to us when he came to the campground. He would sing ballads with his guitar and one I especially remember is "Cat's in the Cradle". His great sense of humor and quick laugh were special. We also enjoyed being able to visit him and Roxanne at his home (2 different locations) in Delaware We will miss him dearly. Very fondly, Jack and Pat Merrill

March 20 at 10:14 AM



**Media**

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a **Tribute Video**.

March 31 at 4:05 AM

TRIBUTE VIDEO

A JOURNEY  
*of*  
REMEMBRANCE

SCAN TO WATCH



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Leonard "Lenny" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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