

James Lawrence Nelson

June 12, 2016

Age 62

Lakewood, Ohio

James Lawrence Nelson died on June 12, 2016 at age 62 in Lakewood, Ohio when his giving heart suddenly failed.

Jim was survived by his daughter, Phoebe, and her mother, Nan Wilson, as well as his daughter Jennifer, sons Paul and Kyle, and their mother Mary Kay Nelson. He was also survived by his third wife, Mary Pat Gallagher, granddaughter Oliva, siblings Pat Burns, Nancy Rudd, and Dave Nelson, many nieces and nephews, countless friends, fellow members of AA, and his beloved dog, Millie.

His obituary in the Plain Dealer read in part: "Jim was beautiful. He will be remembered for his generous spirit, his love of Lake Erie, his absurd humor, and the buoyant personality that so effortlessly carried his colorful fashion sense. Jim's short life was filled with great loves, successes, struggles, and losses. Sadly, recent years' myriad health complications and a lifelong struggle with addiction stole much from Jim but never his positive attitude or a hope for better days ahead."

A childhood friend shared this humorous memory: "I will miss Jim, his smile, his laugh and his easy manner. Jim and I were neighbors and friends. We sort of grew up together. He did love the lake and water skiing. I remember he lost his trunks on one of our trips along the cliffs of Lakewood. He kept skiing and laughed the whole way. So like Jim."

While at Lakewood High School, Jim was in Concert Choir, Symphonic Choir, Freshman Orchestra, AFS, Lens & Shutter Club, Ski Club, and played on the freshman basketball team.