



Nancy Rettie Graham

May 27, 1930 - November 17, 2021

Nancy Rettie Graham, (91) a positively radiant, loving, Godly woman, died November 17, 2021. A private family Memorial Service was held. Memorial contributions may be made to the Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Ms. Graham was born in Winnetka, Illinois, and moved to Florida with her family in 1935. She grew up in Ft. Lauderdale. While attending Florida State University, she was a member of Gold Key Honorary Society and Kappa Delta Sorority and served in the Student Senate. After graduation, she served on the Alumnae Board of Directors and remained a loyal Seminole, attending football games and taking classes in recent years offered by the FSU Senior Academy (OLLI).

During the 35 years Nancy worked for the State of Florida, she served in the Speaker's Office in the House of Representatives and as Executive Assistant to six Commissioners of Education, the Insurance Commissioner and the State's Chief Financial Officer.

Nancy will be remembered for her zest for life and for being, in her words, a "cockeyed optimist". Our lives and hopefully our characters have been shaped by her eternal optimism and her strong faith. She always saw the good in everything and everybody and compassionately lived her faith. She received joy from writing poems to commemorate family and friends' birthdays and other special events. She also had an adventurous spirit. Whether sky diving to celebrate her 65th birthday, climbing the Sydney Australia Harbour Bridge

at 74 or ziplining at 90, she enjoyed life to the fullest.

Nancy enjoyed sharing her talents with the community. For many years, she was a mentor at Rickards High, Raa Middle and Bond Elementary Schools. She eagerly took part in the annual United Way drive, and enthusiastically motivated her peers to participate in the Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, the Burleigh Law Sunday School Class, Stephens Ministry, Walk to Emmaus Reunion group, the Susanna Wesley Circle and TEAM, a countywide, interdenominational group working toward social justice. She was selected for the Tallahassee Active Lifelong Leaders (TALL) program, a community leadership program for people ages 50 and above, by Leadership Tallahassee. Nancy was recognized for her volunteer contributions by being selected as a Silver Star by the Tallahassee Senior Center, and when Volunteer Florida and the Governor's Office chose her as one of the State's Points of Light.

Survivors include three children, Gena Varn (Fred), Lisa Strickland (Steve), Bill Graham (Julz), 10 grandchildren Ryan (Lindsay), Laura (Will), Nathan (Nikki) and Wil (Allison) Varn, Dallas (Kirsten), MacKenzie (Shawn) and Sydney (Sara) Strickland, and Jackson (Lisa), Sophie and Camille Graham, and 16 great-grandchildren Ashton, Tullen, Thatcher, Fynn and Livie Strickland, Elsie Anne and Craven Fraser, Tristan, Daven, Grady, Anslee, Watson Varn, Wyatt Hudson, Wyatt, Chloe and Henry Patrick. Ms. Graham was preceded in death by her husband, William B. (Billy) Graham in 1966, her parents, George and Elsie Rettie of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, her brother, George Rettie of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and her great-granddaughter Janie Paige Fraser.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)

Tribute Wall

SC

“ I loved spending time with Nancy, and missed seeing her at church when she moved. We were roommates at a Saint Paul's women's retreat several years ago. She was as beautiful inside as she was outside, and always added light to a room when she was present. What a gift she was to anyone who knew her!

Stephanie Corry - January 1, 2022

Stephanie Corry - January 01, 2022 at 02:25 PM

SR

“ Mrs. Graham was my Mom's volunteer when she was in hospice and became her dear friend. Her friendship brightened Mom's last days.

Steve Ray - December 18, 2021 at 01:05 PM

AD

“ Nancy Graham was such a special lady. Having worked with her in the Capitol and enjoying many lunches with the “gang,” she was always a leader. She'll be missed greatly. Condolences to the family she loved so much.

Annette Deason - November 24, 2021 at 01:41 PM

JS

“ I was very sorry to hear of your mother's passing, Bill. Although I didn't know her, I knew her wonderful grandchildren from Holy Comforter. She was an amazing lady and was blessed with an amazing, loving family.

Love and blessings,
June Stivers

june stivers - November 24, 2021 at 12:35 PM

ML

“ My husband Charlie Nuzzo and I were stunned to read of Nancy's death in this morning's Democrat. Our sympathies are with you - and we feel a great loss, too.

I met Nancy in the 1970s when she worked for Ralph Turlington at DOE and I was a reporter. In more recent years we were reacquainted when she moved to Allegra Senior Living. Charlie is a vocalist and has been singing there regularly over the years.

I always come along to visit with people - and especially with Nancy. The last time we were there, in September, Nancy was, as always, so gracious and interested in everything, and beautifully dressed! I just hope so much that her end came painlessly and with her last breath enjoying the long and wonderful life she had. I know you will miss her terribly and will have a lifetime of memories to cherish.

Mary Ann Lindley

lindley04@comcast.net

Mary Ann Lindley - November 24, 2021 at 10:40 AM