

We Mourn the Loss of Rodney Nelson



Rodney Nelson, our award-winning artist/cartoonist passed away in early April. We are so sad to lose him and his enormous talent, and we'll miss his offbeat sense of humor!

Rodney born in Miami and raised in the Florida Keys. After moving to Key Largo in 1970 he began exploring the ocean and back country in his grandfather's boat, where he discovered beauty everywhere he went. An avid fisherman, he was amazed at the

colors and patterns of the fish he caught. He was so inspired that he began to paint them. Nelson drew and painted his whole life.

For the past 40 years most of Rodney's work was airbrushing. Wall murals, vehicles of all kinds, boats, signs, wood, metal, etc. In 2017, his work won the esteemed 1st place booth contest at The Tropical Plant International Expo (TPIE) Plant Show in Miami. He was up against others who spent millions on their designs! He had a keen sense for capturing the essence of what his commissioned customers desired, and he always brought it to life.

Nelson's expert airbrushing has taken him to Key West for many years, where he won 1st place airbrushing on nearly naked people for Fantasy Fest. He was comfortable painting just about anything!

Nelson also painted with a brush, whether it be on canvas, wood, wall murals or when he was just having fun with his grandkids. His grandkids were very important to him; he overcame substance abuse to stay healthy for them.

He was a whiz on the computer, designing logos, signs, business cards, vehicle wraps, banners, websites, t-shirts, and view-thru window screens. You may have seen the incredible Coconut Telegraph maps of Islamorada and Key Largo... caricature is another of his talents.

In the last few years, Rodney taught himself glass etching and became proficient at that too! He loved the challenge of something new and guarantees satisfaction.

Rodney, we already miss you!



interior mural



Three tee shirt designs



Etched glass door design



The award-winning booth design.

