



## Nelson Martin Hoyt

June 3, 1945 - December 20, 2025

Nelson Martin Hoyt, 80, of Palm Coast, Florida, formerly of Hackettstown, New Jersey, and DeLand, Florida, passed away peacefully on December 20. He was the son of Nelson F.

Hoyt and Jean (Rokavec) Hoyt, their only child.

Born in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, at the age of 7, he moved to DeLand, Florida, where he

formed lifelong friendships that remained strong through all of his years. He led the

DeLand High School basketball team as point guard to the 1963 state championship, a

victory reminiscent of the small-town triumph portrayed in the movie Hoosiers.

He later

received a full basketball scholarship and played collegiately for St. John's River College in

Palatka, Florida, and LaGrange College in LaGrange, Georgia, where he earned a Bachelor

of Arts degree in Recreation.

For over 42 years, he reliably served the town of Hackettstown in New Jersey as

Superintendent of Recreation, a career he fully embraced and loved. He was respected for

his fairness, integrity, and dependability. Upon retirement, the Nelson M. Hoyt Riverfront

Park in Hackettstown, New Jersey, was named in his honor, recognizing his service.

Throughout his adult life, Nelson remained deeply engaged in competitive sports. His interests included basketball coaching, golf, water skiing, tennis, games of all kinds, physical fitness, travel, and a lifelong devotion to college basketball. Even in his 70s, he continued to compete, qualifying for the Florida Senior Games state table tennis championships.

On a personal level, Nelson will be remembered for helping others without fanfare, a knack for making people laugh, boundless energy, animated storytelling, legendary renditions of "Chantilly Lace," famously quick goodbyes, and, of course, his well-earned "Mr. Clean" reputation.

In keeping with his wishes, his body was donated to science. As per his request, no

services are planned. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

In Nelson's memory, contributions may be made to the Nelson Hoyt Memorial Fund at St.

Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause he chose.