



Edward Mark Nielsen

July 28, 1940 - July 30, 2022

Edward Mark Nielsen of St. George, Utah, passed away peacefully on July 30, 2022, with his loving wife, Val, by his side. Mark was born on July 28, 1940, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Edward P. and Delilah S. Nielsen. As the older brother to his sisters, Carol, and Janice, he did his best to be a good big brother while also finding mischief whenever possible. Mark graduated from South High School, where he met his sweetheart, Connie Hollands. Mark and Connie were married and were proud parents of four boys. Mark and Connie enjoyed 41 years of marriage until Connie's unexpected death in 2001.

Mark was an exceptional father, always striving to support his family. He served four years in the Army Reserve and more than two decades with the Utah Highway Patrol (UHP). He also spent many years working security in LDS temples, first in a part-time role and then full-time upon retirement from the UHP. He almost always had a second job to meet the needs of his four active and hungry boys.

While working security at the Jordan River Temple, he met Valeree (Val) Turnbow. Val was able to spark a light in Mark, and they enjoyed 20 years together, sharing adventures along the way. Together they cruised the Caribbean, sailed through the Panama Canal, and took extended road trips across the U.S. in a quest to visit each state. They also visited Canada, toured the British Isles, and crossed Hawaii off their bucket list.

Whether for pleasure or work, Mark loved long drives. He spent countless hours behind the wheel of a Wells Fargo armored truck, his Utah Highway Patrol cars, and various large trucks delivering Christmas trees from the Upper Midwest back to Utah. After retiring, he volunteered his time by driving veterans from St. George to the V.A. Hospital in Salt Lake City and back. He provided this service twice a week for several years. Keenly aware of the hazards on the road, Mark voluntarily surrendered his driver's license as his age and dementia began to take hold.

Mark also enjoyed building stereo equipment and listening to music. He loved jazz music, especially when attending concerts with friends and family at the old Hotel Utah, Kingsbury Hall, and other venues. At one time, Mark hoped for a New Orleans-style funeral but reluctantly revised his plans to omit jazz from being played in the chapel. He enjoyed a good steak, cold Pepsi, burnt almond fudge ice cream, the beauty of Southern Utah, and anything University of Utah crimson. Shellfish, snow, and BYU blue were always avoided. He was active with the Utah Highway Patrol Retired Troopers Association and valued the friendships he found. Family parties and holidays were filled with the hope that he would make one of his pecan, cherry, or paper bag apple pies.

While some may remember Mark's stern façade, he was always more teddy bear than grizzly. Visits and phone calls from friends and family were what he treasured most. The family extends their gratitude to Val #2 (Duffy), Keith and Hope Tompkins, and the many other friends and neighbors who have been so helpful.

Mark is preceded in death by his first wife Connie, survived by his loving wife Val, his sons Michael (Sheila), Dave (Karon), Robert (Kelly), and Richard (Vicki), ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be held Monday, August 8, 2022, at 2079 East 2450 South St. George, Utah 84790. There will be a viewing 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM, followed by funeral services at 11:00 AM. Interment is at Valley View Cemetery, 4335 West 4100 South, West Valley City, Utah 84120, on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1:00 PM. Instead of flowers, the family requests donations be made in honor of Mark to a dementia research charity of your choice.

Services will be available via Zoom at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84724872580?pwd=MVJVMzEvczZDU2RvNGxqUnFqeG1YQT09>
Meeting ID: 847 2487 2580 Passcode: 660300

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at www.SerenityStG.com. Arrangements and memorial tree planting by Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, 986-9100.

