



George Douglas Nelms

November 21, 1952 - January 7, 2026

Jimmy Buffet and the island lifestyle always had a big attraction for George Nelms. A favorite quote contained these words, "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination". That would come to be a great defining truism for George.

George's life began in Franklin, Georgia. He was born on November 21, 1952, to the late Rufus Dovard and Clara Mae Ellis Nelms. He was the third of the four sons and a daughter born to the family. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother David Keith Nelms.

The availability of work and the fact that George's father lacked much education brought them to Newnan where Mr. Nelms found work as a truck driver. George graduated high school and ventured out to pursue life. He had a desire to join the military but was disqualified because of a vision issue in one eye. This also limited his choice of jobs. Along came Mr. Ken Lowery, who was recruiting workers for Coweta General Hospital. Lowery assured him that he would help him carve out a place for him within the hospital staff. George would pursue the education to become a respiratory therapist and successfully be a favorite with hospital doctors because of his great memory for their specific treatment protocols. Even after his retirement, he could still recall those instructions in detail. For all the years that George worked at the hospital, his fellow employees were just like one big family (sometime good and sometimes bad).

George became smitten by a perky blonde young lady named Terry Lynn Knowles. Their love transitioned into a marriage between very best friends. That unique love would be evident every day of their lives up until and including the moment George drew his final breath.

The story of George's life is written against the backdrop of the significant health challenges he faced in the latter part of his life. God had gifted him with a great tenacity for dealing with problems, life, and people who were in his orbit. When his health became a major issue for him, he refused to let it define him as a person. Granted, from time to time, it may have seemed that the fabric of his life was unraveling faster than he could bind it up. Those challenges would force him to retire in 2012. In true George fashion, he would push through it and be the best version of himself that he could be. For many people, a diagnosis of terminal cancer would be like a death sentence. For George, it gave him the knowledge of how much more living he could enjoy in the time remaining. To accomplish this, he wanted to set a goal and that was to have one more Christmas with his family all together in one place. As his illness progressed, there was more than one time when that did not seem possible. As was typical for George, he persevered and was able to enjoy several wonderful days, celebrating both the miracle of Christmas and the uplifting strength found in a caring family. It was within that circle of love and strength that he took his last breath in the early morning hours of January 7, 2026. All the sailing adjustments had come full circle, and he left this world knowing that he had loved greatly and had received great love in return. He looked forward to personally thanking the God who had created him and who been his strength for all of his life.

George is survived by his best friend and wife Terry Lynn Knowles Nelms. His children blessings are Jennifer Amy Nelms Montano, Taylor Nelms and wife Mallory. He was a "grandfather" in the truest sense of the word to Lee, Brendan, and Sean Chestnut. He is also survived by his siblings Capt. D. Wayne Nelms, USN Retired and his wife Susan, Robert Bruce Nelms and his

wife Kathy, and Jane Marie Nelms and her husband Jeff Smith.

The family of George Douglas Nelms invites his friends to join them on Sunday evening between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home at 38 Jackson Street for a time of reflection and celebration for the life of this good and loyal man. As his salty hero once said, "I have always looked at life as a voyage, mostly wonderful, sometimes frightening. In my family and friends, I have discovered a treasure more valuable than gold."

It was George's desire that in lieu of flowers, friends might make a memorial gift to The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation at cholangiocarcinoma.org for research to cure the cruelty of this rare form of cancer.

