

## Derek Nelson

April 18, 1986 - September 30, 2019

Derek Wayne Nelson, 33, Topeka, Kansas, passed away September 30, 2019.

Derek was born in Topeka April 18, 1986, to Jerald Wayne “Jerry” and Lucinda “Cindy” Siemers Nelson. Derek was preceded in death by his mother.

Survivors include his father, Jerry Nelson and his wife, Cathy, Lawrence KS; his special friend, Ashley Grimm; his paternal grandmother, Yvonne Nelson; uncle, Willis Steven Nelson; aunt, Erma Magie; and cousins, Chad Nelson, Julie Nelson Nichols, Michelle Magie, Daniel Magie and Joseph Magie.

Derek was a life-long Topekan, graduating from Washburn Rural High School and earning his bachelor’s degree from Washburn University. In his youth Derek was a member of the Boy Scouts and played trumpet in his middle school band. His first job as a teenager was with Toys R Us and later, he worked in sales at Sears in Westridge Mall. Derek had a successful career as a software developer at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Topeka.

Derek loved his many pets, playing guitar and his work. He was an avid movie goer and liked collecting memorabilia from some of his favorite movies. Derek had a quiet exterior, a great sense of humor with a smile that could light up a room, and many friends. He had a deep love for animals and was a veritable

encyclopedia of all things Star Wars.

Visitation will be Monday, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. His funeral will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

3616 SW 6th Street  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

## Funeral Service

OCT 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Derek Nelson*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - October 07, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ *Derek Nelson*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I worked with Derek at BCBSKS. His dry, witty sense of always had our team laughing and on our toes! He was a wonderful person and a joy to work with. He will truly be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Derek and his family.*

*Kelly Eakes*

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**Kelly Eakes** - October 06, 2019 at 08:01 PM

DG

“ My deepest condolences to Jerry and Cathy, Derek was an absolutely beautiful soul. I have so many wonderful memories; His amazing barbecues, our holiday dinners, family game nights, which he somehow almost always won (collusion!?!). My absolute favorite memory is his childlike wonder and amazement at seeing the ocean for the very first time. He, Ashley and I went to the beach in Oceanside, CA and when we got there, we all walked to the sand. There were what seemed like a million people there and none of us were dressed for the beach. Derek didn't care. He immediately removed his shoes and took off running into the water. I'll never forget the joy in his face that day. I hope you have found some peace. Rest easy my sweet angel. I love you.

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**Doreen Grimm** - October 06, 2019 at 05:15 PM

HB

“ Holly & Ryan Bergeman purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Derek Nelson.



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**Holly & Ryan Bergeman** - October 06, 2019 at 02:51 PM

J(

“ Derek was my 1st and only cousin on my dad's side of the family. He was smart, witty and so very kind. I will cherish all the memories I have of him, especially when he was a little tyke and would come and stay with my family for a week every summer while his mom and dad would go skiing. I will always love you Derek and remember your smiling face and when you said to my family as a young child, "I Derek Wayne Nelson from "Peka" Kansas....where it snows. Where it snows."

*Julie Nichols (Nelson)*

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**Julie Nichols (Nelson)** - October 06, 2019 at 01:10 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Derek Nelson.



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October 05, 2019 at 08:39 AM

MC

“ Melvin and I are so sorry for your loss! Melvin and I both worked with Derek at Sears for many many years!! He was go to guy for anything techie lol.we hope you're at peace now!

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**Melvin and Tracey Carter** - October 04, 2019 at 10:45 PM



“ *The Grimms purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Derek Nelson.*



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**The Grimms** - October 04, 2019 at 10:37 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Nelson.*



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October 04, 2019 at 05:28 PM

HB

“ Derek and I knew each other for about 15 years, he randomly messaged me one day suggesting that I was the only girl in Topeka who liked anime. We clicked over our mutual interest, began talking frequently, and eventually met up in person. A few years later, I moved to the east coast to live with my boyfriend at the time (now husband) and Derek and I stayed in touch and kept up our friendship, talking online and seeing each other when I'd visit home. Eventually I returned to Kansas, bringing my boyfriend with me, and he and Derek finally met and became friends as well. We would often stop in to say hi when we'd be at the mall and Derek would be working at Sears, and invited him over to our home a number of times as well. We also attended his graduation at Washburn, traveled together a few times, and he was with us the weekend that my husband and I got engaged. Derek and I supported each other through some difficult times, and he was always a good friend. I'm glad he stumbled upon my profile on whichever website we were both on and decided to say hi. Derek, I'm so sorry that you're no longer here, and I hope you're in a better place. I'll always remember you and the memories we made together. Rest in peace, my friend.

