



## Dr. Walter L. Nelms Sr.

February 26, 1933 - April 19, 2022

Dr. Walter L. Nelms, Sr., age 89, died peacefully on April 19, 2022, at his home in Jackson, TN surrounded by his family.

He was born in Memphis, TN on February 26, 1933, the son of the late Tip Cox Nelms and Eugenia Nabors Nelms. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. Dr. Nelms was retired from Jackson State Community College (“JSCC”), joining the college at its inception in 1967 as Academic Dean and serving there until his retirement in 1997, as President.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Peggy Williams Nelms of Jackson, TN; three children, Brenda Phillips of Nashville, TN and her former husband Mike Phillips and wife Susan of Spring Hill, TN, Walter L. “Bubba” Nelms, Jr. and his wife Lynn of Germantown, TN, and Wm. Lee Nelms and his wife Tracy of Memphis, TN; his brother Dr. Tip Carroll Nelms of Little Rock, AR and his sister Joy Nelms of Jackson, TN; nine grandchildren, Logan Nelms, Hannah Nelms, Landon Nelms, Walter “Louis” Nelms, III and wife Macy, Carter Nelms, Jackson Nelms and wife Kristie, Shaun Phillips and wife Jackie, Seth Phillips and Sam Phillips and wife Allie, and three great-grandchildren, Theodore Phillips, Emilia Phillips and Evelyn Phillips.

Walter was an avid golfer and golfed, daily, for many years with men whose friendships he deeply valued. He loved them and his other friends from JSCC, his church and the community. He was a horseman and sports enthusiast who also enjoyed piloting small aircraft and riflery. He served on the Boards of Jackson Christian School and of Agape Child & Family Services for a number of years and as an elder at the Campbell Street Church of Christ for several decades. He donated faithfully to a variety of charitable organizations close to his heart. Walter was proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and of all his “academic offspring” at JSCC, including graduates of the health science programs at JSCC, which he was instrumental in originating and developing. He deeply appreciated the graduates of those programs and other health care personnel in the community who cared for him and his health care needs, particularly

during the last few years as his needs increased. He was grateful for the love of and daily connection with his friend James Williams.

**SERVICES:** A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM Sunday, April 24, 2022, at Campbell Street Church of Christ. The family will be receiving friends following the service at the church. Walter asked that anyone who wants to say something have an opportunity to do so at the service. If you would like to participate in the service that way, the family welcomes your celebration of his life with them.

The family is requesting that, instead of flowers, memorial contributions be directed to the charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences for the family can be made at [www.arringtonfuneralgroup.com](http://www.arringtonfuneralgroup.com).

Arrington Funeral Directors, 148 W. University Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305  
731.668.1111 [www.arringtonfuneralgroup.com](http://www.arringtonfuneralgroup.com)

Memorial contributions can be made here: <https://joiningenerous.com/arrington-memorial-dr-walter-l-nelms-sr-maiyhbx>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 24. 2:00 PM (CT)

Campbell Street Church of Christ  
1490 Campbell Street  
Jackson, TN 38305

## Memorial Visitation

APR 24. 2:45 PM (CT)

Campbell Street Church of Christ  
1490 Campbell Street  
Jackson, TN 38305

# Tribute Wall

SV

“ Dear Brenda, Bubba and Lee...I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your Daddy. Sounds as if he lived a full, wonderful life. Sending prayers for comfort during this time, and hugs for your necks.  
Much love, Suzanne (Daniel) Verble

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**Suzanne Verble** - April 26 at 04:15 PM

CA

“ Sending you healing prayers and moments of peace as you celebrate the life of someone who was so dear to you.  
Carol Ames

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**Carol Ames** - April 23 at 10:47 PM

NM

“ "I have so many fond memories of working with Dr. Walter Nelms during his tenure at Jackson State Community College. He was extremely instrumental in the success of the Allied Health Department and very supportive of the Radiology Program. I will always cherish our relationship, both on a personal level and as a colleague. My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to his entire family. He touched so many lives and will be missed dearly."

*Neta B. McKnight*

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**Neta B. McKnight** - April 23 at 04:08 PM

BP

“ Thank you JSCC for the loving tribute article @ [https://www.jsccl.edu/news/news-article/newsid=walter-l-nelms-sr-president-emeritus-at-jackson-state-community-college-paon-april-19&fbclid=IwAR3N7ANCsYRWHcCuTJLMtPC4\\_EbIKdUZsOIXPMLMIDnAR1dBqSM](https://www.jsccl.edu/news/news-article/newsid=walter-l-nelms-sr-president-emeritus-at-jackson-state-community-college-paon-april-19&fbclid=IwAR3N7ANCsYRWHcCuTJLMtPC4_EbIKdUZsOIXPMLMIDnAR1dBqSM)

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**Brenda Phillips** - April 22 at 05:30 PM

HJ

“ I cannot express all the many wonderful memories we have of Walter and the Nelms family. Walter was the reason we moved to Jackson when he hired John to be admissions director at JSCC In 1974. We spent many hours with the family since Walter and John shared a passion for walking horses. John and Walter worked together and attended many walking horse celebrations and shows together. Our families worshipped together, as well. A Bible verse that sums up our love for this godly man is Philippians 1:3. Prayers for all of the family...he will be missed.

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**Hazel and John Johnson** - April 20 at 06:17 PM