McKoon funeral Home and Crematory 770-253-4580. Please express condolences online at www.mckoon.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

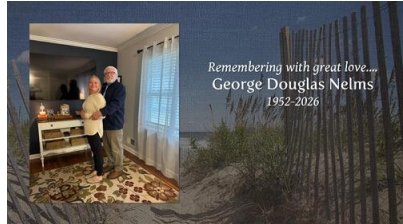
JAN 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of George Douglas Nelms*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - January 15 at 02:58 PM

LC

“ *Hey George! It had been some time since I saw you. Unfortunately, it was in the Piedmont Er. I had seen Terry on the floor. We talked and laughed about how much longer we could possibly stand working longer.*

I was very glad being able to see you at the lunches. So many of the ER crew that worked together (Nurses, EMS, Respiratory xray, law enforcement) Coweta General folks. Some great times. I Believe our time won't be much farther away as Wayne and I speak of it often. Sorry to others if this sounds to out of the ordinary, I guess it's the history of our work that keeps it real. Bless Terry and family.

LuAnn ad Wayne Carlisle

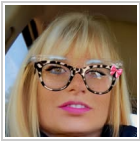


LuAnn Carlisle - January 11 at 03:36 PM



“ With heavy hearts, Bruce and I are mourning the loss of his brother, George Douglas Nelms. He lived with a spirit shaped by music, sunshine, and the kind of wisdom that knew how to adjust the sails when life shifted. We are grateful for the memories, the laughter, and the love he brought into our family. Holding close all who loved him as we walk through this together. We carry him with us, always.

Kathy Nelms - January 11 at 12:32 PM



“ So sorry for the loss. A man of great integrity and Love. Prayers for the family.



Tara Duty - January 11 at 07:07 AM

JH

Terry , so sorry to hear about your precious George. I remember his dry humor and his infectious smile. I hope you find peace in the days to come.

Jenny Helton - January 12 at 08:24 PM

TW

“ I have known George for many years. The last time I saw him, several months ago, we talked about going to Heaven when we died. I told him to wait on me if he got there first. He has already seen the face of our beloved Saviour, JESUS CHRIST.

Tim Wilson - January 10 at 03:02 PM

KS

“ Terry,
I am thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. George was always so pleasant every time I saw him at PNH. He will be missed by many!! I pray that God gives you strength and comfort during this time. Much love!! ❤️



Kelly Sims - January 10 at 02:18 PM

WM

“ *I worked with both Terry and George for many years and was always greeted with a smile no matter the time of day. It was always a blessing to see his face in the middle of the night when a baby was born needing respiratory assistance. He was a good man and will be remembered fondly.*
Lonnie Lonergan MD

Walter M Lonergan MD - January 10 at 01:21 PM

JL

“ *Judy Minix Landrum lit a candle in memory of George Douglas Nelms*



Judy Minix Landrum - January 09 at 09:25 PM

GG

“ *I first knew George from the hospital. He was a great guy and Respiratory Therapist. Then I got to know him through my husband's class reunions. He was very well liked. I also got to know Terry from the hospital. Together they made this great couple. Terry, I'm so sorry about George. I know you're going to miss him badly.*

Gayla Guest - January 09 at 01:34 PM

JR

“ I did not know Mr. Nelms, but this was a touching, tribute to him. I love his positivity and did not let his health issues define him. Deepest sympathy, to his family.

Julia Rivers - January 09 at 01:06 PM

GV

“ Greg and Laurie Vinson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of George Douglas Nelms.



Greg and Laurie Vinson - January 09 at 09:59 AM

SN

“ I was so saddened to hear of George's passing. George was a bright light on many shifts at the hospital on 3rd med/surgery. I always enjoyed how you both your eyes brighten up when you and George saw each other while working. He will be missed

Sheila Black Nixon - January 09 at 08:10 AM

BS

“ I worked with George many years at the hospital..he was an excellent respiratory therapist and a great person

Brenda sutton - January 09 at 07:25 AM

LF

“ *I'm saddened to see this about George. I meet him and Terry when I worked at Corinth Assisted Living. He and Terry were super nice people. Please accept my condolences and prayers. God bless in days ahead. Larry Fogarty
Greenville, Georgia*



Larry W Fogarty - January 09 at 02:03 AM

CA

“ *Cathy Houston Adams lit a candle in memory of George Douglas Nelms*



Cathy Houston Adams - January 08 at 10:08 PM