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**Holly Bergeman** - October 04, 2019 at 05:27 PM

CS

“ Jerry & Cathy,  
We are so sadden about Derek. Please know you are in our hearts and prayers.  
Love, Sully, Cristy & Kennedy

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**Cristy Sullivan** - October 04, 2019 at 04:24 PM

MS

“ My condolences to the family on your loss. My prayers are with you. I knew Derek through work. I remember numerous in depth discussions about Star Wars sagas, Lego projects and especially Star Wars Legos projects. I enjoyed when he would show me pictures of his legos room then I'd show him whatever project my son and I were working on. It's hard to believe he is gone. He will be missed.

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**Mike Self** - October 04, 2019 at 03:53 PM

JO

“ Derek Nelson was one of the greatest, most special person I knew. He was a dear friend of mine. At first, he seemed like a shy and quiet guy, but once you got to know him and he opened up, he had nothing to share but smiles and laughter. I've been looking back on the time I was able to share with him, and I can only hear laughter and feel the love. We both had hard times, but we offered the support we needed for each other, and if that isn't friendship, I don't know what is. His friendship meant so much to me, and I'll cherish our memories. Derek, I hate that you had to go, but I do hope you're in a much better place. Rest peacefully.

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**Jessica Oglesby** - October 04, 2019 at 12:28 PM

AK

“ I didn't know Derek for very long, but every moment I spent was him was filled with love and compassion. Derek was very loving, funny, and smart. We enjoyed talking about our favorite shows and listening to music. He was such a talented guitar player, and was proud to show me his collection of Star Wars. He loved his family, friends, and pets. I'll always remember Derek as a kind, sweet friend who passed too soon. Even though I had only just met him, I felt like he could be a true lifetime friend. My heart goes out to his friends and family, as I understand this is a very difficult time. We love you, Derek!

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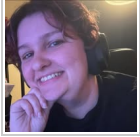
**Amanda Kittoe** - October 04, 2019 at 09:06 AM

BG

“ The journey of my relationship with Derek followed a common path many have probably shared at some point in their lives. Initial introductions with side eyes of skepticism on both our parts at first.. quickly followed by firm handshakes of hello and goodbye after just a few encounters. This then quickly morphed into the necessary, but alarmingly awkward, “ hey bro” hugs of greeting and departure. Then finally.. the needed and welcomed “ we're family hug “ that was required by both of us. There are too many fond memories to mention here and not enough words to express them. The bbq's, Holiday dinners, July 4th fireworks we spent a small fortune on ( only to be out done by the neighbors each year) to the Star Wars room and on and on. Words cannot express the loss I feel other than I lost a son this week as well. I wish I had 5 more minutes with you to reiterate what you meant to our family. I love you bro.

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**Bill Grimm** - October 03, 2019 at 09:29 PM



“ My condolences to all of us going through this loss. Derek was a beautiful person, who knew how to read a room, make others smile, and have a good time with everyone. He had a profound impact on mine and everyone's lives, and I'm grateful to everyone that cared about him and made sure to reach out to him. Derek was a part of my family, and I am so thankful every day that I was able to be with him as long as I was. I look forward to connecting with you all and sharing our favorite memories of this amazing man. Sending my love to you all.

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**Ashley Grimm** - October 03, 2019 at 06:41 PM



Derek was my 1st and only cousin on my dad's side of the family. He was smart, witty and so very kind. I will cherish all the memories I have of him, especially when he was a little tyke and would come and stay with my family for a week every summer while his mom and dad would go skiing. I will always love you Derek and remember your smiling face and when you said to my family as a young child, "I Derek Wayne Nelson from "Peka" Kansas....where it snows. Where it snows."

*Julie Nichols (Nelson)*

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**Julie Nichols (Nelson)** - October 04, 2019 at 02:55 PM