



## Col. Ethel Alice Nelson

October 19, 1929 - January 31, 2022

Col. Ethel Alice Nelson entered eternal rest on January 31, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 92. She was born on October 19, 1929, in Jamestown, New York, to David E. Sr. and Ethel S. (Bratt) Nelson.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Edna Mae Nelson; brothers, Frank C. Nelson and David E. Nelson, Jr. Her sister, Nellie Jane (Nelson) Heppel, joined her in heaven on February 6, 2022. Ethel is survived by 8 loving nieces and nephews, their children; and other family members and friends.

Col. Nelson had a distinguished 27 year military career in the United States Air Force, serving from 1957 – 1984. She was a graduate of Maryville College, the University of Rochester, and a received a Master's degree from Columbia University. She was stationed at many locations throughout her career such as Hickam AFB HI, Hill AFB UT, Travis AFB CA, Wright-Patterson AFB OH, Tachikawa, Japan and London, England, to name a few. She also founded the Society of Air Force Nurses Incorporated and held a number of prominent positions within the organization. Col. Nelson was an advocate in community affairs and her church – Epworth United Methodist Church. She enjoyed reading, golf, travel and her 2 dogs – Little Boy and Little Girl.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, beginning at 9:00 A.M. with a celebration of life service to begin at 10:00 A.M. at Epworth United

Methodist Church. Col. Nelson will be laid to rest with her family in Jamestown, New York.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 9. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
5718 Pecan Valley Dr.  
San Antonio, TX

## Celebration of Life

FEB 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
5718 Pecan Valley Dr.  
San Antonio, TX

# Tribute Wall

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“ On behalf of the Society of Air Force Nurses, please know we are mourning with you the passing of our friend and colleague, retired Colonel Ethel Nelson. She was a remarkable woman who made such a difference in the lives of so many in her own journey through life. She was a Founder of our Society and served as the first President. A donation will be made in her honor and memory. Ethel will certainly be missed by many and definitely will not be forgotten by the community of Air Force nurses,  
*Linda J. Stierle, Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)*

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**Linda Stierle** - February 06, 2022 at 08:22 PM

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*Ethel was definitely a force to be dealt with! Strong, decisive, knowledgeable and compassionate professional. It was a privilege to have known you!*

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**Patricia Chappell** - February 08, 2022 at 11:09 PM