



## Mrs. Rosemary E. Nelson

February 1, 1954 - May 4, 2025

Rosemary E. Nelson, age 71, of Merritt Island, Florida passed away peacefully with her two brothers at her side on Sunday, May 4, 2025.

She was born at the US Naval Base in Newport, Rhode Island to Roy & Elizabeth Nelson.

Rosemary ultimately grew up in Marlton, NJ after her father's retirement from the US Navy.

After college, Rosemary served 25 years in the US Army Nurse Corps and attained the rank of full Colonel before retiring on August 31, 2003, under her primary specialty as a Medical Surgical Nurse while stationed at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Rosemary received numerous military citations including (5) Defense Meritorious Service Medals, (2) Army Commendation Medals, (2) National Defense Service Medals, a Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Army Overseas Service Ribbon from the DOD.

During her tenure as a Board-Certified Registered Nurse, Rosemary also attained two Masters' Degrees in the Science of Nursing and Master of Arts respectively.

After military retirement, Rosemary earned the accreditation as a Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems and received an award as one of the top 50 health technology leaders after she authored and published her first book explaining Cyber Healthcare / Consumer Informatics via Springer Publishers in NY.

In 2003, Rosemary became the President and CEO of her woman owned / disabled veteran company named MDM Strategies that assisted government agencies in pursuing funding for new medical technology through federal grants and yielded a very successful business.

When she fully retired, Rosemary was an avid outdoor person who loved the game of golf, enjoyed boating, traveling and sunset cruises on her pontoon boat in Merritt Island.

When not actively golfing, she took a local leadership role as the President of the Amateur Golf Association of Brevard County / Space Coast Florida Inc. Between 2021 – 2023, Rosemary became the President of the Florida Senior Women's Golf Association to pursue new initiatives for women's golf throughout the State of Florida.

Rosemary is survived by her brother, Dennis Nelson (Lorna) of Medford Lakes, NJ, her brother Kenneth Nelson (Diane) of Medford, NJ, her niece, Nicole Young (Jon) of Medford Lakes, NJ, her nephew, Dennis Nelson Jr. (Jen) of Safety Harbor, FL, her niece Rachael Lamb (Ben) of Thompson Station, TN, her niece Ashley Nelson (Jeff Wilson) of Medford, NJ, her great-nephews and great-nieces, Aiden, Chase, Coral, Goldie, Jeffrey, Jacob, Mia, Max and her step-nephew Bob Peters.

She was pre-deceased by her beloved husband Mickey Massengale and her step-niece Cassandra Peters who also left us too early.

Rosemary had a strong love for her family, close friends and was always there for everyone.

She will be deeply missed by those who truly knew her zest for life and familiar laughter.

A Military Memorial Service will be held on July 11, 2025 @ 1130am  
The Cape Canaveral National Cemetery - 5525 US Highway 1, Mims, FL  
32754

Memorial donations / in lieu of flowers can be made on her behalf to the following organizations:

Wounded Warrior Project / Donate to Veterans

P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675

855-448-3997

<https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>

Merritt Island Adoption Center / No Kill Animal Shelter

155 Pioneer Street

Merritt island, FL 32953

321-636-3343

<http://crittersavers.com>

# Previous Events

## Committal Service

JUL 11. 11:30 AM (ET)

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery  
5525 US-1  
Mims, FL 32754  
(321) 383-2638

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ *To all of Rosemary’s family, please accept my deepest and most sincere condolences.*

*I was heartbroken to learn of Rosemary’s passing. I last saw her in December and was shocked by how unwell she was, as it had been several years since we’d seen each other. I recently tried to call her, only to discover her phone had been disconnected. It was only after searching online that I came across her obituary — and my heart sank. I truly loved Rosemary. Frank and I first met her and Mickey when they were posted to Ft. Meade. We met on a golf course and became fast friends during the entire time I was posted to Washington from Canada.*

*Rosemary touched so many lives with her warmth, kindness, and vibrant spirit. I will always be grateful for the memories we shared and the friendship we had.*

*Rest in peace, dear friend. You will be deeply missed and forever remembered.*

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**Sandi Branker** - October 15, 2025 at 12:20 PM

TH

“ *I’m so sorry to read of Rosemary’s passing. We served together in the Army Nurse Corps at Landstuhl and Tripler. Long before that we were Girl Scouts together in Marlton, NJ. Rest in peace dear Rosemary.*

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**Teresa Crone Hendrix** - July 07, 2025 at 02:14 PM

DN

“ *Dennis N. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Mrs. Rosemary E. Nelson.*



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**Dennis N.** - June 30, 2025 at 02:22 PM

TF

“ *The McGough Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Rosemary E. Nelson.*



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**The McGough Family** - June 27, 2025 at 01:35 PM

BE

“ *We lived across the canal from Mickey and Rosemary and became friends after fate had me rescue Regal one of their cats from under a dock. We became good friends after that with boating and parties. Wonderful people and gone far too soon.*



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**Brad and Nancy Ettestad** - June 20, 2025 at 08:17 AM

PW

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Pete Willis** - June 16, 2025 at 02:03 PM