



Martha Nelle McClearen King

December 13, 2021

Martha Nelle McClearen King, age 92, passed away peacefully on Dec 13th in Nashville, TN.

Nelle was a woman whose life was dedicated to her Family, and to God. And to the land where she was born and raised in Farmers Exchange, Hickman County, Tennessee.

She was born in 1929 in Farmers Exchange, attended the three-room school there until the 10th grade, (her mother, Miss Annie, was her teacher), and graduated from Hickman County High School in 1946. She did her undergraduate studies primarily at Austin Peay, though at one point she took 2 years off so that her mother could finish college. From there, she went on to Nursing School at Louisville General Hospital, Louisville KY, where she graduated Oct 11, 1956.

Education was very important in Nelle's family - every one of her siblings was also a college graduate, pretty unusual for the times.

In 1953, she married Johnnie (John O'Leary) King. They were married 38 years. His jobs moved them all over the world. Some of the highlights of their travels included Italy, Switzerland, California, Texas, Michigan and New Mexico.

When home in the United States, Nelle worked diligently in several different hospitals. Her nursing career began in pediatrics at Stanford University Hospital. Ultimately she focused on psychiatric nursing, and she retired from Centennial Hospital in 2000.

Nelle and Johnnie were told they could not conceive, but surprisingly they did 16 years into their marriage. She was about to undergo surgery to remove a tumor, but refused to do it without her husband there (flight delayed due to weather). This delay allowed a young resident to be curious and test for pregnancy, which indeed she was. It was probably at this moment that she also conceived her passion for the lives of unborn children.

She was a seeker of knowledge, and passionate about sharing any knowledge acquired. She made multiple copies of everything she deemed important, and then mailed out the copies (which were not always welcomed by the recipients!). Her family had to buy her a copy machine to keep her from going to Kinko's several times a week.

She was an evangelist and loved telling anyone she met about God's love for them. There were very few people she encountered that did not get a "Jesus loves you, and there's nothing you can do to change that" from her.

She is legendary in Hickman County as a fierce defender of land and water, helping to found HALT (Hickman Against Lethal Trash) at a time when a toxic waste dump was being proposed for the Brushy community. Needless to say, the toxic waste dump plan was halted.

She was a founding member and devoted supporter of Pleasantville Volunteers (Fire and Rescue), and a dedicated supporter of the Bethel Cemetery in Farmers Exchange.

She was very active in the Tennessee Right to Life and served as a regional coordinator for Hickman and Lewis counties for many projects in that organization. Her passion for unborn children was unprecedented.

She felt that every letter she mailed was a possible way to reach people. She had two custom rubber stamps made, so every envelope she sent, and every check she wrote bore these two messages "Abortion kills Children" and "Children are the message we send to a time we will not see".

For the last six months, she added a handwritten message, "Please pray for an Annual Children's Day based on the Holy Bible" - she had hoped that Children's Day would become a National Holiday in the United States during her lifetime.

She was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Farmers Exchange until it closed in June, 2016. She was also a member of Christ Fellowship in Nashville.

Nelle was the daughter of Lloyd and Annie Russell McClearen of Farmer's Exchange. She is predeceased by her brothers, Lloyd Edward, Harber Addison, James William, Austin Graham, and John Martin, and by her sisters, Mary Elizabeth, Annie Russell, Emma Jean, and Lloydette.

She is survived by her son, John Karajan O'Leary King, her daughter in law, Ginny (Oxford), grandson, John Harber, sister, Suzanne, and many nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews, who will all miss her very much.

Memorial Services Will be held:

June 11th, 3pm

Bethel Chapel, Farmers Exchange

2989 Cane Creek Rd
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Burial at Bethel Cemetery off of Cane Creek Road.

Cemetery Details

Bethel Cemetery

Cane Creek Rd
Hohenwald , TN

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 11. 3:00 PM (CT)

Bethel Chapel and Venue at Farmer's Exchange
2989 Cane Creek Rd
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Tribute Wall

MT

“ *Marla Tanner lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Marla Tanner - June 10, 2022 at 09:08 PM

RL

“ *Randy Lynch sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Randy lynch - June 09, 2022 at 10:53 PM

RM

“ *Roy & Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Roy & Sharon McCoy - June 06, 2022 at 07:53 PM



“ *Betty Love lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*




Betty Love - June 06, 2022 at 02:35 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Cheeva McClearen - June 06, 2022 at 10:27 AM


Jeanette
Stoltz

“ *One of the sweetest ladies I have ever met. She loved the Lord and she loved people, especially unborn children. She was very passionate about her beliefs. I have had many long conversations with her which always left me feeling inspired and driven. I will miss her and I know she will be missed by many whose life she touched. RIP! Ms. Nell, your work is done.*

Jeanette Stoltz - December 26, 2021 at 10:48 AM

SC

“ *Sheila Chance lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Sheila Chance - December 24, 2021 at 09:21 AM

SC

“ *Such a wonderful person and friend.*



Sheila Chance - December 24, 2021 at 09:19 AM

JE

“ Memories of Nelle King go years back to when she was teaching at the Christian school . She was such a smart woman, and influenced many for good. What an amazing impact she has had on so many in our county ! How fortunate to have known her.
Johnnie Ruth Elrod



Johnnie Elrod - December 23, 2021 at 04:12 PM

MM

“ I met Nelle when I volunteered at Tennessee Right to Life. She exuded the love of Christ and was a fierce protector of the lives of the unborn. She always had a smile on her face and brightened up the building. She will be missed.

Mathilde Mellon - December 23, 2021 at 08:47 AM

MS

“ Barry and Melissa Shelton



Melissa Shelton - December 22, 2021 at 09:51 PM

KO

“ Kyle Orman lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King




Kyle Orman - December 22, 2021 at 08:35 PM

CC

“ *Kime (her grandmother name) and I shared the same grandchild and I don't know which one of us adored him the most. I am so glad she lived long enough to instilled so many ways in him that are like her son John. She was a true mountain woman and nothing in any hollow here or there phased her. She adored all her family and friends and in return was loved by many many people. It won't be the same when I go to Tennessee with her not with us. She loved my daughter with a love as good as gold. For that I am extremely thankful. Rest In Peace Nelle and get everything straightened out in heaven!! Celia (Dodo)*

Celia Crittenden - December 22, 2021 at 07:31 PM

 Britney Cumbee

“ *Britney Cumbee lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Britney Cumbee - December 22, 2021 at 06:35 PM

TC

“ *Teressa Hailey Clarke And Bill Clarke lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King*



Teressa Hailey Clarke and Bill Clarke - December 22, 2021 at 03:31 PM

RL

“ Randy Lynch sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King



Randy lynch - December 22, 2021 at 03:19 PM

RL

“ Randy Lynch sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King



Randy lynch - December 22, 2021 at 03:03 PM

RL

“ Randy Lynch sent a virtual gift in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King



Randy lynch - December 22, 2021 at 03:02 PM

SM

“ I can remember being at Nell's Birthday party last year, she was so full of life, she loved her family and her community so much. I am so sorry to hear about her passing. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Stephanie Marcrom - December 22, 2021 at 12:41 PM

TD

“ *Loved Nelle dearly. If our Country had more Nelle's, we would be so much better off. Even though we had not seen each other for a while, I will miss her and always treasure her friendship.* ”

Tony Duncan - December 22, 2021 at 11:13 AM



“ *Joyce Mayberry lit a candle in memory of Martha Nelle McClearen King* ”



Joyce Mayberry - December 22, 2021 at 10:48 AM