



Mr. John Perry Nelson

April 29, 1958 - June 7, 2025

John Perry Nelson joined his Lord and Savior on June 7, 2025, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Perry was born on April 29, 1958, in Tallahassee, Florida to the late Charlie Paul Nelson and Shirley Raker Nelson. He was a proud graduate of Leon High School, where he was a member of the jazz band and the Leon High Marching Redcoats, and earned his electronic engineering degree from Ohio Institute of Technology. Perry married Cathy Tully in 2000, with whom he had three children he adored: Alex Paul, Morgan Olivia, and Matthew Perry Nelson.

Perry used his degree in electronic engineering in his work at Western Electric in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Gold Line in Dansbury, Connecticut; and General Dynamics in Tallahassee, but the real work of his life revolved around music. He was known for his mastery of the drums, and those familiar with the Tallahassee music

scene will remember seeing him play with bands such as Slapstick, John Kurzweg and the Night, 911, Public Address, Four Sticks, and others. He also taught drums and ran a small recording studio, helping other local artists record their work. For years he has also been in the “rotation” to run the sound board at East Hill Baptist Church, the church where he grew up, making the cranky sound system work when no one else could. He was never ashamed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Perry loved his family deeply. Growing up, his father Paul would take Perry and his brother Park to the local drag strip, which started a lifelong love for cars and all things involved with racing. He and Park continued to attend races as adults and he passed the fascination down to his son Alex, with whom he spent many weekends following all types of speed sports throughout Florida. He was a great “girl dad,” attending daughter-daddy dances with Morgan and enjoying her own love for drums.

Perry shared his family history with his children, including the details of his trip to Japan with his father on the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, and the things he learned of his father’s service in World War II. Matthew continues Perry’s music legacy,

but with a trumpet, and has been playing with the band for Slapstick reunions the last two years. Perry encouraged his children to never stop learning and showed them through his final days a father that fought for life and kept his spirits high. In Matthew's words, "He was the coolest dad ever."

Perry's story is incomplete without including his fiancée and the love of his life, Cindy Stieber. Perry and Cindy met in college, dated when they both lived in Winston-Salem, and then went their separate ways. While they did not see each other for years, they never forgot each other. When Perry next saw Cindy, he proposed, and they were planning to marry this summer. Perry's family could not have asked for a more devoted and loving person caring for him during his illness. While they did not have the chance to marry, she is in our hearts a vital part of the family.

Perry is preceded in death by his parents, Charlie Paul Nelson and Shirley Raker Nelson.

He is survived by his fiancée, Cindy Stieber; his children, Alex, Morgan, and Matthew Perry; his brother, David Park Nelson (Li); his nephew, Kenny Nelson (Carolina) and niece, Bethany Nelson (William Lane); his aunt and uncle, Dave and Susan Raker; and his beloved cousins, Diane Owens (Tim), Cyndy Marks

(Lee), and

Karen Thomas (John), and a host of other relatives that he held dear.

A celebration of his life will be held at The Moon, 1105 East Lafayette Street, Tallahassee, Florida at 5:00 p.m., the night of, Thursday, June 12, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice or East Hill Baptist Church.

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 562-1518
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church
912 Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Oh Perry....I'm always gonna miss you friend!

xoxoxox.....Jane

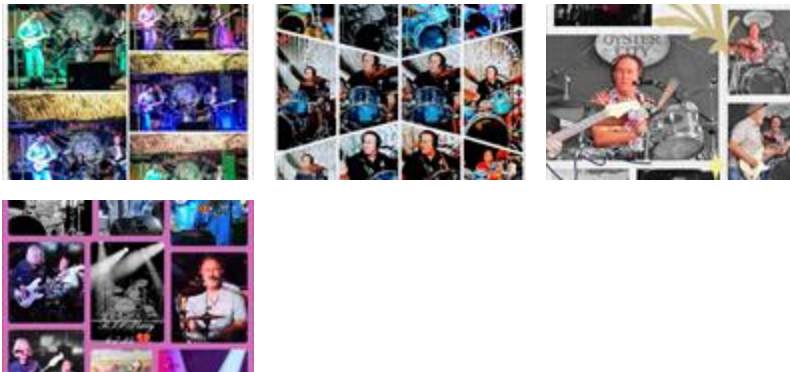
Jane Greenfield - July 15, 2025 at 02:23 PM

RM

“ My Prayers And Condolences To Perry's Family And Friends. 🙏
Such A Tremendous Loss Of A Great Drummer And Friend To Us
All! I'm In Shock! 🙏😞🙏🙏💔

Here's A Collection Of Perry Nelson In His Element 🎱... I Will Truly
Miss You My Friend and Brother!

RIP Perry 6-7-2025 🙏☐



Rocky Macy - June 11, 2025 at 08:10 PM

LT

“ Love, Richard &Wanda Tengstedt purchased the
Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. John Perry
Nelson.



Love, Richard &Wanda Tengstedt - June 10, 2025 at 01:07 PM

CS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cindy Stieber - June 09, 2025 at 05:52 PM