

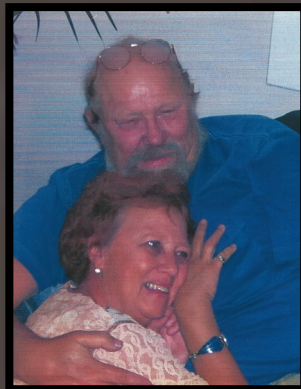
Maxwell, until his retirement in 2001. During his retirement years, he had the privilege and joy to provide childcare for his grandsons Brandon and Nicholas. He developed a passion for wood-turning, a self-taught hobby which he shared with all four of his grandsons.

Since August, Duane was at home while in the care of Sharp Hospice San Diego. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 7, 2025, at the age of 88 years, 11 months, and 25 days.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Judy; daughter Karin and Robert III Whittaker (Thompsons Station, TN); son Randy and Amy Nelson (San Diego, CA); brother, Herbert Jr. and Carol Nelson (Hawley, MN); Grandsons: Robert and Ruby Whittaker (Tacoma, WA), Adon Whittaker, Brandon Nelson, Nicholas Nelson; Sisters-in law and husbands: Joy and Tom Fisch (Fargo, ND), Jerilyn and Todd Hutton, (Billings, MT); and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert Nelson and Esther Haarstad Nelson.

May His Memory Be Blessed



In Our Hearts Always



Duane L. Nelson

September 13, 1936 ~
September 7, 2025



“Long Way Home”

By Jeremy and Maribeth Johnson, Karin Whittaker

*On the same highway that everyone takes
I was headed home, looking straight ahead.
Just another day.*

*There were things to do, there was life to live.
There were miles to go. It always seems to go like this
Up ahead an exit sign had me slowing down and turning right
It was something that you had to do 'cause only you could.*

Chorus: *Show me beauty undiscovered
Things I never would have known
Had I made it on my own.
Show me all the wonders I've been missing
I am changed and I am different
Because I TOOK THE LONG WAY HOME.*

*Yeah I drove through rain, through the tears and pain
Even lost control a couple of times along the way
But around each bend You were there again
To remind me where I'm going is where you've always been.
Up ahead a ray of light
Yeah it's breaking through the darkest sky tonight.*

Chorus

*It's not where I expected my life would ever go
But I'm forever thankful for the long way home.*

Chorus

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ***Duane Nelson***

FUNERAL SERVICE

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 2:00 PM
Dobmeier Funeral Home
Barnesville, Minnesota

OFFICIATING

Pastor Kyle Christopherson, Hawley Alliance Church

MUSIC

Sharlene Allen, Barnesville, MN ~ *Pianist*
Molly Bestge, Lake Park, MN ~ *Soloist*

Selections

“Thanks Be To Thee” ~ Handel
“The Lord’s Prayer” ~ Malotte

Recorded Selections

Requiem, Op. 48: Sanctus” ~ Fauré
“The Long Way Home”
~ Jeremy & Maribeth Johnson, Karin Whittaker
“Amazing Grace” ~ Judy Collins
“Requiem, Op. 48: In Paradisum” ~ Fauré

PALLBEARERS

Robert Whittaker	Brandon Nelson
Adon Whittaker	Nicholas Nelson
Gavin Peterson	Carson Peterson
Troy Erdman	Kyle Schlecht

INTERMENT

Zion Cemetery
Rural Hawley, Minnesota

APPRECIATION

On behalf of Duane’s family, thank you for your love and support throughout his life. We appreciate your prayers and your time as his life is honored. Please join us for a time of food and fellowship immediately following the funeral service.

Arrangements Entrusted To
Dobmeier Funeral & Cremation Service &
Merkley-Mitchell Mortuary

Remembering...

Duane Nelson was born on the family farm in Skree Township, MN on September 13, 1936. After graduating from High School in Barnesville, MN, Duane attended the School of Agriculture at University of Minnesota. He was a member of the Fargo Air National Guard for 6 years.

On December 29, 1961, friends and families braved 29 degrees below zero to celebrate the marriage of Duane to Judith Ann Schwartz. They had two children, Karin Lynn and Randy Scott. Thru the agency of the American Field Exchange program, the Nelsons hosted Suha Khatib from Amman, Jordan. She lived with them during the 1980-1981 school year.

Life on the farm was a challenge, as well as Duane's passion. For 40 years he farmed with his father and later, with his children. A man of many talents, Duane hauled gravel for Kenneth Sogn, drove milk truck for Kermit Nelson, welded and repaired farm machinery at the Scheffler-Schwartz Welding Shop, helped Bob Berg prepare the yearly cattle auctions and drove a taxi in Fargo.

Duane was on the Skree Township Board (12 years), Farmer’s Coop Oil Board and Elevator Board (10 years), and Clay County Farm Home Administration Board (4 years). The Nelsons attended the West Fargo Community Presbyterian Church. They avidly followed Karin and Randy’s’ school activities as well as Rothsay High School’s events where Judy taught school for 20 years.

Duane spent 13 years remodeling their home. In December of 1975, the house was destroyed by fire while the family was enroute to Florida for a Christmas vacation. With the help of many generous people from the communities of Barnesville, Hawley, Rothsay and West Fargo, their dream home was built and enjoyed until they moved to California in June 1985.

Relocating to San Diego, Duane was employed by Maxwell Laboratories. He was then assigned to be in charge of shipping and receiving at Ibus, a subsidiary of