



Nancy H. Sununu

May 27, 1939 - September 7, 2024

Hampton Falls - Nancy Hayes Sununu, former First Lady of New Hampshire, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2024, surrounded by her family. Nancy was born in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, on May 27, 1939 to Edward and Eleanor Christie Hayes, two loving educators who dedicated their careers to the Brockton School System. Nancy spent her formative years in Brockton and on Cape Cod, graduated from Boston University, and moved to Salem, NH with her growing family in 1970.

Nancy was the cherished wife of Governor John H. Sununu for sixty-five years and a devoted mother to eight children: Catherine, Elizabeth, Christina, John, Michael, James, Christopher, and Peter. Known for her grace and dedication to family, Nancy instilled a profound commitment to community service in her children, many of whom have given themselves to public service ranging from local politics to the US State Department, the United States Senate, and Governor of New Hampshire.

Throughout her life, Nancy built upon her parents' passionate advocacy for education. She served on the Board of Trustees of Rivier University in Nashua, NH, and chaired the School Board in Salem, NH. Those who attended the Board's regular meetings would inevitably note her ability to read, speak, and debate—all while continuing to work on her current knitting project. Nancy received Honorary Doctorates from St. John's University, St.

Thomas Aquinas College, and Iona College in recognition of her contributions to education and public service.

Professionally, Nancy held influential roles, including Project Director for the Republican Governors Association and Vice Chairman of the Republican Women's Federal Forum. She chaired the Republican State Party in 1980 during the pivotal New Hampshire First in the Nation Presidential Primary that propelled Ronald Reagan to the White House.

Nancy's unwavering support bolstered her husband's political endeavors, showcasing her as a pillar of strength and dedication. As First Lady of New Hampshire, she exemplified grace and poise. She undertook the first major renovation of the historic Bridge's House, and in 1987 led the organization of the Christa McAuliffe Ski Invitational and Scholarship Foundation which raised over \$1 million to support sabbaticals for New Hampshire public school teachers.

Nancy's philanthropic spirit shone brightly in her community involvement and charitable contributions. She served as a Board Member of Holy Family Hospital, the New Hampshire Furniture Masters, and on the Board of Advisors for the LPGA. She was also honored to sponsor the USS Montpelier (SSN 765).

Widely rumored to possess almost limitless abilities, Nancy Sununu's prowess extended to skiing, golfing, and baseball, where her sharp eye at the plate was as keen as her accurate pitch. Early in life, her father imparted to her his deep knowledge of carpentry, a skill she would put to good use when she single-handedly refinished the basement of their Salem home to accommodate her growing family. Beyond athletics and carpentry, Nancy excelled in domestic arts such as knitting, sewing, and horticulture, often found cultivating her lawn on Samoset Drive, where her grass was always the

greenest and her garden bloomed like no others.

Nancy dedicated her life to her family, friends, and the Granite State. She spent the last two decades in Hampton Falls, deeply involved in her children's and grandchildren's lives, avidly participating in activities with them and constantly forging new friendships on and off the golf course. She had a natural ability to connect with people from all walks of life and political views, and was as comfortable meeting with Presidents and First Ladies as she was leading a meeting of the local PTA.

In addition to her husband John and eight children, she is survived by her sixteen grandchildren. Nancy was predeceased by her sisters Joanna Creney and Sally Christie. Her legacy of kindness and compassion touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend calling hours at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 from 4-7 PM. A funeral Mass celebrating Nancy's remarkable life will be held at St. Theresa's Parish in Rye, NH on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 at 10 AM. Burial will be private for the family in Pine Grove Cemetery, Salem, NH.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association. When making a gift in memory, please include Nancy's name, so that they may acknowledge your donation correctly. Gifts can be made by mail or phone and online by clicking here (<https://www.alz.org/?form=FUNSETYDEFK>). The Carrier Family Funeral Home, 38 Range Rd, Windham, NH along with Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Rd, Hampton, NH are assisting the Sununu family with their services.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

SEP **12.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **13.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Theresa Parish
820 Central Rd
Rye Beach, NH 03871
(603) 964-6440

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Ahhh, Nancy! One of the classiest and most down-to-earth people I have had the pleasure of getting to know. She worked hard and smiled sincerely, and Nancy 's grace lives on thru all family and friends. Bless you and all your loved ones. May the happy, loving memories help ease the grief.

