



# Roxana Nelson

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 11



## **Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022

**R**oxana (Roxanne) Nelson of Rehoboth Beach passed away Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Roxanne was born in Springfield IL to Leslie W. and Gertrude R. Knott. She grew up in Bethesda, MD and attended the University of Delaware where she met and married the love of her life, Leonard (Lenny) Nelson.

After a few years in New Jersey, the family moved to Seaford, Delaware where Roxanne began working as a teaching assistant. Over the next several years she raised her family, worked, and went to school part time, eventually completing her master's in education from the University of Delaware. Over the next several years she taught in elementary schools in Seaford, Milford and Rehoboth Elementary, where she taught generations of kindergarten children. She was named Cape Henlopen Teacher of the Year in 2000 and retired in 2001.

Roxanne continued to be just as active in retirement with several volunteer organizations including Read Aloud DE, the Village Improvement Association, and the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. She often served on the board and led the organizing of several annual events. Every event, donation or interaction with children was beautifully and lovingly delivered. She formed her own non-profit, Reading Opens Doors, which gifted libraries of books to children moving into their Habitat for Humanity homes. She made many friends along the way and her passion for serving others was a lifelong commitment. She was recognized in 2017 with the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Award, and in 2018 with the DAR Community Service Award.

Throughout their 52 years together, Lenny and Roxanne enjoyed traveling around the U.S., especially sailing and boating on the Chesapeake, cruising the 7,000-mile Great Loop, and running annual ski trips to Vermont. They planned and built three different homes over the years along the Rehoboth Bay wetlands where they never tired of watching the birds and wildlife.



## Obituary

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022

---

Roxanne was devoted to her family and loved her children and grandchildren without reservation. She introduced them over the years to cooking, art, and nature with a sense of wonder and fun that only an elementary teacher can impart.

Roxanne is predeceased by her husband and survived by her two children Zoanne Nelson (Alwin Chan), and Michael Nelson (Cheryl); five grandchildren Clayton Nelson (Katelyn) and Chase Nelson (Taylor Schreffler), Kyril Panfilov, Leo and Emily Chan; great granddaughter Lainey Nelson; and sister Sylvia Gentili.

Memorial Services will be held on Wednesday, December 28, 2022, in at 11:00 AM, Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, where friends and family may visit beginning at 10:00 AM.

All who cannot attend in person are invited to join the services via live streaming by visiting the following link: <http://www.parsellfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/10797161/LTWebcast>

Interment will be private.

In memory of her great love of service, donations may be made to Read Aloud DE, 108 N Bedford St, Georgetown, DE 19947 ([www.readalouddelaware.org](http://www.readalouddelaware.org)), the Village Improvement Association, PO Box 144, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 ([www.rehobothbeachvia.org](http://www.rehobothbeachvia.org)), or the Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park, P.O. Box 132, Nassau, DE 19969 ([www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org](http://www.friendsofcapehenlopen.org)).

Please sign Mrs. Nelson's virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 4:00 PM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2022 AT OUR LEWES LOCATION.



# Events

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022

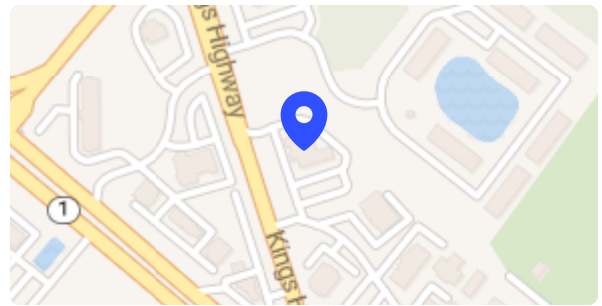
## Visitation

 **Wednesday**, December 28, 2022

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



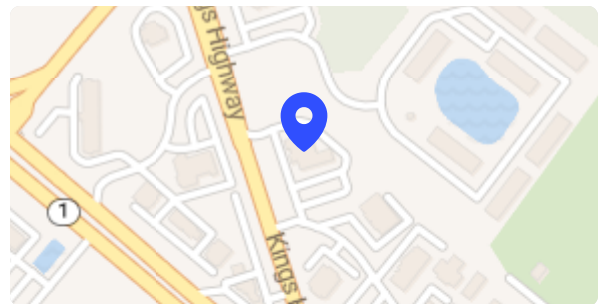
## Memorial Service

 **Wednesday**, December 28, 2022

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958





# Tribute Wall

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



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



December 19 at 5:58 AM



**Cathy Petitgout** posted:

Roxanne was a wonderful person. There are not enough words to describe her. The world needs more Roxanne's. She will be truly missed!

January 4 at 1:24 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Nelson family.



December 27 at 4:48 PM



**Anna Legates** posted:

I met Roxanne traveling with Lennie and many UD/Delaware Tech students from Owens Campus to Stowe VT and the Poconos for ski adventures. Our paths seldom crossed on the slopes due to the Nelson's advanced level. Off the slopes, good times created fond memories for all. Roxanne's charm, poise and natural beauty were much appreciated at the Owens Campus winter fashion show "Saturday before the Season" followed by a similar Ocean City show. Both events were popular fundraisers for good causes. Roxanne's many talents and contributions to students and community will be forever treasured. Anna Legates, Retired Educator Delaware Tech Owens Campus

December 27 at 5:46 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



**Doris E. Person** lit a candle in honor of Roxana.

Sending love and light to the family of Mrs. Nelson. It was an honor to know and work with this distinguished educator in the Burton Village community, but more importantly it was inspiring to see the bright smile and joy in her heart for her grandchildren that I had the honor to teach. The Rehoboth Elementary Schoo family mourns with you.