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 8. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

Little Valley 3rd Ward
2079 E. 2450 S.
St. George, UT 94790

Funeral Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (MT)

Little Valley 3rd Ward
2079 E. 2450 S.
St. George, UT 94790

Graveside Service

AUG 9. 1:00 PM (MT)

Valley View Cemetery
4335 West 4100 South
West Valley City, UT 84120

Tribute Wall



“ *Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward Mark Nielsen*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - November 22, 2022 at 02:18 PM

L8

“ *LOVE THE REX & NANCY OLSEN 8 purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Edward Mark Nielsen.*



LOVE THE REX & NANCY OLSEN 8 - August 06, 2022 at 08:59 PM

CB

“ *I had the opportunity of working with Mark at training with the UHP. He took his work very serious. A few months before his death I had another chance to interact with Mark and will cherish those opportunities forever. I know he loved his family and wish the best for them at this sad time.*

Claron Brenchley

Claron Brenchley - August 05, 2022 at 08:57 AM

RB

Working at McDonald's as a teenager whenever a highway patrolman would come in I would ask them if they knew my Uncle Mark they look at each other cuz they had they were always two or three and one would say grumpy it was yeah that's him I said grumpy that's what they call him I guess they had a couple Mark Nelson's on the force then one day I asked him if they at new Uncle my Uncle Mark and went to drunk and I said what Mark doesn't drink is it all that's right he's just in charge of the breathalyzers now so you got known as the drunk cop

Rexene Olsen Boyd - August 07, 2022 at 12:17 PM

RB

So it was the 4th of July and my dad Uncle Rex was getting ready to go on his 2 week active duty. We were driving around in our old yellow station wagon and Daddy got pulled over by the highway patrol. I'll jump the officer and we all got excited it was Uncle Mark! We started to laugh when he unsnapped his gun put on his hat and walked up to the car. Not looking in the car he said can I see your driver's license and proof of his insurance sir and we're all sitting in the car waving Uncle Mark Uncle Mark Uncle Mark and my Mom finally said Mark would you like to come up to my house for dinner and he looked inside and started to laugh oh hi Nancy he said no I have to drive a party's Canyon and be on my way back down make sure the drugs don't line up in the the lake. He looked at my dad and said the reason I pulled you over Rex is your registration sticker is expired mom screamed I thought you already did that Daddy's that I did I'll fix it tomorrow and off he drove later that night we saw Connie at Dirk's field with the boys to watch the fireworks we all had to run over and tell her that Mark pulled over Daddy

Rexene Olsen Boyd - August 07, 2022 at 12:22 PM

DR

“ Dear Val and Family,
Sorry to hear of your loss today. We extend our love and sympathies to your family. We had the privilege of working with Mark on the Retired Troopers Assn. He was a great kind and personable man who was loved and admired by many of his colleagues. God bless you all as you journey and grieve in his passing. Please be assured you are all loved and contributed to his happiness. Thank you for your many kindnesses. Love, the Late Spencer and DeAnn Redmond

we

DeAnn Redmond - August 05, 2022 at 02:30 AM

EM

“ Sympathy and love to Mike and Sheila and all your family.

Elaine Marshall - August 04, 2022 at 09:59 AM

GG

“ Mark was a dear friend. I enjoyed working with him on the Utah Highway Patrol and with Utah's Retired Troopers Association. Mark liked to pretend he was a tough guy, but inside he had a tender heart and cared deeply for people and their welfare. Even though circumstances prevent my attending the services being held in his honor, my thoughts and prayers are with Val and the family at this very difficult time.

Gary Gunrud - August 04, 2022 at 08:53 AM

RV

I will never forget as a child waiting for his patrol car to turn into the driveway on the many holidays he had to work, I was always impressed with how handsome he looked. I loved the twinkle in his eye as you could never tell if he was serious or not. He was a fun uncle to me. I know that he will always live in our hearts and memories. Love to the boys their wives and children. Val you were wonderful to him! May you always have his spirit near when you need it most.

Ruby Vernon - August 06, 2022 at 09:16 PM

BB

I thought Mark was a great guy. I am so thankful for the time that He and Val had together. It was only 20 years but 20 years of happy and wonderful times for each. He is back with our father in heaven now and loving all his family that had passed on before. Rest In Peace Mark for God is please with your work on the earth.

Bill Baxter - August 10 at 3:20 PM

Bill Baxter - August 10, 2022 at 05:23 PM