



Nancy Workman Ballard

JAN 25, 1953 - OCT 1, 2024



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Nancy Workman Ballard, a beloved wife, mom, nana, aunt, loving daughter, thoughtful sister, caring cousin, and incredible friend continued on to her “Great Reward” on October 1, 2024.

She was tremendously committed to many people in her life and displayed much kindness and care along with her independent opinions and stubbornness. She is extremely missed by all who knew her beautiful spirit and joyful presence.

Nancy was born on January 25, 1953, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, to Wendell and Reba (Burris) Workman. She was the beloved middle sister of older brother Ron and younger brother Wendell Jr. When Nancy was four, she moved to Searcy, AR where she experienced an idyllic childhood with several neighborhood friends to play with in a small-town environment. At the age of 12 her family moved back to Fayetteville, her true hometown.

Upon graduating from Fayetteville High School in 1971 she pursued her passion to teach, earning a degree in Early Childhood Elementary Education from Arkansas State University. Her passion for learning and education drove her to completing a graduate degree in Education from the University of Arkansas along with a Reading Specialist Certification.

With her credentials, Nancy went on to teach in the Fayetteville Public School system for 28 years. She taught elementary grades (1-5) as well as being a reading specialist. She loved the many years she taught at both Asbell and Vandergriff and built strong relationships with students and her fellow teachers. Her passion for supporting students in learning and reading was felt by all who knew Nancy.

In 1979 she married Stephen Ballard and they have been committed to each other for over 45 years. A few years after their marriage Nancy and Steve would start their family and have two boys, Slate Weston and Dylan Drake. Nancy was a wonderful mother who taught her boys to use their imagination, be a good friend and always keep learning.



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She and Steve took their boys on many adventures throughout the United States, often traveling to tour National Parks. They regularly attended larger family gatherings such as the annual Workman Reunion, the Burris Reunion and the Ballard's summer get together at Kiawah Island.

Nancy and Steve loved Beaver Lake and fulfilled their dream of building a log cabin on the lake. While Nancy tolerated Steve's love of sailing, her passion was in her ski boat. She loved waterskiing and taking her boys, grandkids, family and friends out for boat rides.

Along with the lake, Nancy loved hiking in the Ozarks and gardening.

Nancy and some of her closest friends started a hiking group they named the Aqua Sox Society which has coordinated hiking trips for the last 30 years.

Nancy was an integral part of her community and a deeply committed friend. She was a member of the "Literatae" book club for the last 40 years. She was also an artist and craftsperson who gifted many friends with painted rocks and other homemade treasures. She was a member of the Krewe of Olympia for many years and was crowned the Queen of the Fayetteville Mardi Gras parade this year (2024). Nancy was a gamer, she loved playing bridge and canasta online with friends and sometimes against robots.

She enjoyed football and regularly attended Arkansas Razorback football games. She loved to call the Hogs with her Workman cousins both at home and away games.

Nancy was predeceased by her parents Wendell and Reba Workman as well as her brother-in-law John Ballard. She is survived by many loved ones who will treasure her memory and spirit: her devoted and loving husband Stephen Ballard, their sweet dog Maizy, her oldest son Slate Ballard, (wife Rachel) and grandkids Lily, August and Sol, her youngest son Dylan Ballard, (wife Katie Jo) and grandkids Gray and Henley, her older brother Ron Workman (wife Charlotte), her younger brother Wendell Workman Jr, her nephews Josh Workman (wife Amelia), Sam Workman (wife Amber), her sister-in-law Kay Ballard and nephews Jared Ballard (daughters Olivia and Emery), Drew Ballard (wife Braeleen), her goddaughter Sophie Stout, honorary sisters Kelly Wilks (husband Vince), Sonya Zweig (husband Mark), a host of Workman and Burris cousins along with many, many dear friends.



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Please save the date for Nancy's Celebration on Saturday, November 9th. Details to follow. Memorial contributions may be made in Nancy's name to The Parkinson's Foundation (https://secure3.convio.net/prkorg/site/Donation2?10243.donation=form1&df_id=10243&mfc_pref=T) or Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (<https://give.michaeljfox.org/give/421686/#!/donation/checkout>). Arrangements are with Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville.



Tribute Wall

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JH

Janice (Dockery) Glover-Horton posted:

Steve, I am so sorry to hear of your loss of Nancy. I pray that the many precious memories of your life together will warm your heart, as you strive to cope with the tremendous void left - by her passing to the other side of life. My heart breaks for you. Sincerely, and in Christian love, Janice (Dockery)

December 3 at 8:44 PM

JD

Jeannie Dykes posted:

My deepest and most sincere condolences to the Ballard/Workman families during this time of profound loss. I was so very fortunate and lucky to have known Nancy for almost fifty years. She was the kind of committed friend everyone should be graced to have. We both enjoyed the abundant natural beauty of our gorgeous State of Arkansas. To be outdoors hiking, swimming, or water skiing with her was a pure joy. She provided the inspiration, wisdom, and encouragement for me to earn my degree in Elementary Education. She was there for me as a mentor after I graduated and began teaching. Nancy was dearly, dearly loved by her many, many friends, and is deeply missed. I am so very grateful for our friendship through the years.

November 19 at 5:26 PM

MC

Mary Kate Harrison Caviness posted:

Mrs. Ballard was my fourth grade teacher at Vandergriff Elementary, this was one of my favorite years of school. She took our whole class on a hiking field trip and I still remember her guiding us on the hiking trails and taking pictures on the playground. Sending prayers and love to her family. She was a fabulous teacher and phenomenal person.

October 15 at 10:48 AM

JN

Julie Newman posted:

Nancy was about way more than I realized in my two years of living in the Fayetteville area. She and I continued our friendship journey for several years after my husband and I retired back to our home state, Nebraska. We did so over the game of bridge. I will most assuredly miss my friend, Nancy!

October 12 at 11:48 AM



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The Mackey'S sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Ballard family.



October 12 at 4:32 AM



The Mackey'S planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Nancy.



October 12 at 4:32 AM



Linda Kay Vandenberg White posted:

My sister Renè Vandenberg Start and myself , especially Renè had many fond memories of Nancy from Elementary school until High School when we moved to Austin , Texas. May God's perpetual light shine upon her.

October 10 at 11:54 AM



Linda Kay Vandenberg White October 10 at 11:55 AM
Starr. Sorry autocorrect. Renè & Joe Starr



Jenn sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Ballard family.



October 9 at 2:17 PM



David W. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Nancy.



October 9 at 9:04 AM



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John Crook posted:

Steve, very sorry to hear about the death of your wife. John Crook

October 9 at 3:53 AM



Gina Ervin October 9 at 9:38 AM

David and I send our deepest condolences and prayers for peace and comfort for the entire family.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Nancy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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