



Otho Lamar Nelson Jr.

October 9, 1937 - May 15, 2025

Otho Lamar Nelson, Jr. went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Thursday, May 15, 2025, in Tyler, Texas. He was born on October 9, 1937, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to Otho Nelson, Sr. and Lucille Chandler Nelson. He married his high school sweetheart, Charlene Matthews on August 24, 1957, and they enjoyed nearly 68 wonderful years together.

Otho was a loving father and husband. He was a Christian who loved the Lord and served him faithfully. Otho was a member of Green Acres Baptist Church. Through the years, he served at various times as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, Bible study leader, and on numerous church boards. Otho was a registered land surveyor by trade. He worked his way up through the ranks from the mail room to senior leadership at United Gas Pipeline retiring after 35 years. His work brought Otho and his family from Mississippi to Houston, Texas in 1981. Following retirement, Otho and Charlene moved to Tyler where they have made their home until now. Following retirement, Otho volunteered at East Texas Medical Center for more than 10 years.

Otho was a proud Mason and a member of the Scottish Rite earning Grand Master of his lodge in 1970. Otho loved to read and always enjoyed a good Tom Clancy novel. He also loved to garden. He and Charlene always had beautiful yards in their different homes through the years.

In 2024, Otho and Charlene moved to Primrose Retirement Community of Tyler where they quickly made many new friends whom they consider to be extended family. Otho will always be remembered for his sweet smile and kind disposition. He was a friend to everyone he met.

He is survived by his loving wife, Charlene Nelson; chosen family, Shelby and Keith Gould; sons, Billy Nelson and Tommy Nelson; daughter, Angela Rodgers; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his five sisters and one brother.

A memorial service will be held at the Chapel at Primrose Retirement Community, officiated by Bro. Emmanuel Ward. We want to recognize and give thanks to the wonderful staff at Primrose Retirement, Enhabit Hospice, and Hospice of East Texas for the wonderful care they provided to Otho. If desired, memorials may be made to the Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd, Tyler, TX 75701.