



John "Nelson" Appelman

April 30, 1949 - April 13, 2025

John "Nelson" Appelman was the kind of man that would make anyone comfortable in a conversation. With many varied interests, there was always something to talk about and plenty of activities to keep him busy. Nelson was born April 30, 1949 in Lansing, MI to Nelson and Esther (Schmidt) Appelman. Growing up on a horse farm, they raised horses to race sulky carts. His love for animals continued into adulthood, as he raised Boxers with his all-time favorite rescue named Chance. All around town neighbors would often find him walking his dogs. His love for his kids and grandkids was evident as he was coaching little league, wrestling, baseball, football, and freestyle wrestling at Lakewood and Maple Valley Schools. He also served on the Lakewood Youth Wrestling board.

One of his greatest accomplishments was completing the DALMAC four times. He also collected many different things as an avid garage sale shopper with his wife. He was always looking for die-cast trucks and old signs. With a love of John Deere tractors, he found that a bigger yard meant he could get more and bigger tractors. Nelson worked as a food broker for C.E. Stehower, traveling to grocery stores throughout Michigan, and retired in 2015. He was an active member of Chester Gospel Church where he served on the board for many years. He also was a Sunday School Superintendent. He and his wife, Pam, along with his friends, Chris and Penny Brumm were youth group leaders. Nelson and Chris also spent many evenings visiting those who were

homebound.

Nelson died April 13, 2025 at the age of 75 from complications of a spinal cord injury from a slip and fall on ice January 11, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Pam; son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Shannon Appelman; daughter and son-in-law, Cassie and Matt Heinze; grandchildren, Kaelyn, Madi, Andrew, Brock, Brandon, and Braxton; along with a sister, Karla Terpening. He was predeceased by twin infant daughters; grandson, Brenden Bell; and his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support the Appelman family by attending services or sharing memories on Nelson's Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. Visitation is Thursday, April 17, 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Funeral services are Friday, April 18, 11:00 AM at Pray Funeral Home with Pastor Dennis Weeks and Pastor Matt Rohde officiating. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Nelson's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Eaton Community Palliative Care. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Gresham Cemetery

4100 Mulliken Rd
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

APR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

APR 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Burial

APR 18 (ET)

Gresham Cemetery
4100 Mulliken Rd
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



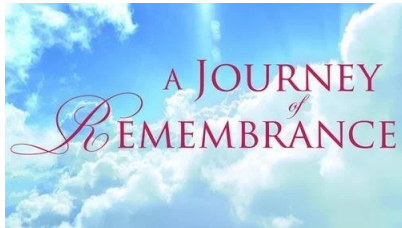
“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of John "Nelson" Appelman



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 18, 2025 at 10:49 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of John "Nelson" Appelman



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 15, 2025 at 08:15 PM

BS

“ I will always remember Nelson with a smile! He was one of the few guys in our class I was always comfortable with! He has a wonderful family! Becky Stark

Becky Stark - May 12, 2025 at 02:10 AM

JS

“ I remember Nelson mostly when we were kids..my family knew his parents and we would visit them but I would go over to his house and dig tunnels in sand out in the field get green apples off their apple tree and go sledding in the winter..when we became teenagers we stopped hanging out..i remember when he got married at a young age..they said it wouldnt last..well it did..the last time i heard of Nelson was from my mother before she died in 1995..in middleville she was at a grocery store and heard his voice and knew it was Nelson..she told me he was very happy to see her..i left michigan right after high school so ive had no contact with him since we were teens..i had very fond memories of Nelson growing up..may he rest in peace and know he will be in all our hearts..A big hug to his wife .your fond memories of him will also bring more smiles than tears..may God bless your family
John simmons known as greg

John simmons - April 29, 2025 at 05:47 PM

JS

“ So very sorry. I'll remember Nelson as a quiet man who showed his love for his family in his support and participation with his children.

Joyce Snow - April 17, 2025 at 05:58 PM

RG

“ Ryan Snyder- Infinity Advisory Group purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John "Nelson" Appelman.



Ryan Snyder- Infinity Advisory Group - April 16, 2025 at 03:12 PM



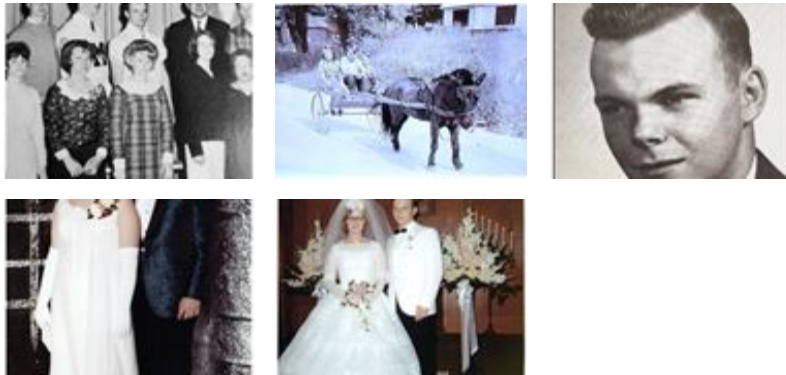
“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of John "Nelson" Appelman.*



April 15, 2025 at 05:29 PM



“ *42 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - April 15, 2025 at 05:19 PM

JM

Nelson was the type of man I have always aspired to be, never quite reaching his level. As always is the case, I so wish we'd had more time together.

John Murray - April 16, 2025 at 12:43 PM

RW

He was a very joyful and happy man. He will be missed.

Rick Williams - April 18, 2025 at 09:28 AM

PF

“ Paul Grant and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John "Nelson" Appelman.



Paul Grant and family - April 15, 2025 at 04:01 PM

CW

“ Nelson was always smiling. Everytime I saw him he was smiling. Such a kind and nice man. My prayers are for Pam the children and grandchildren. I am so sorry for you loss.

Cyndi Sadler Wine - April 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM

DH

“ Our thoughts and prayers to Pam and all of the family. Sincerely Brinda and Dave Hawkins

David L Hawkins - April 15, 2025 at 06:44 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John "Nelson" Appelman.



April 14, 2025 at 10:35 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "Nelson" Appelman.*



April 14, 2025 at 08:20 PM