



Michael F. Nelson

September 23, 1936 - April 24, 2026

Michael F. Nelson, 89, of Burket, Indiana passed at 11:03 am, Friday, April 24, 2026 at his residence.

Mike Nelson was born on September 23, 1936, in Kosciusko County, Indiana, to Denzel and Lena (Williamson) Nelson. After his mother's passing, he was lovingly raised by his stepmother, Marian (Conn) Nelson. He graduated from Burket High School in 1954, where he excelled on the basketball court and finished among the school's top five all-time scorers. From 1960 to 1962, Mike proudly served his country in the United States Army.

On July 19, 1964, he married the love of his life, Karen L. Schulenburg in Tipton, Indiana. Farming was Mike's lifelong calling. With early guidance from his grandfather and alongside his brother Jerry, he built a life working the land around the Burket area. He raised cattle and hogs and tended his fields with his trusted John Deere equipment.

Faith and community were central to Mike's life. He was a lifelong member of the Burket Bible Church—formerly the Burket United Methodist Church—where he served many years as a trustee. He also served on the North Central Co-op board and spent years as a Pioneer Seed Corn salesman. His involvement extended to the Kosciusko County Cattlemen's Association, the Tippecanoe Valley Holding Board during school consolidation, and the

Kosciusko County 4-H Fair Cattle Barn, where he served as superintendent and strong supporter.

Mike enjoyed many hobbies over the years, including bowling and cheering on his favorite teams: Purdue Boilermaker basketball, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Green Bay Packers. He rarely missed morning coffee with the local farmers, a daily ritual he cherished.

Above all, Mike was devoted to his family. He took great joy in watching his grandchildren show their animals in 4-H and loved passing down the tradition of fishing—first learned from his father and later shared with the next generations.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 62 years Karen Nelson of Burket; son Scott and wife Jenny A. Nelson of rural Claypool; daughter-in-law Jenny M. Nelson of Mentone; grandchildren Grant, Sidney, Haley, and Cole Nelson; sister Darla Hamm of Benson, North Carolina; sister-in-law Pat Nelson of Winona Lake; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, son Todd Nelson, and brothers Jerry and Larry Nelson.

The funeral service will be held at 10:30 am, Thursday, April 30, 2026 at King Memorial Home 101 North Tucker Street Mentone, Indiana with Rev. Mark Eastway officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service time at the funeral home.

The interment will follow in the Mentone Cemetery, Mentone, Indiana.

Visitation hours will be held from 3 pm to 7 pm, Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at King Memorial Home, Mentone, Indiana.

Memorial contributions can be made in his memory to the Burket Bible Church or Elara Caring 7030 Pointe Inverness Way, Suite 230A Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804 or the Kosciusko County 4-H Council.

Cemetery Details

Mentone Cemetery

Morgan St Jefferson Street
Mentone, IN 46539

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **29**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

King Memorial Home
101 North Tucker Street
P.O. Box 56
Mentone, IN 46539
(574) 353-7975
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

Funeral Service

APR **30**. 10:30 AM (ET)

King Memorial Home
101 North Tucker Street
P.O. Box 56
Mentone, IN 46539
(574) 353-7975
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael F. Nelson*



Hartzler Funeral Services - April 27 at 02:58 PM



“ *Michelle Gillman - Holloway lit a candle in memory of Michael F. Nelson*



Michelle Gillman - Holloway - April 29 at 05:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael F. Nelson.*



April 28 at 10:34 PM

JP

“ The Powell family was saddened to hear of Mike's passing. Our families have been friends for many years and he will be missed. I know its tough to lose a loved one but it won't be long until you only think of the good times when you think of Mike. I'm sure Dad an him are talking about cattle or basketball right now. In my prayers, John Powell

John Powell - April 28 at 06:55 PM

YF

“ Your Bowen Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Michael F. Nelson.



Your Bowen Family - April 28 at 08:45 AM

KS

“ Kresta&Hannah Burkholder &Marcia Stanley purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Michael F. Nelson.



Kresta&Hannah Burkholder &Marcia Stanley - April 27 at 03:12 PM

KS

“ Kresta&Hannah Burkholder &Marcia Stanley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael F. Nelson.

Kresta&Hannah Burkholder &Marcia Stanley - April 27 at 03:12 PM



“ 41 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - April 27 at 02:55 PM

JB

“ Julie Bridgman lit a candle in memory of Michael F. Nelson



Julie Bridgman - April 27 at 12:00 PM

RD

“ Karen and all of the Nelson family. Our prayers will be with you in the days to come.
Ross and Lana Deatsman

Ross and Lana Deatsman - April 27 at 07:23 AM

NJ

“ Sympathy to the family of Mike Nelson. Mike was a joy to talk with, and always a kind gentleman. Nancy Jacob, retired Pioneer rep

Nancy Jacob - April 26 at 01:57 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael F. Nelson.*



April 26 at 09:12 AM



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

April 26 at 09:12 AM



“ *Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory of Michael F. Nelson*



Shirley Bickel - April 25 at 06:29 PM