



## Ray Eugene Nelson

August 18, 1935 – June 12, 2012

Ray Nelson, of Ogallala, passed away June 12, 2012, at the age of 76.

Ray Eugene Nelson was born to Raymond and Margaret (Christensen) Nelson on August 18, 1935 in Banner County, NE. The family moved to a farm south of Roscoe in 1939. Ray attended elementary school at District 7. He then attended Ogallala High School graduating in 1952.



On December 6, 1953, Ray married Donna Stedman. Soon after, in 1954, he joined the National Guard serving 16 years. He chose not to re-enlist and left the service with the rank of Captain.

Ray worked on the family farm south of Roscoe and worked at the Nelson Farm Service until purchasing the store. He changed the business to Ray's Farm Service where they sold farm equipment and fertilizer.

Ray sold the business in 1979 and embarked on other business ventures which included a custom hay service and D&R Pumping. Later in life, he purchased rental properties which he maintained until his death.

Ray was an active member of church his entire. He supervised the building of the Berean Fundamental Church. He served on church boards, taught Sunday school, and filled in as a lay pastor for various churches. Ray was also an active member of Gideon's International. He had the pleasure of presiding over the marriage of his son Jeff as well as several of his grandchildren, Jeremy, Mitch and Rusti.

Family was very important to Ray. He spent many a Sunday afternoon at the lake, pulling the kids behind the boat. He was also supportive of his children and grandchildren, attending the many activities they were involved in.

His caring and concern didn't stop with his family. Ray had a soft spot for those less fortunate than him. He took in numerous people throughout the years, giving them jobs and doing what he could to help better their lives.

Ray served on the PAKS board in Ogallala. He was active in the RSVP program in Ogallala and Alliance, as well as the S.H.A.R.E. program in Ogallala. He enjoyed announcing wrestling tournaments at the high school and federation meets.

Ray's beloved wife, Donna, passed away August 12, 2011. He was also preceded in death by his parents and six of his great-grandchildren.

Ray is survived by the following: 5 Sons: Steve (Carol) Nelson, Ogallala; Mark (Julie) Nelson, Hershey; Tim (Deb) Nelson, Pamona, KS; Jeff (Sheri) Nelson, North Platte; and Joel (Angie) Nelson, Gordon. 3 Daughters: Linda (Randy) Dean, Alliance; Penny Nelson, Pamona, KS; and Valerie (Wayne) Vander Schaaf, Alliance. 4 Brothers: Bob (Joan) Nelson, Norm (Nettie Fae) Nelson, Don Nelson and Dave (Betty) Nelson, all of Ogallala, and a special family friend Shari Rel of Alliance.

Visitation is scheduled on Friday June 15, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Draucker Funeral Home in Ogallala. Funeral Service is Saturday June 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the New Hope Church in Ogallala, Reverends Eric Wait and Duane Dunwoody officiating. Burial will follow in the Ogallala, Cemetery. A memorial has been established to the New Hope church and Gideon's International.

Online condolences may be sent to [webmaster@drauckerfh.com](mailto:webmaster@drauckerfh.com). Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.