



Nancy Joyce Kath

May 23, 1944 - January 19, 2019

Nancy “Grandmother” Kath age 74 born May 23, 1944 died in Catawba Valley Medical Center in North Carolina on Saturday, January 19th, 2019 at 10:00pm with many loved ones present. At 74, Grandmother was renowned for being the life of the party.

Everyone who knew her family, knew her, loved her and if you were lucky, even shared a drink with her.

Grandmother had the energy that a twenty-year old could only dream of. She was known for waking up before dawn to cycle on her stationary bike, working 12 hour shifts on her feet, crafting her next project, and still maintaining the energy for a family dinner with her very large and extended family. Her energy was more than evident in her work as a nurse. Nancy cared for many patients in need from New Jersey (where she began her career as a nurse in her 40’s), to her life in North Carolina and even up to the time of her death. She has a deep respect for her fellow working nurses and the patients under their care. Some of her well known passions are sewing and knitting everything from baby blankets, fisherman sweaters, royal prom suits, and black belt blankets. Needless to say, if you attended the local renaissance festival in one of her stunning fur capes, you understood her passion and skillset for crafting. Not only crafting tactfully, but tastefully in every delicious meal she cooked. While a wonderful cook in her later years, she began cooking after her marriage in

1961 at 16 years old. Although it took a few failed casseroles, at her time of death she was still preparing everything from the traditional Christmas Eve Prime Rib, to the weekly Macaroni and Chopmeat (we forgot to get the recipe from her, but we're pretty sure it's just a lot of American cheese and ketchup). Her most legendary dish and secret recipe was for "Grandmother's Cheesecake" - a lifelong favorite. All of that said, it's no secret that we're all still a little bitter about the burnt spaghetti sauce two summers ago at the beach trip.

Prior to moving to North Carolina, Grandmother's time in New Jersey was often spent in the luncheonette she ran inside of Majestic Lanes bowling alley. She also loved visiting New York City despite that city visits came with a wariness of Grandmother's pretzel preferences, ever since she once threw an entire bag of cold and dry pretzels at the pretzel cart man (nobody likes a cold pretzel). Here, an "experience" at Tiffany's ultimately inspired her to go by "Grandmother" when the time came for grandchildren.

Although she was always passionate about taking care of her family's home, it wasn't until she moved to North Carolina in her 50's to 13 beautiful acres of land and a home (one of two homes that she and Jim built) tucked perfectly at the top of a hill, that she learned how to care for goats, chickens, donkeys, a koi fish pond and many once strayed dogs of all sizes and unique personalities (we're looking at you, Gemma, Guinness, Toad, and Meg). Jim and Nancy would later deem their farmhouse paradise "Hidden Woods", and many of us knew there was nothing like a bonfire night at Hidden Woods.

Nancy is survived by her husband, the love of her life and soul mate of 58 years and if you knew Grandmother, you knew her on the arm of her favorite person. Nancy went on many of her life adventures with Jim. On their 50th wedding anniversary, they shared dances in the rain in front of the Ritz hotel in Paris, France, and enjoyed the mountains of Guatape in Colombia just last

spring. Nancy was loved, cherished and celebrated by her husband, who supported her every dream, endeavor and even the crutches she had to use after she broke her leg to Dancing Queen by ABBA (like we said, life of the party). Their bond is a joy to them and all who had the pleasure of witnessing it, and their marriage speaks for itself to all that know them; there is never a question of how in love Jim and Nancy are. With James Austin Kath by her side (and before her Grandmother days), Nancy became a fabulous mother to Jimmy, Sean, and Wendy, who recall their childhood with her to be nothing but joyful and loving. She had her moments, of course, like chasing her eldest son Jimmy up their street with a wooden spoon. Even then, Jimmy remarks on the passion and care his mother had that she proved in her actions-like when Nancy and Jim were just starting out in the world financially, and she made all of her children's clothing from scratch. The love Nancy's children have for her is evident, as they remember cutting through the cemetery to snatch up any bows, balloons and the like that said "Mom" to bring home to their mother on their way home from school. Nancy was a role model as a hard working woman, whether in her occupation, marriage, or motherhood and inspired her daughter Wendy, who would later become a nurse and wonderful mother to 7 children (Anthony James, Nancy Lucia, Austin Theresa, Rodman O'Neal, Adonis Geronimo, Xy Everest, and Genevieve Alora). Her son Sean would father even more grandchildren, Heaton David and Miles William. For her grandchildren, Grandmother was the epitome of love, laughter, and joy. She almost never missed any event her grandchildren participated in, and she and Granddad took a redeye flight from California to Boston just 2 years ago, to be sure and attend two of their grandchildren' college graduations, a day apart on opposite coasts. Grandmother became her namesake because she was a grandmother figure to every child she met. She was like a fairy godmother, always providing treats and spearheading mischievous (though endlessly fun) adventures. On Easter day, Grandmother and Granddad would hide Easter eggs filled with cash, and let's not forget the 4 cart train they bought and

