



Nancy B. Pfaff

March 11, 1939 - August 15, 2018

Nancy B. Pfaff, 79, of Carbondale, passed away at 9:00 am on Wednesday, August 15 in Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Mrs. Pfaff was born March 11, 1939 in Alton to Arthur C. and Lillian (Thiele) Braun.

Nancy married Jerre C. Pfaff on June 16, 1962. The two met while both were students on the Alton campus of SIU prior to the construction of the Edwardsville campus.

Nancy earned a BS degree at SIU Alton and taught math for one year at West Junior High in Alton prior to marrying and moving to Carbondale.

Nancy began work as a graduate student at SIU-C in 1962 in the Counseling and Testing Center and earned her M.S. in Guidance and Educational Psychology.

During her employment at SIU, she became the Chief General Education Development Test Administrator for the lower 16 IL counties and later for only Jackson and Perry counties.

As a test administrator, she scheduled the administration, proctoring, and

logistics of virtually all tests required for college admissions and entrance to professional programs such as law, medicine, etc. She took the most pride in administering the GED because she was able to help over 10,000 individuals earn their High School equivalency and a path to a better life. She retired with over 40 years of service when the GED finally became fully computerized.

Nancy was also an active volunteer and member of many civic groups. With her math background, she served as treasurer of a local women's investment group, her local service sorority and the Greater Egyptian Orchid Society. Nancy's interests included growing orchids, baking, hummingbird banding and sharing her love of animals with her children and grandchildren. Her volunteer work also included assistance to a local food pantry and the Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary. She was a member of a local PEO chapter and the University's Women's Club.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Jerre; two children, Tracie (Richard) Hampton and John (Laura) Pfaff; three grandsons, Cory Brunt, Jackson and Owen Pfaff; sister, Sally (Richard) Duncan; several nieces and nephews as well as sisters-in-law, Pat (Richard) Chasteen and Judy (Bob) Harris; other relatives and many friends.

Mrs. Pfaff was preceded in death by her parents, her in-laws and a sister in law, Allene Miller.

A Celebration of Life Service for Nancy Pfaff will be Monday, August 20, 2018 at 11:00 am in the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale.

Visitation will be from 9:00 am until the hour of service at the church.

Interment will follow at the Pleasant Grove Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale and/or to The St. Francis Animal Shelter of Murphysboro.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park

31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy B. Pfaff*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *We would like to extend our condolences to Jerre and family on the recent passing of Nancy. Our memories of Nancy and Jerre center around their dogs -- especially Cricket years ago--who they would walk past our house to the delight of our then young children. We so enjoyed visiting with them when Cricket (and subsequent dogs) stopped by on their walks. Standing in our front yard watching with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye while the kids, her dog on a leash and our dog Yogi played for a few minutes is how we will always remember Nancy.*

Kelly and Carl Rexroad

Kelly Rexroad - August 31, 2018 at 01:50 PM

PM

“ I am so sad to hear of the loss of Nancy Pfaff, one of the dearest people I ever knew and a loving and supportive presence in my childhood growing up in Carbondale. To me Nancy was like one of those tv moms (June Cleaver or Carol Brady) come to life. She was so kind and warm, caring and thoughtful, and truly beautiful inside and out. I spent a lot of time in Pfaff home as a kid and young adult, as Tracie and I were (and are) close friends. I always loved seeing Mrs. Pfaff, always felt so welcomed by her, and just loved being in her presence.

My heart and love are with Jerre, Tracie and John and their spouses, the three grandsons, and all of Nancy's family and friends. She will be so greatly missed and forever remembered.

Pidge Meade - August 26, 2018 at 05:07 PM

NS

“ I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Pfaff Family on their loss. May your good memories of times together help Jerry in this time of loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.

Nick Guetterman, SIUC student - August 21, 2018 at 11:15 PM

JB

“ My sincere condolences. Mrs. Pfaff, or Nancy, as she insisted I call her while I was working for her at SIU, was a strong influence in my formative years in college. Working as a student worker and test proctor, Nancy taught me so much about workplace professionalism. I am forever grateful to have experienced her strength and kindness. Love and peace to Mr. Pfaff, Tracie, John, and your families.

Jennifer Bukacek - August 19, 2018 at 01:12 PM

DH

“ Our sincerest sympathy to you, Jerre and family in your loss of Nancy!! I will think of her every week at market when I sell a cinnamon roll. She was a sweet and special lady who I will greatly miss! Our prayers are with you!

Doreen High - August 18, 2018 at 06:52 PM

MH

“ So very sorry for your loss, Jerre...and that of your family. Nancy was a beautiful soul. Love and prayers. Mike and Marty Hinz

marty hinz - August 18, 2018 at 05:45 PM

JG

“ Sorry Jerre for your loss of Nancy, my thoughts go out to you and your family. Jim Greer

Jim Greer - August 18, 2018 at 06:59 AM

KJ

“ I was in Tracie's class growing up, and remember Mrs. Pfaff's kindness, warmth and her smile. My deepest condolences to Tracie and the entire family.

Kitty Juul - August 17, 2018 at 04:05 PM

DD

“ Nancy was a good listener around the table. When others eyes were beginning to droop listening to my stories, Nancy looked on with interest and always had a comment or question demonstrating here thoughtfulness and respect. She was also a cheerful person even when I called early in the morning for Jerry to play golf . Her live greeting was always a melodically sounding, Hellooooooo! Enough to cheer any one up. We will miss her.

