



Nancy Phelps

August 31, 2023

Nancy Phelps, lawyer, mother, opera lover, and Bucks fan, died at her home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 31 after a valiant battle with cancer. She was 82 years old.

Nancy grew up on a farm but quickly knew that was not the life she wanted. So she went to college, spending her junior year abroad in England, later living in New York City and working for The New Yorker Magazine. In 1972 she graduated from Marquette University Law School, one of only six women in her class. She practiced family law for over 50 years, named Best Civil Practitioner by the Milwaukee Bar in 1988. She really cared about her clients and worked hard for them. In addition, she worked as a court commissioner for years, marrying couples in interesting places like County Stadium during the 7th inning stretch and in a horse and buggy carriage ride down the streets of Milwaukee. She also served on many boards like the Parklawn YMCA and Hansberry-Sands Theatre Company, and she was president of the Milwaukee Florentine Opera Club.

Nancy loved life. She traveled all over the world but loved living at The Cudahy in downtown Milwaukee. She collected art. She hosted Oscar watching parties where everyone dressed up and ate hors d'oeuvres. She had season tickets to the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, along with the Milwaukee Bucks, Green Bay Packers, Marquette Golden Eagles, and UWM

Panthers. She knew everyone (or could get to know anyone). She was smart, funny, passionate, determined. She was a good friend and a great mother. She is survived by her children, Dr Lori Phelps, Libbey (Bob Stueber), and Melissa McGee; her grandchildren Rickey, Julia, and Shawn; her nephew, Dr Jeffery Molkentin, and his family; her ex-husband, Rick; and extended family and many, many friends.

Nancy and her family want to thank Mt Sinai for their excellent medical care, including Jessica Wolz and Laurel Marek, along with Dr Gabriel Ryan at Froedtert Hospital for his smart and compassionate consultation.

There will be a celebration of life at the Wisconsin Club at 900 West Wisconsin on Sunday, September 10, with visitation from 1-2:30PM and a memorial service from 2:30-3:30PM, with hors d'oeuvres to follow. Donations in Nancy's name can be made to the Milwaukee Florentine Opera or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *To Lori, Libby, and Melissa,*

Just heard about Nancy. I'm very sorry to hear about Nancy. May her memory always be a blessing to all of you.

So many memories from Larkin and Prospect. Very sorry for your loss .

Mike Berkeley, Chicago

Michael Berkeley - September 18, 2024 at 01:42 PM

DM

“ *I met Nancy and her beautiful family when I met my new brother Rick Phelps. We became fast friends and in my heart I considered her my sister.. She was one of the most compassionate, loving, and caring people I have ever met in my life. I was in awe of her relationships with her children and ex-husband, Rick. She raised her beautiful daughters to be the same caring and independent individuals as she was herself. She and I both believed that family was first. I miss her and I will miss her till I see her again. I love you Sissy..*

donnamarie Mattsen - October 08, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Missy and family, my deepest condolences for your loss. Missy, I remember you and your mom stopping in Bruegger's during your evening walks in high school. It was clear how much she adored you and I know you felt the same for her. I encountered your mom occasionally at the courthouse and she was always a joy -- she would say hi and catch me up on her girls' lives; she was so very proud of you! Wishing you warm memories to ease the sadness and holding you all in my heart.

Kate McChrystal - September 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ What a sweetheart was Nancy Phelps. She embodied class, and no attorney outdid her in competence and compassion. Sports teams and opera companies were enhanced the day she became a fan. And she showed her daughters what it meant to be a mom. Miss you indeed, Nancy.

Jim Gramling - September 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Nancy was a multifaceted woman of many talents. She not only was a credit to her profession, a wonderful hostess, councilor, and ultimately a dear friend. She created a group of her clients into the "First Wives Club". They are a fun and support group who have shared hell as well as good times these many years. Nancy has earned her wings, a true blessing in the lives of so many and will always be cherished.

Patricia Rooney-Kosut - September 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

NY

“ Just simply the best Attorney & Person. RIP Nancy. May your memory be for a blessing.

Neal Yampol - September 04, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ My condolences to Nancy's three daughters. Nancy was a friend and a great lunch partner several times at the Harbor House as well as other fine restaurants. Nancy was a very kind and generous person who was also a brilliant conversationalist. I will greatly miss our times together.

*Rest in peace my friend
Ed Moline*

Ed Moline - September 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Got to know Nancy through Kari & Chris Olsen. Enjoyed many a meal & conversation with Nancy at the Harbor House and other fine restaurants. Knew Nancy to be a very kind and intelligent lady. I will miss her friendship. God bless and keep you Nancy. My condolences to her daughters.

Ed Moline - September 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

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Ed Moline - September 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ Nancy, I will miss you so much. You were such a good friend. Our wonderful conversations about the Bucks, the stock market, the law, your beautiful collection of artwork will be cherished always. Getting to meet you was one of the many benefits from my marriage to Rosemary who loves you so much. Rest in peace, dear Nancy. Tom Binns

Tom Binns - September 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Dear Lori, Libbey, Melissa and Families, I met Nancy in law school in 1969 and we immediately became very close friends, from passing secret notes to each other during class about the professors and classmates! to studying hard and graduating. Nancy was a highly respected member of the Bar and supportive, fun friend. You have my sympathy.

Karyn Driessen - September 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Nancy was an outstanding, kind, loving woman. My relationship with her began with her affiliation with The Hansberry Sands Theatre Company, many years ago as a board member. She enabled the theater company to take our annual fundraiser, "An Evening of Red and White," to another level. Through her membership at the prestigious Wisconsin Club, we were able to hold the event there for many years. She also hosted several theatre company events at her home. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family and will keep you in my prayers. Nancy will truly be missed by those who's lives she touched. 🌹

Delores E. Hollins - September 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Nancy was a woman who did it her way, when most women didn't. She had the courage to go to a law school, which I'm sure was mostly men and the smarts to hold her place there. She could talk to anyone, and I really enjoyed talking to her. She was my step sister, but we considered each other sisters. Could always find the best on people.

Lela Theriault - September 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM