



Mr. Nelson Gardner

January 17, 1954 - February 24, 2026

Nelson Gardner, 72, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at his home with his wife beside him. He was born on January 17, 1954, to Joyce H. Gardner and William Nelson Gardner in Hartsville, SC.

Nelson graduated from Chesterfield High School in 1972 and began his career in construction. He was hired by Duke Energy in 1978 at Catawba Nuclear Station and retired after 38 years of service from Oconee Nuclear Station in 2016. Nelson was a volunteer firefighter with the Flint Hill Volunteer Fire Department in Fort Mill, SC. He was a member of Masonic Lodge 51 and a Shriner. Nelson was of the Baptist faith and a member of Seneca Baptist Church for 31 years, where he served as a deacon, teacher, choir member, and helped with RAs.

Nelson enjoyed playing golf and attending Clemson football games with his family and friends, but most of all he loved watching his grandchildren play ball and watching his son coach softball at West-Oak High School.

In addition to his parents, Nelson was preceded in death by his son, Gabriel Nelson Gardner (Heather), and his brother, Jerry Gardner.

Nelson is survived by his wife of 48 years, Kathy; his son, Scott Gardner (Mandy); grandchildren: Russell Gardner (Samantha), Allie Wheeler (Cory),

Savannah Gardner, Canaan Voss, Connor Voss, and Lawton Voss; great-grandchildren: MJ Gardner and Blakeley Wheeler; sister, Sharon Kimrey (Mike); brothers: Jeff Gardner (Teresa), Scottie Gardner, and Chris Gardner; and many nieces and nephews.

Nelson was slow to anger, abounding in love, with a sweet spirit. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM, Thursday, February 26, 2026, at Davenport Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Prisma Health Hospice of the Foothills, Cottingham House, Attn: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672 or St. Jude Children's Hospital, www.st.jude.org/donate.

The family is gathered at the home.

Tribute Wall

EM

“ *Edie & Leigh Morgan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Nelson Gardner*



Edie & Leigh Morgan - February 27 at 10:05 AM

JC

Friends with Nelson and Kathy for many years. Prayers for Kathy and all the family. RIP my friend.

Jim Cochran - February 28 at 07:29 AM

MH

“ *Kathy we are sorry to hear about Nelson. We will be praying for you and your family.*

Marcy Hothersall - February 26 at 08:44 PM

KA

“ *Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Nelson Gardner*



Kathy Addis - February 26 at 04:22 PM

NC

“ *Nancy and Gary Caspersen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Nelson Gardner.*

Nancy and Gary Caspersen - February 26 at 04:01 PM

NC

“ Nancy and Gary Caspersen purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mr. Nelson Gardner.



Nancy and Gary Caspersen - February 26 at 04:01 PM

RB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. He was such a sweet soul. Praying for peace and comfort during this difficult time



Robin Baker - February 26 at 09:38 AM

JH

“ Kathy prays for you and your family during this time. Janice Holbrooks

Janice L Holbrooks - February 25 at 10:43 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Nelson Gardner.



February 25 at 09:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Nelson Gardner.

February 25 at 09:20 PM



“ Lynn&Wayne Nichols lit a candle in memory of Mr. Nelson Gardner



Lynn&Wayne Nichols - February 25 at 04:51 PM



“ Condolences to the Family



C Williams - February 25 at 02:58 PM



“ Prayers for the Gardner families.

Phillip and Carol Martin



Phillip Martin - February 25 at 02:28 PM

RW

“ *RL Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Nelson Gardner*



RL Wilson - February 25 at 09:46 AM

LC

“ *My dear friend Kathy I'm so sorry to hear about Nelson. I think of you often and our younger years living near each other. My heart breaks for you but I'm remembering what a loving and kind man Nelson was. You are in my prayers at this sad time.* ❤️

Lynda Crocker - February 25 at 09:41 AM



“ *I was honored to call Nelson Gardner my friend. Kathy, Scott my condolences and prayers to you as you go through this difficult time.*
Billy and Robin Cauthen

Billy-Robin Cauthen - February 25 at 09:14 AM

KM

“ *Kathy, Scott and family, How sad I am To read this as I did not know Nelson was ill. Nelson was a fine man and I know that your memories will help To ease your grief.*

Kathy McGee - February 25 at 08:33 AM

VB

It is with great heartbreak I learn of Nelson's passing. We started at Catawba the same year and retired the same year. We continued working in the same department and in the beginning the same team. He was always good to work with, helpful in any way he could. He loved his family (and friends like family) and we often shared family stories.

Prayers of comfort for the family.

Vicki Barron - February 25 at 01:41 PM

RL

With our prayers and love for you and your family in your time of grieving. We always enjoyed the time when we had the opportunity to be together.

Teresa and Richard Ledford

Richard Ledford - February 25 at 08:53 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Nelson Gardner.*



February 25 at 06:01 AM

DN

“ *Doug and Linda R. Nix lit a candle in memory of Mr. Nelson Gardner*



Doug and Linda Nix - February 25 at 12:01 AM

LG

“ Sending love and prayers to the family! May God wrap you in his loving arms and supply comfort during this difficult time. 🙏❤️🙏



Lynn & Donna K Gooden - February 24 at 11:48 PM

JR

“ Sending our condolences to the family. May God give you peace and comfort today and the days ahead.



Jody and Marcia Rhyne - February 24 at 09:08 PM

JF

“ Jones, Perkins & Roy families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Nelson Gardner.



Jones, Perkins & Roy families - February 24 at 08:58 PM

DH

“ Rest EZ Nelson, Glad we crossed paths, You are in the hands of The Lord Jesus Christ now, Home At Last, RIP My Friend, Praying For Your Family 🙏🙏🙏, Dennis PZO Hart 🙏🙏🙏

Dennis Hart - February 24 at 08:20 PM

SH

“ Praying for your family during this very difficult time.

Sharon Henderson - February 24 at 08:13 PM

DT

“ Duke Energy, Buck CC Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Nelson Gardner.



Duke Energy, Buck CC Team - February 24 at 08:12 PM

JO

“ I am wrapping you all in love at a time when words fall short.



Judy Oliver - February 24 at 07:24 PM

JL

“ Kathy, please know that you and the entire Gardner family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We pray that God surrounds you with His peace and comfort, and that Nelson’s memories bring you strength and reassurance in the days ahead. May you feel His presence and the love and support of those around you now and always.

James & Cindi Lightsey - February 24 at 07:10 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Nelson Gardner.



February 24 at 06:51 PM



“ To all the Gardner family. I have known Nelson all his life. Growing up in the Cedar Creek community and knowing all his family. Such a sweet spirit Nelson had. Haven't seen him in a while but would see him at Clemson or back in Cedar Creek community. He will be missed by many. May God give you strength and comfort in the days and months ahead. Love in Christ.

Janelle Teal Britt - February 24 at 06:48 PM



“ Wayne F. Barton lit a candle in memory of Nelson Gardner



Wayne F. Barton - February 24 at 06:21 PM



“ My condolences to Kathy and the family. I enjoyed the time I spent with Nelson, he was a great man.

Michael McCall - February 24 at 06:09 PM

BH

“ *Bleese-Rita Harper sent a virtual gift in memory of Nelson Gardner*



Bleese-Rita Harper - February 24 at 05:54 PM



“ *Extending deepest condolences to Kathy and all the family. May God surround you with His love to comfort you while you grieve. Love in Christ, Don and Pam Mize*

Pamela Mize - February 24 at 05:18 PM

LB

“ *Kathy, I am so sorry to hear about Nelson's passing. He fought a long battle and now he is home! You and your family will be in my prayers. I remember you and Nelson sitting behind us in church, I miss those days!*

Le Bradham - February 24 at 05:13 PM

MC

“ *Melinda Crawley lit a candle in memory of Nelson Gardner*



Melinda Crawley - February 24 at 05:06 PM

IM

“ Prayers for the Gardner families. Nelson will be missed dearly.



Icky and Joyce Merriman - February 24 at 04:56 PM

JH

“ Jerry Harpe lit a candle in memory of Nelson Gardner



Jerry Harpe - February 24 at 04:55 PM

RC

“ Love and prayers to the family.



Rod and Kaye Clark - February 24 at 04:14 PM

NH

“ Prayers and condolences too the family.Can remember playing ball with Nelson,Jeff and Jerry when they were young boys.Outstanding family.

Nelson Hendrick - February 24 at 03:34 PM

MM

My condolences to Kathy and the family. I enjoyed the time I spent with Nelson, he was a great man.

Michael McCall - February 24 at 06:06 PM

LM

Prayers for his family!

Linda Morton - February 24 at 10:38 PM

SD

Praying for your family

Scott Durham - February 25 at 09:04 AM