insisted everyone took a ride on (a step up from the huge mountain of red mud they would play in during the home building process at Hidden Woods), and the golf carts and pickup trucks that made the 2 minute trip around the corner to Wendy's home, an adventure in and of itself. Her Grandson Xy remembers with fond memory a time in which he was sick, and Grandmother gave him a service bell to ring whenever he needed anything. Her other grandsons remark on the lunch she would make every Friday, the day of the week they spend with their grandfather in his wood shop (everything from homemade BLT's to a 50 piece bucket of McDonald's chicken nuggets). Genevieve remembers the constant arguments over whether Grandmother's Saint Patrick's day sweater was actually green (it was blue.. but that's okay) and how she was a trooper through many Kardashian episodes we made her watch over Grandmother tea (Red Rose tea with sugar and lots of half and half.) Grandmother is also survived by Sofia, the child who deemed her Great Grandmother in the year of her passing. Although the time between "grandmother" and "great grandmother" was short, it makes no difference to any of us. Nancy "Grandmother" Kath was Great. Great every day, Great in every way, Great in every aspect, and in every moment. We were so lucky to have her near us. She will never be replaced, but she will always be remembered. There will forever be an empty seat at every table a meal or drink is shared. There is an empty space on every dance floor for our Dancing Queen.

The family requests that you use the comments sections not for condolences, but to share stories about your experiences with Nancy. We know everyone who knows her is hurting just as badly as we are, and you have our condolences also.

Be kind to one another!

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the family of

Mrs. Kath. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Joyce Kath*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Nancy Joyce Kath*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Nancy Joyce Kath*


February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Pat Best purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Nancy Joyce Kath.*



Pat Best - January 25, 2019 at 09:44 AM


Chelsea
Seguine

“ Nancy was the wife of my godfather Jim and also my sister's godmother (I considered Nancy a godmother as well). She was such a special and wonderful woman, I was blessed to have had her in my life. I have so many great memories with her (and my godfather) from a beach house vacation, to visiting their house & farm, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, holidays, to spending time with her on many occasions. She (and Jim) would always make you feel special, their love for each other was amazing. I was so appreciative and honored that they made a point to be at my tech school graduation, pinning ceremony and also we're the first people to look at my house first with me to help determine if it was a good house and help me make a big decision of buying my first home. She was an amazing cook and had such a way of making it known that she loved you! I'll miss her so much and will cherish the memories I have had with her ❤️.

Chelsea Seguine - January 25, 2019 at 09:21 AM

AH

“ Nanny was nice person .She work at nurse home Mooresville N.C . She work 600 Hall she love Christmas and dance . today talk about Nancy she is best nurse ❤️❤️🥰

Allison Reid Mooresville NC Nursing hom - January 24, 2019 at 04:23 PM

DM

“ I'll always remember Nancy as the wonderful next door neighbor when I married Mark. She was always so kind and loving. And when Jim showed me how to cut ceiling molding to finish off my bedroom. Love you kath family and I will always remember your for the great lady she was.

Prayers Donna Kapinos Andrejczak

donna mann - January 24, 2019 at 03:16 PM

LW

“ A great obituary. Such a wonderful funloving woman. Her kids and grand kids and great granddaughter were everything to her but as she and Jim told Jerry and I (they were very close to our age, although they were Wendy's parents). We love the kids but there is so much to see and do, we enjoy each other and make sure to always find time to do things together. Nancy was "Grandmother" not only to her grands but to so many. She also had so many friends and she was always her own person. Although I didn't spend enough time with her, I admired her in so many ways but mostly for what she added to the lives of so many. See ya, Jersey Girl

Lita Wilcox - January 24, 2019 at 11:07 AM

MF

“ Making breakfast at the beach will never be the same. Of course now y'all will now have country ham prepared southern-style. Few years' back Nancy and Jim were not going to make it to the beach if Grandmother did not have a coop for her chickens. Now this is no basic coop, it has a gable roof with cupola, glass windows, vinyl flooring..... So what was the hottest day in May, I can remember I came over to help Granddad finish the coop. I was so happy when Rodman and Xy showed up later to help finish. Sweat was rolling off us all. I was so joyful to do something for Jim and Nancy who embraced me as their "southern-son". Grandmother's love of her extended clan of grandchildren is legendary, truly unconditional love. I am sorry about the rye bread.

