

KARL WILHELM NELSON

JANUARY 1, 2026



**Karl Wilhelm Nelson**, 56, of Middletown, RI, who passed away on January 1, 2026, at Rhode Island Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Karl was born in **Newport, RI**, to **John W. Nelson, III** and **Elizabeth "Betty Anne" (Collins) Nelson**. He graduated from **Middletown High School** and **Salve Regina University** with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. He spent most of his career in the hospitality industry, concluding his working life as a caregiver for his father for the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs.

Karl was known for his big, warm smile and generous heart. He loved live music, and many musicians played at **his business, Karl's Pub**, with whom he remained close after closing the business. He was enthusiastic about attending theme parties and dressing in costume.

A talented artist, Karl frequently painted Second Beach, his favorite subject. He also enjoyed cooking and prepared many family meals when mom didn't feel like cooking. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Karl is survived by his mother, Elizabeth Nelson; his sister, Beth A. Nelson (Riko Simpson), both of Providence; his **nephew, Darren Weldon**; and his **nieces, Teaonna D. Simpson**, and **Deaonna B. Womack**. He was preceded in death by his father, his brother **John Erik Nelson**, and his **nephew Chris'sean Williams**.

Visiting hours will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2026, from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the O'Neill-Hayes Funeral Home, 465 Spring St., Newport, RI. Burial will be private.

The family extends its sincere thanks to Newport Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, and Heatherwood Nursing Home for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Heatherwood Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, 398 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840.