



Nelson Herbert Kasten

August 6, 1924 - July 26, 2024

Nelson H. Kasten, 99, Cape Girardeau, died Friday, July 26, 2024, at Chateau Girardeau.

Nelson was born August 6, 1924, in Cape Girardeau, to Herbert C. and Alma Marie Voges Kasten. He married Alice Comstock on January 30, 1949, in Pittsburg, KS. Before moving back to Cape Girardeau in 1997, they resided in Webster Groves and Wildwood in St. Louis County for over forty years.

Nelson graduated from Central High School in 1941. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State College in May of 1947, with a B.S. degree with majors in Chemistry and Mathematics.

Nelson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in December of 1942. While with the Pacific Amphibious Fleet in WWII, he served on three ships as navigator. He was transferred to reserve status in August of 1946, and retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Lieutenant in 1964.

Nelson worked for Monsanto Chemical Company over 38 years as a research chemist, receiving three patents. His work ranged from liquid detergent, food products, and silicon use in electronics.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Cape Girardeau. In the St. Louis area, he was Deacon, Elder and Clerk of Session in Presbyterian churches.

Nelson volunteered at the USO and St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis, as well as both St. Francis and Southeast Missouri Hospitals in Cape Girardeau. During retirement, he clocked over 5,000 hours of volunteer work.

Nelson (and Alice) satisfied educational interests by attending 22 Elderhostel travel-study courses over a 20 year period during retirement.

He was preceded in death by his wife Alice, of 62 years, and his parents.

Nelson is survived by a daughter, Barbara (David) Hiatt of Flagstaff, AZ; a son, Donald (Cindy) Kasten, of Billings, MT; two granddaughters, Samantha Hiatt of Louisville, KY., and Rachel (Rob) Hiatt of San Francisco; a grandson, Nathan (Mary) Hiatt of Franklin County; and two great grandsons, Ryan and Kyle Baer; and two great granddaughters, Callie Rose and Caitlyn Marie Hiatt. Granting his wishes, there will be no visitation. A private graveside service with military honors will be held at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to: the MOAA Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1824, Merrifield, VA, 22116-9917 or Southeast Missouri State University Foundation Music Department, One University Plaza, MS 7300, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 or the Salvation Army, PO Box 802, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com <<http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com>>

Ford and Sons Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans at Bloomfield

Bloomfield, MO 63825

Tribute Wall

BH

“Dad loved plants, starting new ones, and caring for them. He nurtured a tree on his balcony for years. Thank you to John C for planting a tree. Nelson would love that!

Barbara Hiatt - August 13, 2024 at 12:38 PM

NC

“Early July, I was exiting the Rehab at the Chateau and Nelson was there (having just returned from the hospital) in his wheelchair with a beautiful smile on his face. I had just spent the afternoon with a mutual friend (RoseMary Weaver) and was feeling a bit down. When I looked into Nelson’s face and asked how he was doing, he smiled and replied, “Oh isn’t it a beautiful day!” I told him he had no idea how his positivity had just warmed my soul. I hugged him and told him I loved him. I’m so grateful Gad gave me that “wink” moment!
Both my late husband and myself really loved and respected both Nelson and Alice. Our world was made a better place with their presence.

Nona Nan Chapman - August 04, 2024 at 06:33 PM

BH

Thank you for sharing this experience with my father.

Barbara Hiatt - August 13, 2024 at 12:29 PM

JC

“John C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelson Herbert Kasten.

John C. - July 31, 2024 at 01:11 PM

MR

“ I first met Nelson at St. Francis when he was volunteering, then reconnected with him several years ago at Chateau. What a sweet, precious man! You'll be missed, Nelson 💙 Mona Rae

Mona Rae - July 30, 2024 at 08:16 PM

BH

Dad loved volunteering and chatting with people. Thanks for sharing your experience.

Barbara Hiatt - August 13, 2024 at 12:31 PM

AP

“ Nelson was one of the kindest men I have had the pleasure to know over the years. He would sit and share stories with people for several hours. He was a person of wisdom and intelligence who remained humble all his life. He is missed.

Adelaide Parsons - July 30, 2024 at 09:43 AM

BH

Thanks so much for sharing. It means a lot to his family!

Barbara Hiatt - August 13, 2024 at 12:34 PM