Mike Franklin - January 24, 2019 at 10:21 AM

AM

❤️❤️ Love this. Thank you, Mike

austin macasieb - January 24, 2019 at 06:51 PM

TD

We love her she was a great Lady I love her and I will miss you

Twila and Dennis - January 26, 2019 at 11:09 PM

AR

“ Two things “Muth” taught me is how to make home-made ice tea so that it doesn’t taste like “fish tea” and to keep the butter on the counter and not in the fridge. I remember taking trips with Muth and Fath to their property in Mountain Lake (?) and walking around in the woods. One time we found them making out by the stream. I understand that wasn’t the only time they did that. It was always an adventure with Muth. We went to a Simon and Garfunkel concert in Central Park. We both had to “go” real bad. She refused to wait in line for the port o John so she convinced me to go in the woods. I ended up with poison ivy. Lol. RIP Muth. You will always be in our memories. ♡♡

Arlene Burylo Reichardt - January 23, 2019 at 10:18 PM



“ The Kath house was where we hung out as teens. Jim and Nancy, or “muth and fath” were the cool parents. The ones you could go to for anything. They had such a loving bond. Some of the best times I remember are sitting in the living room listening to Jimmy play guitar and singing along. They are truly some of the best memories of my life. Nancy was always incredible. She was always family first. That’s probably why I loved her. Such a loss.

Elaine Moore - January 23, 2019 at 09:50 PM

AK

“ I just discovered that Nancy’s birthday is May 23. I feel so bad, our wedding was the 24 and Fri night and Sat the whole family spent as part of our wedding party. I wish someone would have told us; we would have done something special for her. You don’t know how much we appreciate that; everyone made it extra special for us. Nancy also held a housewarming for us; she was so giving and selfless. She will be missed; I’m just sorry I hadn’t gotten to see her in a while. Sending love to all of you.

Amanda Kyles - January 23, 2019 at 07:35 PM

SS

“ I was always so impressed at her sense of style and her sense of comfort in her own skin. What inspired me was her going back to school to get a nursing degree in midlife, and pursuing her passion, funny how stories like that stay with you even if it has been years since you have seen someone. Her spirit will certainly continue to grow and shine through the love of her family and friends.

sylvia schnople - January 23, 2019 at 05:10 PM

CP

“ I have only known some members of this big, boisterous and beautiful family for a fairly short time, but in that time, they truly made an impact on me! It was obvious from the start that Nancy was the center and soul of this family. I met Wendy first and then Nancy, both gorgeous, strong and memorable women. Nancy would come into our boutique often with her humor, awesome laugh and perfect sense of style. I felt from the start that I had known her forever. She will be missed but never forgotten.

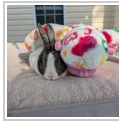
Charlotte Parris

Charlotte Parris - January 23, 2019 at 03:15 PM

JC

“ I am proud to say I have the famed recipe for Grandmother’s Cheesecake. I received it through negotiations for a certain eyeglass case she “had” to have. Some may call it bribery, I don’t care as long as I have that recipe! Much love to you all. I will always hear her voice and laughter in my head.

Jo Christensen - January 23, 2019 at 12:20 PM



This is so beautiful...Nancy and Jim2 very special people in my life..There were never 2 people in my life that taught me what family and commitment was really supposed to be. They became my family at the age of 16. Nancy was the most adventurous woman I've ever met. And the sweetest thing her and Nim ever did for me is become the Godparents of my 2 daughters. I love them them so much. And miss her so much. Xoxo

Janet Seguire - January 23, 2019 at 02:22 PM



Judith
Carleton

Nancy was (is) my cousin but I have not seen her in years. That being said, I have the most wonderful childhood memories of times spent with her. Movies on Saturday, Girls Friendly Camp, Easter Egg Hunts at St Peter’s Church, Easter parade on boardwalk in Perth Amboy, Sunday dinners at the Wallace home with all the family there, Seaside Heights with our Aunt Hazel who rented a house, sleepovers the list goes on. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Judith Grove Carleton

Judith Carleton - January 24, 2019 at 01:23 PM

CC

Nancy and I worked together at Genesis Healthcare for years. She was the nurse on the floor and I was a cna. Nancy would work as a cna when we were short staffed. She cared for the residents and staff. We laughed and cried together, visited co- workers in the hospital, went to church and prayed in the altar at the request of one of our co workers, cried when the co worker passed. She would surprise me with her decadent cheesecakes at different times. I house sat for her when she went on vacation, she always made sure I was comfortable at her home. A week before her unexpected passing (which has broken my heart) we had the best talk, she said that everyone was upset about her diagnosis but that she had peace. So glad she is truly at peace in the presence of God and I will see this special lady again. We shared much more and this will always be in my heart💕 my prayers to all the family and friends. Love you Nancy!

Cathy Cash - January 24, 2019 at 09:38 PM

CC

Nancy was a special friend and co worker.

Cathy Cash - January 24, 2019 at 09:40 PM

JD

Met Nancy at Sasha's on the Lake, she was the life of the party, so very sweet. Life is so short.... we should live it like Nancy lived her life. My thoughts and prayers are with her family especially Jim, God bless you all!!!

Julie Culpepper Dellinger - January 25, 2019 at 07:34 AM