

The Actuarial Translator

Dale A. Nelson (FCAS 1965, FAAA, FCIA)

1935–2021

Dale A. Nelson had a knack for explaining auto insurance actuarial concepts to non-actuaries. From The New York Times to the halls of the United States Congress, Nelson did his part to explain the actuarial issues of the day. The beloved actuary, known for his intellect and humility, died in Peoria, Illinois, on July 21, 2021. He was 85 years old. He was born in Ottawa, Illinois, on December 30, 1935, to Alfred M. Nelson, an auto shop supervisor who descended from Norwegian immigrants, and Ella (Holm) Nelson. Nelson graduated from Knox College with a bachelor's in mathematics in 1958 before moving on to Princeton University, where he earned a master's degree. After completing all of his classroom requirements for a doctorate, he accepted a job at State Farm Insurance. A committed volunteer to the actuarial profession, he received the Matthew Rodermund Memorial Service Award in 1995. Committed to the study of mathematics, he sponsored lectures through Knox University called MathTalks. One in particular covered, "America's Love-Hate Relationship with Mathematics." He is survived by his sister, Ellen Titus; his nieces and nephews; friends and colleagues. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Ann Ritzius. Nelson's family would like to thank the staff at Lutheran Hillside Village for their wonderful care and kindness to him. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Salvation Army or Project Hope. An online guestbook is available at www.MuellerFH.com.