Cathy Burnham Martin - September 21, 2024 at 05:33 PM

SC

“ Wonderful memories of sharing dinners with this extraordinary couple. Nancy's inner light was always bright!

Sheila Casey - September 13, 2024 at 03:27 PM

AH

“ Dear Governor Sununu, Former Governor Sununu, and ALL of your Family, Sorry to hear of the passing of your Mother, Wife, Grandmother. I remember you and your Family very well during my Banking Career in Salem between 1978 and 2021. I had the great pleasure of assisting her on various Committees and Functions in the Salem area at times. Please remember all of the nice times that you spent with Nancy, they will help bring a smile to your face, and ease the pain that you are all feeling at this difficult time. My very deepest condolences and sincerest sympathies to ALL of you! Please R. I. P., Nancy. You're at peace. A. Richard (Dick) Hanlon

A. Richard (Dick) Hanlon - September 13, 2024 at 10:16 AM

NO

“ *Nicole, John, Jimmy, Tommy O'Shea & Families purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Nancy H. Sununu.*



Nicole, John, Jimmy, Tommy O'Shea & Families - September 12, 2024 at 09:21 AM

TP

“ *I send deepest condolences. Nancy was a remarkable woman and outstanding leader. Her service to our state will never be forgotten. May her memory be eternal. Toni Pappas*

Toni Pappas - September 12, 2024 at 07:23 AM

JS

“ *Nancy was such a wonderful person and a great friend. We shared many good times in the White House, Palm Springs and the Caribbean. I am thankful that I had you as a friend. Love, Jayne Snarsky*

Jayne Snarsky - September 12, 2024 at 07:22 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Nancy H. Sununu.*



September 11, 2024 at 02:40 PM

AA

“ Anne and Mike Ambrogi purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Nancy H. Sununu.



Anne and Mike Ambrogi - September 10, 2024 at 05:31 PM

AA

“ Anne and Mike Ambrogi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy H. Sununu.

Anne and Mike Ambrogi - September 10, 2024 at 05:31 PM



“ Deepest condolences & sympathy to the entire Sununu family. Nancy was a very kind person. John T. Bondola

John Bondola - September 10, 2024 at 12:32 PM

SG

“ Sam & Gus planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy H. Sununu.

Sam & Gus - September 09, 2024 at 09:16 PM

SG

“ Sam & Gus purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Nancy H. Sununu.



Sam & Gus - September 09, 2024 at 09:16 PM

DM

“ David & Tina McCarthy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy H. Sununu.

David & Tina McCarthy - September 09, 2024 at 07:33 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Nancy H. Sununu.



September 09, 2024 at 07:33 PM

DM

“ God Bless



Donna M Meyer Miller - September 09, 2024 at 03:22 PM

JW

“ We are so sorry to hear about the passing of our former neighbor and friend Nancy Sununu. She was the real thing and always thinking of others----Jack and Marci Williams

Jack Williams - September 08, 2024 at 05:19 PM

BS

“ *Barbara Ashley & her Gauthier sons purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of Nancy H. Sununu.*



Barbara Ashley & her Gauthier sons - September 08, 2024 at 02:15 PM

BK

“ *John and family,
So sorry to hear of the passing of Nancy. I can remember serving on a citizen study committee with her in Salem and driving the boys to baseball games. Nice memories. When someone you love becomes a memory, then your memories become a treasure. May you and yours find peace and comfort in your fond memories of Nancy.
With sympathy,
Beverly Kuncho and family*

Beverly Kuncho - September 08, 2024 at 12:36 PM

EL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. She was a beautiful lady,inside and out. She'll be greatly missed*

Elfi - September 08, 2024 at 08:57 AM

TD

“ *My condolences to all. Lots of great memories hanging out in the basement on Samoset. Sending love, hugs and prayers. - Tina Marinelli Doherty*

Tina Marinelli Doherty - September 07, 2024 at 09:18 PM

GB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time. Nancy and John SR were so kind and gracious to my sons and I when Allen died.*

Ginny Bridle - September 07, 2024 at 05:48 PM

BM

“ *My condolences to the entire Sununu family on Mrs. Sununu's passing. May she Rest in Peace.*

Bob Molloy - September 07, 2024 at 03:58 PM