December 26 at 8:05 AM



**Zoanne Nelson** January 2 at 10:29 AM

Thank you Anne, she loved a good fashion show!



**Janet Gravier** posted:

So sorry to hear about Roxanne I worked with her for several years at rehoboth elementary such a good teacher and person many good memories of our times working with each other. So sorry for your loss. Your in my prayers Janet Gravier.

December 24 at 9:47 AM



**Carol And Charles Epifanio** posted:

We once spent a wonderful week on a bareboat cruise with Lenny and Roxanne. It was a perfect week in the Caribbean, and it was something we could not have done by ourselves. For example, Roxanne had volunteered to plan and provision a week's worth of meals. At the end of a week of great meals, we docked with exactly two spoonfuls of peanut butter left in the bottom of a jar. So when the angels are looking for a job for Roxanne, I would suggest Chief Officer of Heavenly Provisioning. But anything would work. She could do it all. Miss you, Roxanne.

December 24 at 8:05 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



**Wendy Parsons** posted:

I first met Roxanne whilst volunteering with Sussex County Habitat for Humanity. When each family completed their sweat equity and finally closed on their home, Roxanne and her husband Lenny would bring the family a bookcase containing age-appropriate books. In later years I got to know Roxanne again volunteering with The Friends of Cape Henlopen State Park. Here Roxanne again excelled taking our fundraiser events to the next level with her decorating and organizational skills. Her running of the Wine, Beer & Cheese events will never be topped. Despite battling ill health in recent years, she always helped with events in any way she could and was extremely supportive of us lesser mortals trying to carry on her work. Always optimistic, always had a smile, never a mean word - a true bright light that will be sorely missed. Wendy Parsons

December 22 at 6:16 AM



**Nancy Volk** posted:

I met Roxanne at the U of Del in 1962 when I was a transfer student. Day 1 Roxanne 'barked' at me to do something as a freshman with beanie on before she knew I wasn't one. Our Harrington C 3rd floor group of ladies has dwindled now down to 5. Such a talented woman tho she never broadcast her many accomplishments. A classy lady who I miss. Nancy Volk

December 21 at 6:43 AM



**Linda Miller** posted:

I met Roxanne around 8 years ago through volunteering with her on the Read Aloud Delaware committee. She was so very talented and creative. All her ideas turned very day things into delightful objects that were enjoyed by many. Even through her prolonged illness, her fondness and loyalty to Delaware's children never diminished. "A life that touches others goes on forever." Linda Miller

December 20 at 4:34 PM



**Carol C Lingo** lit a candle in honor of Roxana.

Prayers to the family. She was such a dedicated teacher, and a wonderful person.  
Ken & Carol Lingo

December 20 at 6:28 AM





# Tribute Wall

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



**Ann Young Ameigh** posted:

Roxanne was a wonderful person who left her mark on many children and friends in Sussex Counttaty. She made a difference by bringing light and hope to young children learning to read. There was nothing like seeing the smile on children's faces as she and her husband brought bookcases and books into the homes of children of Habitat new homeowners. She brought wonder with her when she greetedeach child. Ann Ameigh

December 20 at 4:31 AM



**Laurie Meacham** lit a candle in honor of Roxana.

With sympathy, a blessed angel. She will be missed. Laurie Meacham VIA Member

December 20 at 3:41 AM



**Carol Grubb Hirst** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I met Roxanne the first days at the University and we became lifelong friends. My husband knew Lennie through football, and I shared many interests with Roxanne including our Home Economics major. We both became pre-school teachers as well. We have had lovely reunions with the Nelsons throughout the years. We spent time with them at their home in Delaware, sometimes we in Ocean City while our family vacationed there. We sailed on their boat, we had sing a-longs in their family room. We ate wonderful and beautiful meals from Roxane's kitchen. No couple could have been more hospitable and caring and fun. I take comfort in knowing Lennie is waiting for her and they can once again be united. (the photo was taken in St Simons when they visited Tom and I one February a few years ago)



December 20 at 3:38 AM



**Patricia Hocker** posted:

Mike, Cheryl, Zoanne and grandchildren- we are sending strength and hugs. Your mother and I rode to Milford together for several years. She was so proud of all of you and loved her adventures with Lenny. She was the "Martha Stewart" of kindergarten- always coming up with a creative idea to make learning fun for children. She will be missed but lives on in all of you and the grandchildren...

December 20 at 3:10 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



**Carolyn Reeder** posted:

Roxana was truly beautiful, inside and out. We were blessed to have known her and are better people for it. Rest peacefully, Roxana, and enjoy your reunion with your beloved husband. We know how much you missed being by his side. Lovingly, The Reeder family

December 19 at 1:57 PM



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

December 19 at 5:58 AM



**Doris Person** December 28 at 8:25 AM  
Beautiful and inspiring'



**Nancy Cirelli** December 28 at 8:23 AM  
Nice service.. I taught in the Cape district so was acquainted with Roxanne but didn't really get to know her well until I joined the VIA. She sewed blankets for Operation Smile and was such a joy to work with.



**Carol Grubb Hirst** December 28 at 1:18 PM  
Mike and Zoanne and family. I thank you so much for allowing us "too far away" people to be a part of this beautiful good bye to Roxanne. An amazing friend - who will not be forgotten. It's obvious that everyone was her best friend, her favorite child or grandchild. People like that are very special. Rest in peace my friend and say hi to Lennie for me.



## Media

**Roxana Nelson**

MAR 31, 1943 - DEC 15, 2022



**Carol Grubb Hirst** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 20 at 3:38 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Roxana by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit