

JOHN EDWARD NELSON
"BIG JOHN"
DOB 11-11-52
DOD 5-03-12
HY-ROLLIN VANS LTD.

John Edward Nelson

May 16, 2012



*You are gone from our sight
but not from our hearts and memories.*

John Edward Nelson

Entered into this Life: November 11, 1952

Entered into Life Eternal: May 3, 2012

John made his arrival during his parents, Melvin and Shirley Nelson's, lunch hour, in Hibbing MN. He weighed in at 9 pounds 13 ounces.....he must have had his lunch before his arrival! Big-sister Linda was excited and happy to have a baby-brother! Their family moved from Hibbing to Minneapolis. A short while later they moved to WI where little-sister, Diane, was born. Then they settled in Waukegan, Illinois.

Summers were spent in Wisconsin at the farm of Grandma and Grandpa Schultz. Aunt Ione would take the train to Waukegan to pick Linda, John and Diane up the day after they got out of school, and return them home by train the weekend before school was ready to start. John learned to feed animals, drive tractor, swim in the lake, and fish. He spent his time outside from sunup to sundown, following Grandpa and Uncle Dean. It was an ideal childhood.

John attended Sunday school and Youth Group at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waukegan, Illinois. He was confirmed in 1967.

During his early teen's he learned how to do leather-crafting and it remained a hobby through-out his life. John had artistic talent and he created a variety of items using woods, metals or leather for his family and friends, as well as making items for himself to adorn his vans, motorcycles and homes.

John attended and graduated from Waukegan high school in 1971, and joined the U.S. Navy in 1972. He was a Sea Bee and served in the Viet Nam war-zone, where he came into contact with Agent-Orange.

He returned to Illinois after the Navy and worked in the construction trade as a framing-carpenter. He also learned how to install dry-wall and other skills that would benefit him later in his Handyman business.

He married Sharon Nall and became father to Lisa, Rob and Crystal. Sharon and John completed their family with a son, Judd Edward, in 1986. John would jokingly say Judd's middle name is 'Harley', as John was such a Harley Davidson fanatic. He would either ride them or work on them every chance he could get.....much to his mother's nightmares as John had several accidents while riding them.

John moved to St. John's, Arizona in 1999 and started a home-cleaning and Handyman business. He moved to Phoenix in 2002 where he worked at Sam's Club during the daytime and as Handyman and leather-crafter during his time 'off'.

John married Pam Decker on August 8th, 2008. He retired due to health problems and enrolled at Glendale Community College. His hobby of leather working became a primary business for him when he retired. He has blessed the family with many nice leather items that he had made over the years. John wanted to become a licensed Gun Smith and to have his own Gun Smith shop. He had put the wheels-in-motion down the pathway to obtaining it. John was a member of American Legion, Post #105.

He was preceded in death by his father, Melvin, and sister, Diane. He is survived by his wife, Pam; mother, Shirley; sister, Linda; children Lisa, Rob, Crystal, and Judd. He will be interred at the National Veteran Cemetery.