



## Russell Jay Nielson

January 6, 1951 - March 30, 2025

Russell Jay Nielson, age 74, a resident of Franklinton Louisiana went to be with our Lord on Sunday March 30, 2025 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was a lifetime member of Hays Creek Southern Baptist Church. He was born on January 6th, 1951. He graduated from Franklinton High School in the class of 1969. As a teenager, he started working at Murphy Bateman Building Supply. Later he went on to work at Dairyman Incorporated and Washington Co-op. He started his own business in 1981, Nielson Feed, Seed, and Fertilize and operated it until 2004. He became a Bus Driver for Washington Parish School Board in August 2000 where he retired in May 2021, but continued to drive as a substitute until last year (2024) where he said he'd still be driving if he were able.

“Paw,” as his grandkids called him, was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed taking his grandchildren hunting, and fishing in his pond. He enjoyed growing a garden, where he grew the biggest and sweetest watermelons in the parish using his favorite international tractors. From his years in running his feed business, he was known far and wide in the parish and surrounding areas. He knew nearly everyone. If he ever did meet a stranger,

they weren't strangers for long. His heart was bigger than his hands, and he would go out of his way to help any and every one. He instilled on his family the importance of hard work, faith, and dedication. It is with those attributes that his legacy will live on.

Survived by:

Wife of 54 years: Nettie James Nielson

2 Daughters and a Spouse: Robin Michelle Nielson,  
Rusti Nannette Nielson Owens and Jamey Holden

5 Grandchildren and Spouses: Hunter Keaton Owens and Katie,  
Jackson Ross Gilmore and Raven,  
Hayden Blake Owens,  
Katherine Grace Bitting,  
Hinsten River Holden

2 Great-grandchildren: Jaxston and Waylon Gilmore, and a 3rd blessing on the way, Baby Owens

Son in love: Justin Porche and wife Laura

Brother and Sister in law: Bruce and Rita Nielson

Brother in law: Otha Schilling

Special Aunt: Patsy and Nicky Smith

Special Niece: Jennifer Nielson

Also numerous brothers in law and sisters in law and other beloved nieces, nephews and their families.

Special Friends: Vivian Magee Ard, Shannon Holliday, Tysha Magee

He was preceded in death by his parents Willie Jay Nielson and Jean Roberts Nielson, sister Cheryl Nielson Schilling, father in law and mother in law Malcolm and Rosetta James and other family members.

Visitation will be at Crain Funeral Home Wednesday April 2nd from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Visitation will continue Thursday at Hays Creek Southern Baptist Church ((29028 W. Hayes Creek Road, Franklinton) from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. A funeral service will be held in the church at 11:00 am with Rev. Ronnie Chaisson and Rev. Frederick Brumfield officiating. Burial will follow in the Hays Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family wishes to express a sincere thank you to Dr. Robin Fabre and staff, St. Tammany Parish Hospital staff, M. D. Anderson/Ochsner cancer center staff and his beloved Hays Creek church family for all the care and support shown to Russell over the last year.

Pallbearers: Hunter Owens, Hayden Owens, Jackson Gilmore, Jamey Holden, Justin Porche, Clay Sumrall

Honorary Pallbearers: Bolivar Magee, Gary Brumfield, Ricky Jenkins, Wendell Vince, Greg Graves, Chuck Graves, Cole Schilling, Brandon Schilling, Dudley Nielson, Ken James, Andy James, Bruce Ladner

# Tribute Wall

TA

“ *This man was an amazing person! He's one of the greatest men I've ever known. I didn't know about him passing away, but I'm praying for his family! Much love,* 🙏🙏

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**Tabitha J Athey** - April 25, 2025 at 11:50 PM

KT

“ *Kathy T. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Russell Jay Nielson.*



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**Kathy T.** - March 31, 2025 at 09:20 PM

BW

“ *May the Lord bring comfort & piece to the family in this time of loss.*

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**Benjamin Webb** - March 31, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ *I remember the times Uncle Willie and him was teaching me how to milk cow. They were letting me put the milkers on and they hadn't warn me about the cows releiving themselves. Well it happened and I looked and they were rolling with laughter.He had a way of conducting himself that made you love him no matter was was going on. My daughter Jordin was in love with him and called him her Uncle Russel.*



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**Darrell Dykes** - March 31, 2025 at 06:25 PM

SH

*Rustic, I am so very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I remember what a pleasant man he always was, always smiling. I also remember how much he loved you and your sons. I know he will be missed by many.*

Sandra Honaker - April 02, 2025 at 01:40 PM

JM

“ *Juanita Luper N Natalie Magee lit a candle in memory of Russell Jay Nielson*



Juanita Luper n Natalie Magee - March 31, 2025 at 06:08 PM

JM

*Mrs Nettie I'm so sorry to hear about Mr.Russell. Y'all are in our thoughts and prayers Juanita Luper*

Juanita Luper n Natalie Magee - March 31, 2025 at 06:10 PM

BB

“ *Barbara Burch lit a candle in memory of Russell Jay Nielson*



Barbara Burch - March 31, 2025 at 05:29 PM

GB

“ Russell J will be missed...I was in Franklinton last week and passing the school board office where i saw a school bus unloading kids about 3:00. I thought of the story Russell told about the kids on his bus was loud and he told them to be quiet. They did not so he took the bus to school board office telling them to call their parents to come get picked up....Such a good guy and love his Nettie Lou...God bless

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**Gail L Brumfield** - March 31, 2025 at 04:44 PM

LM

*Dear family, if everyone could Wright a story about Russell, we could read all night. He loved people & people loved him. He & Linus grew up together so they had always been friends. It breaks our hearts to know that he is gone. He loved his family & enjoyed telling about pranks he had pulled on Nettie or stories of those grandson's & tractor/ watermelon stories. He will definitely be missed by so many..*

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**Linus & Libby Magee** - April 01, 2025 at 08:48 PM