



Bruce Nelson

July 17, 1953 - June 16, 2007

Bruce R. Nelson, 53, Bismarck, went to be with his first love, his master, Jesus Christ, on June 16, 2007, at his home after a long battle with cancer. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 20, at 11:00 AM at Church of Corpus Christi in Bismarck with Father Paul Becker officiating. Burial will be at St. Marys Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 2:00 - 9:00 PM at Parkway Funeral Service where time for sharing and a prayer service will be held at 7:00 PM. Visitation will continue on Wednesday one hour prior to the service at the church. Bruce was born on July 17, 1953, in Minneapolis, MN, the son of Elof and Lois Archbold Nelson. He grew up in Bismarck, attending Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Hughes Junior High, and Bismarck High School. He graduated from Bismarck State College in 1973 and North Dakota State University in 1975 with a degree in civil engineering. He married Kathy Harkness in 1976. Bruce started his 31-year engineering career in June 1975 working in Pierre, SD, as a construction engineer for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In November 1976, he transferred with the Bureau and started a 28-year career with Montana-Dakota Utilities Company in Jamestown, ND, transferring to MDU's headquarters office in Bismarck in 1981. He held several positions while in the MDU Bismarck office with his last position being Director of Distribution Engineering until he went on disability in late 2006. He was a registered professional engineer in a number of states. Bruce was active in the community, serving on the Genie-Watt Credit Union loan committee and St.

Alexius Community Credit Union Board of Directors. He was active in the field of engineering as a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers NSPE for over 25 years. In the local chapter of NSPE, he served as an officer and also on numerous committees. He served as NSPE's/NDSPE's chairman for Professional Engineers in Industry from 1985 until the time of his death. In 1983, Bruce was selected as the chapter's Young Engineer of the Year. He served on the Corpus Christi Church council and did volunteer fundraising work for the Boy Scouts of America and United Way. He also volunteered his time and talents to assist the Pride Manchester House, which serves children with severe emotional disturbances. Bruce was a 1991 graduate of the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program. He had a deep Christian faith and had accepted the Lord into his life as his Lord and Savior. His prayer is that his death be celebrated as a joyous event because he is now in heaven with his Savior for eternity. Bruce was an inspiration to others with his upbeat attitude even though he suffered with cancer. He wished to say thank you to all his MDU co-workers for the years of dedicated service and support they provided him. Also, a thank you to his fellow engineers, members of the NDSPE, and a special thanks to his neighbors on Capitol Avenue for their tremendous support during his illness. "May God bless you all and I will see you in heaven with our Savior, Jesus Christ." Bruce is survived by his two daughters, Stephanie Nelson of Rochester, MN, and Karalee Nelson of Bismarck; his sisters, Sister Margaret Nelson of Bismarck, and Carol Ken Trendera of Lone Tree, Co; his brother, Barry Nicole Nelson of Plymouth, MN; his former wife, Kathy Nelson of Bismarck; and his special friend, Lisa Voiles, Bismarck. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eloy and Lois Nelson. Memorials may be given to the Pride Manchester House in Bismarck and St. Alexius Hospice Team.

Tribute Wall

TA

“*Karalee and Steph.....My sister Lynn swam with you at CHS and I always remember your dad and how supportive he was. I've seen him throughout the years and he was always so friendly and would always ask about the family. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time.*

TammyOlausonBoone - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NZ

“*My prayers go out to Stephanie and family in there time of grieving.*

Nathan Ziegler - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KR

“*Stephanie and Karalee,I am so sorry to hear about your dad. I remember him as always having a smile on his face and a kind word to say. I hope to see both of you soon and I will be thinking about you very often. With Sympathy,Katie Reim*

Katie Reim - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“*Our very deepest sympathy to all of you. Many thoughts and prayers coming to each of you. John, Sarah, Jenny, Jane and Kent*

Morrow family - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TK

“*Karalee, we are thinking and praying for you and your family in this difficult time. I just lost my father in February and the emptiness one feels is overwhelming. If you ever need someone to talk to please come in and see us, we miss you! Take care. Carol Bosch*

The Hair Academy, Carol and Kristin - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Bruce was the "model" of professional engineering. He was meticulous with his work, and was highly detailed in all he did. His life was filled with service; service to his family, to his community, to his profession and to his God. Through all his struggles with cancer, his faith remained strong. I have the highest respect for Bruce and I will miss him deeply. He was a trusted friend, respected professional and dedicated Christian. His fight with cancer was valiant and hard-fought. And now, he is cancer-free. Shalom, Bruce - you have now truly found God's peace!

Kevin G. Nelson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ To Nelson Family you are in my thoughts and prayers

Tyler Bouche - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Bruce swede was a wonderful person, a great friend. He was one of my comrades in high school and I will always think fondly of him. Kathy samuelson Heim.

Kathy Heim sam - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Steph, I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. I quickly realized how special of a man he was when I got to the pleasure to visit with him a couple of times this past year. I am praying you and your family can find some peace in this very difficult time and please remember I'm only a phone call away if you need anything.

Kurt Riffey - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ I knew Bruce through work for the last 25 years. Bruce was always a gentleman to work with at Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. He was kind and considerate but always firm and assertive. Bruce coined the phrase; "Geospatial Enterprise Management System GEMS" for MDU's digital mapping system. It will be a lasting legacy of his engineering excellence and progressive vision at MDU. He'll be remembered well.

Ron Blum - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DU

“ Dear Nelson family We are so very sorry to hear of the loss that you have suffered. We are praying for you. If you need anything please feel free to call. Sincerely Dan Upgren and Heather Klein

Daniel Upgren - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM