



Nancy N. Valley

August 1, 1947 - May 3, 2020

Rye Harbor — Nancy Naylor Valley, 72, of Rye Harbor, died on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Portsmouth Hospital after a brief illness. Born August 1, 1947 in San Antonio, Texas, the daughter of the late Colonel Harold L. and Jane (Turner) Naylor, USAF, Retired, she was a 1965 graduate of Portsmouth High School, Miss New Hampshire in 1966, and in that same year a finalist and 4th runner up in the Atlantic City Miss America Pageant.

Nancy's dream of living all over the world was fulfilled. As a child she lived near Tokyo, Japan as her father was stationed there in the occupation following WWII. Later, as a young bride, she returned with her husband, Bruce, to the same area of Japan on Navy assignment during the Vietnam conflict.

She also lived for three years in Naples, Italy, where she apprenticed in a Capodimonte porcelain studio and became the only American ever authorized to use the Neapolitan "N" and Crown trademark seal on her creations. The seal is a symbol of achieving master status in the art of porcelain sculpture. Her unique floral and tile porcelain designs have been displayed in museums, the White House., and in many private homes.

Nancy enjoyed her many friends uncommonly. She loved people. Her kind, generous and thoughtful nature always shown through. She was luminous, a confident, gracious and serene woman lacking any trace of vanity. Participating in book clubs and knitting groups, she found fast friendships after a career with Motorola and a return in retirement to the New Hampshire seacoast.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Bruce L. Valley, her brother, Steven L. Naylor and wife, Janis, of Bryant, Arkansas, two daughters: Noelle Valley Milam and husband, Thomas R. Milam, MD, and their four children, Mary Grace, Caroline, James and Wilson, all of Roanoke, Virginia; Christine Valley Marr and husband, David B. Marr, and their children, Max and Carson, of Vienna, Virginia. Her six grandchildren were always special, "the apple in Nancy's eye."

Due to pandemic restrictions, no funeral is planned at this time. A private burial will take place at a later time in the Rye Central Cemetery. There will be a Celebration of Life for Nancy's family and many friends in mid-summer, possibly at the St. Andrews by the Sea Chapel in Rye Beach. Details forthcoming. Should friends desire, memorials in Nancy's name may be made to the Rye Fire Department, 555 Washington Road, Rye, NH 03870, the Rye Public Library, 581 Washington Road, Rye, NH 03870, St. Andrews by the Sea Chapel, 30 Church Road, Rye, NH 03870, and the Loon Preservation Society, 183 Lees Mill Road, Moultonborough, NH 03254. Assistance with the arrangements was by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, Hampton.

Tribute Wall

CQ

“ Dear family,
I learned only today, that our beloved wife and mother has passed away. I say “our” because I think of you all as my family.
Bruce, thank you for including me. My words will not be adequate to describe how much I love you and Nancy, nor will they adequately convey the sadness I share with you now.
Noelle and Christine, my sisters, I grieve with you for our loss. I love you both, dearly.
At times like this, when sadness is ubiquitous and joy seems unobtainable, I take no small measure of comfort in the knowledge that Nancy was a person of faith, a Christian, who loved the Lord and who lived her life accordingly. I know with utmost certainty that Nancy is at peace, that she is whole, and that she is in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father. I also know that we will see her again, one fine day. May God bless you with His peace and His comfort, now and always.

Carey B Quisenberry - October 11, 2020 at 04:36 PM

LE

“ Bruce,

Really saddened to hear about Nancy's death. My heart goes out to you after losing your life long mate. Both Bobby and I share in your loss. Nancy was a lady of charm and beauty and we miss not seeing you both since our days at Test Pilot school. I remember fondly our shared meals together and our flag football games in our back yard. Hang tough old pal,

Larry and Bobby Ernst

Larry Ernst - June 27, 2020 at 07:03 PM

GP

“ We will miss Nancy at the Rye Public Library. It was always a pleasure to have her stop by the circulation desk for conversation and be a part of the lively knitting group. She will always be remembered for her kind and thoughtful ways...our deepest sympathy to Bruce and her beloved family,

The staff and friends at Rye Public Library

Gwen Putnam-Bailey - May 13, 2020 at 08:48 AM

SS

“ My deepest condolences to Bruce, their beautiful daughters, and beloved grandchildren. Nan and I date back to High School when we were cheerleaders, she for Portsmouth and I for Hampton! I remember being in a fashion show with her at Hampton Beach back in the 60's as two carefree giggling teenagers. Of course we all were on the edge of our seats watching the Miss America Pageant and were so very proud of her performance and awards that year. Heaven now has a very beautiful angel! We had planned to reconnect last summer but unfortunately surgery prevented me from visiting her in Rye. I so regret not seeing her again. I am heartbroken at the news of her passing! Myself and her Miss New Hampshire Sisters will keep her husband and family in our prayers!! May you Rest In Peace beautiful Nan ❤️🌹❤️ Sheila T. Scott

Sheila T. Scott - May 07, 2020 at 11:34 AM

DW

Nan was a sweet friend to me when we were in high school. My vivid memory of her was the evening before her Sweet Sixteen party at the officer's club. She invited me to spend the night at her home and help her get ready the next day. She had beautiful, blonde hair but wanted it to be especially blonde for the party so we used Light n' Bright to enhance the color. It certainly did! It turned a metallic purple! We woke her mum up and worked all night with various things to cover up the purple. Looking back at it now, it is funny, but at the time it was just horrific. But the party was a success, and Nancy pulled the hint of purple off with grace and good humor. I had not seen her since high school but remember what a wonderful girl she was, liked by absolutely everyone. My condolences to her family.

Rest in peace, dear one.

Debbie (Patch) Wilson
North Sandwich, NH

Debbie Wilson - May 07, 2020 at 01:23 PM

RP

My sincere condolences, Bruce.

Rod Philbrick

Rodman Philbrick - May 07, 2020 at 01:49 PM

BB

Bruce, you and your family have my sincere condolences. I remember when Nan arrived at PHS we all were in awe of her beauty, her character and her unassuming manner. She was an inspiration to all of us and surely will be missed. Barbara Bodge Bukata, Class of '65

Barbara Bukata - May 08, 2020 at 11:59 AM

PM

Bruce so sorry to you and the family for a woman so loved..
Pete Mantegani

peter mantegani - May 09, 2020 at 07:23 PM

DL

Just found out about this sad news...I'm so sorry, Bruce, Noelle, and Christine...Nan and I go back to our jr. high days in Jacksonville, Ark. I'm going to dig up some photos...will post soon

Donna Lange - May 10, 2020 at 01:25 PM

RL

Dear Bruce and family, So sorry for your sudden and tragic loss. How cruel life can be. With our deepest sympathy and condolences, Dick and Suzanne Little

Richard Little - May 11, 2020 at 01:24 PM

DD

Bruce, may you find peace and strength during this difficult time. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.

My deepest condolences, Donna DeCotis

Donna DeCotis - May 12, 2020 at 08:24 AM

KG

Nancy was a beautiful person, inside and out. I had just gotten to know her, and now she's gone. We are all less without her as she had a way of drawing us out. Bruce knows how sad I am, and I know what a huge loss this is.

Kendra Gemmett - May 14, 2020 at 06:22 PM

FG

Bruce, my friend, I am so sorry. I'm lost for words. Nancy was beautiful inside and out. May you find peace. Fred

Fred Gregory - June 20, 2020 at 11:41 PM

HW

BRUCE,

*MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR WONDERFUL FAMILY
OLD FRIEND. HOWIE*

Howie Wheeler - July 13, 2020 at 10:07 AM