Dick Daesch - August 17, 2018 at 03:51 PM

PA

This was so spot-on, Dick. Nancy had a gift for making you feel heard - you always had her undivided attention. That is becoming a rare trait these days.

Phil Anton - August 19, 2018 at 12:41 AM

SK

“ Dear Jerre, Tracie, John and their families,

I was so sorry to hear that your Nancy has passed away. What a very special woman she was. She was kind, thoughtful, compassionate and just a very good person. I remember her from my childhood days on Terrace Dr and as an adult had the opportunity to see her periodically. She was always interested in our family and was happy to share the latest on hers. To this day I remember when my mother was sick, Nancy brought over one of her blooming orchids to sit next to her bed. She would swap out the orchid every week so it was always different and beautiful! Such a thoughtful gesture that brought some joy into my mother's limited world. Your Nancy was a very exceptional woman. I will be out of town next week but I send to you my heartfelt sympathies. ❤️❤️❤️

*Love,
Susan*

Susan Keim - August 17, 2018 at 01:26 PM

LJ

“ Mrs. Pfaff was a pillar of my childhood--always so welcoming and warm whenever I was at her house with my dear friend Tracie, which was often. I remember her singing to Paul Simon's album "Graceland", her orchids, her cookies, taking pictures in her house before big events like Prom, her ability to have a great career and be a great mom, including being a great "second mom" to Tracie's friends, like me. Much love to the entire family. I will always remember Nancy Pfaff.

Laurie Ruth Johnson - August 17, 2018 at 09:56 AM

DA

“ I posted this over on Facebook last night, but I’ll repeat it here. Since we moved to southern Illinois in 2004, I have been very fortunate to be adopted by numerous grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, etc. through the Strong Survivors program. Nancy was one of my southern Illinois grandmothers.

I have been privileged to know her since 2006. Her husband, Jerre, was a part of an infamous Strong Survivors class that spring and she became a part of that group as they continued to get-together numerous times every year for dinner. That class had 22 members in it and unlike today where I typically have multiple student staff members to work with the participants, in the programs still fledgling state, it was just me and GA, Tracie Vogel, who tried to figure out how to manage the exercise programs of all those folks. Jerre, as many of you know, loves to give people crap. At first, I was a little afraid of him because his persona at was very matter-of-fact and he gave me a hard time frequently. Plus it was only the second semester for the class and I was trying to figure out the best way to run it so that that participants were happy and satisfied. Nancy was able to free me of this trepidation when she instructed me to “... shovel it right back at him.” Once I realized that he didn’t have it in for me and I started giving him just as much grief, he and I became fast friends and I was good buddies with Nancy too. Whenever we’d see each other, Jerre and I would spar verbally for a bit and Nancy would just roll her eyes, shake her head, and smile that lovely smile of hers. I am going to miss a lot of things about Nancy, but I am really going to miss that reaction.

Nancy Pfaff was an angel on Earth. She touched countless lives through her professional work, but even more through her volunteer work. Her willingness to give of herself was limitless. She worked for the betterment of humanity, as well as the status quo of our fellow Earth-dwelling animals. Her capacity to be compassionate and nurturing was boundless as well, and the Strong Survivors program was privy to her presence on numerous occasions during fundraising events.

Nancy had a great gift for making one feel at ease and comfortable. No matter the circumstance or whatever was happening in my life at the time, spending a few minutes in Nancy's warm glow was the perfect tonic for anything that was bothering me. She had an aura about her that made stresses disappear and made everything seem just right. It was a truly unique gift and it will be missed terribly by many.

The world is a little less bright and a little less comforting now that she is gone. That said, we can all help fill in the void she leaves behind by living like Nancy:

Be unflinchingly considerate.

Give of your time and talent.

Sooth feelings and smooth the rough edges of life for others by simply being kind.

Take a bit of Nancy's legacy, make it your own, and carry it forward. The world and its inhabitants certainly could use more doses of Nancyism these days.

RIP, sweet Nancy. Your spirit will live on in those who follow your example of humanity.

Dr. Phil Anton - August 17, 2018 at 09:39 AM

KR

“ I really admired Nancy 💕💕 She was always so active in helping the Carbondale Memorial Auxiliary with all their blood drives and fundraisers. I would always buy pecans and almonds from her at Christmas time. She was a kind, generous and hard working lady. She inspired me and I'm glad I met her. 💕💕

kathy rambeau - August 17, 2018 at 09:29 AM

PH

“ Nancy brought a smile to everyone, I feel blessed to have known her and worked with her. She will certainly be missed.

Peggy Henson - August 17, 2018 at 07:43 AM

KH

“ Nancy was a faithful volunteer at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Kathy Hall - August 16, 2018 at 11:29 PM

MB

Nancy was an amazing woman, person, mother, grandmother and so much more. We need more Nancy Pfaffs in this world. Not one less.

Mike Brunt - August 17, 2018 at 06:36 AM

SM

Nancy has been a friend for many many years. There were five of us that met every week for years. We would share our lives and became very close through the years. I will miss her. She was a very special lady. She was a devoted wife and mother. I never heard her say anything negative about her family or anyone. She will be missed by all who knew her. Shirley Miles-Gename

shirley miles-gename - August 17, 2018 at 11:18 AM

MB

Maureen and I have enjoyed getting to know Nancy. So sad for Her husband, family, and friends. What a sweet lady. Thoughts and Prayers. RIP Nancy.

Mark and Maureen Berkowitz - August 19, 2018 at 06:26 PM