



Charles "Doc" Nelson

September 03, 1922 - November 14, 2022

Charles Signor (Doc) Nelson, age 100 years, passed from this life into the next on November 14, 2022. At the time, he was being lovingly attended by his family and well cared for by the staff of Lake Mills Care Center and Hospice of North Iowa.

Doc was born on September 3, 1922 in Ada, MN and raised in Amery and New Richmond, WI, where he graduated from New Richmond High School in 1940. He had begun his chiropractic schooling and training at Lincoln Chiropractic College in Indianapolis when he answered the call to serve during WWII. Doc was a pharmacy mate in the US Navy serving on attack landing ships in north Africa, Italy, and France before being transferred to the Pacific. He was on board the USS Clermont enroute to Japan when the war ended in August 1945. While on leave during his transfer, he married his beloved wife Mary on October 29, 1944. Following the war, he returned to Indianapolis with Mary to complete his Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree.

After graduating from Lincoln in 1948 and attending post-graduate courses at Palmer Chiropractic College in Davenport, IA, Doc and Mary moved to Lake Mills with their first child, Lucretia, to establish a chiropractic practice and raise their family. The family eventually grew to six children, with Frona, Gregg, Maren, Dana, and Bill joining Lucretia. The Nelsons were long-time members of Salem Lutheran Church, where Doc sang tenor in the choir and served in various leadership roles. In addition, Doc served on the city council and the school board overseeing much development and many improvements in the school and town over the decades.

Doc enjoyed woodworking, crafting many items such as picture frames, display shelves, and birdhouses, and the finishing work on the family's homes-- first on N. Winnebago Street and later at Rice Lake. But most of all he enjoyed golf, especially golfing with his many friends at Rice Lake Golf & Country Club and serving on the club's board of directors. Over the years Doc shot his age many times and carded 7 holes-in-one. In addition, Doc was an early visionary and pivotal leader of the expansion of the golf course from 9 to 18 holes.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife Mary (Thomas) in 2002, father and mother, Dr. Leonard and Lula (Thompson) Nelson, respectively, two sisters, Frona (Brown) and Marjory (Holie), one brother, Nathan, a grandson, Kent, and a son-in-law, Gary. He is survived by children Lucretia Knutson (Irvine, CA), Frona (Rick) Ites (Edina, MN), Gregg Nelson (Reno, NV), Maren (Lee) Larson (Jackson, MN), Dana (Lori) Nelson (Lexington, KY) and Bill (Susan) Nelson (South Webster, OH), 15 grandchildren (Gary, Michael, Katherine, Mary, Angela, Benjamin, Jenna, Tricia, Brett, Kirby, Jill, Charles, Erik, Andrew, Laura), and 18 great-grandchildren (Madison, Justin, Aaron, Audrey, Evelyn, Nora, Maren, Porter, Calvin, Lainey, Wesley, Wrenley, Samuel, Miles, Jase, Isla, Coen, Charlie).

A funeral celebration service is being planned for July 1, 2023 at Salem Lutheran Church with military honors, followed by a family committal service and interment at Salem Lutheran Cemetery on US 69 North in Lake Mills.

Memorials may be given to Salem Lutheran Church or Lake Mills Ambulance Service.