



Margaret Frances Muir Nelson

June 29, 1945 - May 31, 2025

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home sends condolences to the family of Mrs. Margaret Nelson.

Margaret Frances Muir Nelson, 79, passed away peacefully at her home in Woodstock, Virginia on May 31, 2025.

Born on June 29, 1945, in Childersburg, Alabama to Lewis S. and Ann E. Muir, Margaret spent her early years with her family in Delaware and Florida. She attended Florida State University, where she met her future husband, Thomas S. Nelson. Following his commission as an officer in the U.S. Navy, Tom was assigned to Fleet Weather Center in Guam, where he and Margaret lived from 1966 to 1968.

From Guam (where Margaret taught at the local school), her and Tom's journey continued to Long Beach, California; Monterey, California (where their first son, David, was born); Rhode Island; Maryland (where their second son, Mark, was born); Keflavik, Iceland; back to Maryland, followed by Florida, Mississippi, and finally Virginia.

Wherever she lived, Margaret brought friendship, resilience, and community service. In 2001, she and Tom built their forever home on the banks of the Shenandoah River in Woodstock, Virginia where she became a beloved

member of the community.

A proud grandmother, loving mother, and committed military wife, Margaret lived a life of service and deep community engagement. She gave her time and heart to many organizations, including the Woodstock Library, Friends of the North Fork, Bread of Life Food Pantry, Response, and the Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter. Margaret was a devoted member of Woodstock Presbyterian Church, where she served as an elder for many years.

She was a voracious reader with a wide-ranging intellect and an insatiable curiosity. Margaret had the rare gift of being able to hold a thoughtful conversation with anyone, unafraid to challenge assumptions or debate a topic with clarity and conviction. She was passionate about baseball—especially her beloved Nationals—and regularly traveled to Florida for spring training.

Margaret is survived by her sons, David and Mark, her brother, John Muir, her daughters-in-law Kaarin and Shannon, and her cherished grandchildren, Annabel, Peter, Sawyer, and Jude. She was preceded in death by her husband Tom.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Bread of Life Food Pantry located at 156 S. Muhlenberg Street, Woodstock, Virginia.

A memorial service will be held at Woodstock Presbyterian Church on Friday, June 20, at 12:00 p.m., followed by a reception in the church's fellowship hall. All who knew Margaret are welcome to attend and celebrate her life.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Woodstock Presbyterian Church
142 E. Court Street
Woodstock, VA 22664

Tribute Wall

PG

“ Margaret was a good friend, fellow world traveler with Linda, weekly dinner partner when the Nelson’s and Gaffney’s were in Jacksonville and Washington together. Without doubt a steady hand, a clear thinker, the most well informed, the relentlessly generous friend. The Gaffney’s miss Tom and will now miss Margaret ... but we send wishes for peaceful memories to David and Mark. Linda and Paul

paul gaffney - June 17, 2025 at 09:23 AM

LF

“ Love The Huber Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Margaret Frances Muir Nelson.



Love The Huber Family - June 15, 2025 at 09:58 PM

LF

“ Love The Huber Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret Frances Muir Nelson.

Love The Huber Family - June 15, 2025 at 09:58 PM

LM

“Margaret lived at one end of River Road, and I lived at the other end. She was a strong supporter of clean river water and always welcomed my girls and me to her home. I was also her pastor for 14 years. She was a woman of grace and grit, always thinking about how best to accomplish a mission that honored all people in dignified ways. My prayers of support go out to her beloved family.
Rev. Lisa Wilson Martin

Lisa Wilson Martin - June 14, 2025 at 10:10 PM