

## Parker Mortuary & Crematory

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### Gary Michael Nelson

(Died September 20, 2012)



Gary Michael Nelson, age 62 of Joplin, passed away at 9:08 a.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at his home following a courageous battle with cancer.

Born November 12, 1949 in Joplin, he was the son of the late John Emial Nelson and Helen Louise Murray Nelson and lived in Joplin his lifetime. He was a Vietnam War Veteran, serving overseas with the U.S. Navy. He was a Bronze Star recipient. Gary (also known as "Kid") worked for Missouri Gas Energy from 1973 until retiring in 2009. He was a Roman Catholic. Gary was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and enjoyed going to casinos. He loved boating and flying planes



On April 23, 1983, he married Robin Dale Myers Kent in Joplin. She survives.

Additional survivors include four children, Tina Marie Nelson, Michael Christopher Nelson and wife Allison, Gary Matthew (Matt) Nelson and wife Elisha, Jason Michael Kent and wife Amanda, all of Joplin; two brothers, Bob Nelson and wife Brenda, Larry Nelson and wife Dorothy, all of Joplin; 13 grandchildren (and another due in November); mother-in-law, Barbara Myers of Joplin; sister-in-law, Deborah Degginger and husband Mike of Alabama; brother-in-law, Steve Myers and wife Wendy of Texas; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, John Edward Nelson; an uncle, Tom Murray; and grandson, Taylor Nelson.

Funeral Mass will be 10:00 a.m. Monday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, newly located at 1230 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, with Rev. Justin Monaghan, celebrant. Interment with Military Honors will follow at Ozark Memorial Park with Steve Cress, Steve Myers, Steve Gannaway, Byran Sweet, Mike Degginger and Wes Waggoner serving as pallbearers. Recitation of the Rosary and Prayer service will be at Parker Mortuary on Sunday at 5:00 p.m., followed by visitation.

Memorial contributions may be made to an education fund for his grandchildren.