



Thomas Andrew Nelson

December 14, 1952 - August 30, 2016

Thomas Nelson

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Thomas Andrew Nelson, 63, of St. Paul, Minn., formerly of Princeton, died Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2016, at home surrounded by his loving family.

Born Dec. 14, 1952, in Monmouth, IL, to Leith and Mary (Murphy) Nelson, Tom married Dianne Luther June 12, 1975, in St. Louis Church.

Tom graduated from Princeton High School in 1971 and earned a baccalaureate degree in biology from Illinois State University, and Master of Science degree and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Illinois University. He loved teaching and had been employed by Arkansas Tech University, Eastern Illinois University, University of North Georgia, and Southern Polytechnic State University, and was the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minn. at the time of his death. He influenced many students with his love of biology.

He married his wife, Dianne, in 1975 and was a loving father and grandfather to son Brian, his wife Elena and their two children Cecilia and Henry, Kate and her husband Bryan Nuckols, and John and his fiancé Alexandra Benejam.

Tom is survived by one sister, Mary (Gerald) Bevington; one brother, John (Gail) Nelson of Phoenix, AZ; and several loving nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Leith Nelson.

Tom loved his family, his animals (especially corgis), gardening, traveling and spending time in nature.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the Norberg Memorial Home in Princeton. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed the Memorial Scholarship Endowment for Dr. Thomas Nelson at YouCaring.com

Online condolences may be left at <http://www.norbergfh.com/>.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

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“*Dr. Nelson was my advisor and major professor at Arkansas Tech University. I helped him on several of his research projects (telemetry, deer studies, etc.). Although I had not been in touch with him for the past 5 years or so, we had kept in touch prior to that. He was a mentor and a good man. I owe him a great deal professionally as my career has benefitted from his teaching and advise. Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen*

*Luke F. Eggering
Maryville, Illinois*

Luke - November 17, 2016 at 07:34 AM