



Nancye Lou (Briesacher) Bethurem

August 7, 1954 - February 4, 2025

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, Nancye Lou (Briesacher) Bethurem, an intrepid sojourner, embarked on her final adventure to her heavenly home. She was a Christian, raised in the United Methodist Church, and accepted Jesus Christ as her savior early in her life. She was born on August 7, 1954, to Frederick and Edna Briesacher in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in Waynesville, Missouri. She passed away in Mercy Hospital of St. Louis after a courageous battle against cancer.

She was a graduate of the University of Missouri-Rolla (Now Missouri S&T) with a B.A. in History, University of Missouri-Columbia with a B.S. in Education, Central Missouri University with a M.S. in Education, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law (J.D.) and University of Nevada Las Vegas with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science. She spent her career working as an educator, counselor and lawyer. She recently retired as an attorney working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While working as a counselor at the Waynesville R-VI School District, Nancye married Steven Bethurem and they lived in Waynesville for a short time until moving to Kansas City for Nancye to attend UMKC School of Law, and Steven to attend UMKC School of Business. They moved there with their young son, Eric Bays, and the family grew while in Kansas City to include another, son, Steven Joseph Bethurem, Jr. Nancye was employed during her second year

of law school at UMKC as a teaching assistant and during her final year of law school as a legal intern at the Health & Human Service Administration. Following graduation, she was employed with a law firm in Kansas City, Missouri.

The family later moved to Dallas, Texas where Nancye worked as a litigation attorney in private practice and then with the FDIC. While in Dallas, the family was active in church (St. Mark's United Methodist Church), youth sports for the two boys (baseball, basketball and soccer), scouting and school activities as well as community, charity and volunteer activities. Nancye was particularly active in the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, where she became President and the Texas Women Lawyers, which she helped to establish and became the first President and Executive Director. Nancye was a passionate supporter of women's rights and worked on legislative proposals to provide for equality for women and girls. When the family moved to Hawaii, Nancye continued to advocate for women's rights and became President of Hawaii Women Lawyers and served on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation. She was also actively involved in various other community and charity events, working to eliminate gender and racial/ethnic discrimination and to make a difference in the lives of those around her. The family spent their free time enjoying the outdoor activities that were abundant in Hawaii, including scuba diving, hiking and swimming. Christmas spent on Waikiki Beach was a highlight for the family.

Nancye was always a strong advocate for environmental causes, including providing legal advice on environmental issues. This was enhanced by her love of nature, and particularly of the ocean and beaches. She fulfilled a lifetime dream of diving the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia in 2024.

Nancye rejoiced in her career as an attorney, and worked in numerous

locations across the country, including Texas, Hawaii (working for the U.S. Army and in private practice), Las Vegas, NV (working for the U.S. Air Force Nellis Air Force Base, Air Warfare Center), NW Arkansas (an Assistant General Counsel at Walmart), South Carolina (Senior Counsel at a contractor to the Department of Energy) and her last position in Dallas, Texas, as an attorney for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Southwestern Division and working remotely from Missouri for the North Atlantic Division). Throughout her career, she was also an author and prepared op-eds for newspapers. She was an instructor, panelist and moderator at professional seminars and conferences on topics as diverse as federal procedure, banking law, labor and employment and environmental law topics. She taught as an adjunct professor at UNLV on environmental law and environmental impact analysis, two of her favorite subjects. She participated on the American Bar Association, Section of Environmental and Natural Resources Section planning committee for several years, preparing high quality education to legal professionals across the country. She was a member of the Missouri Bar, the Hawaii Bar, the Texas Bar, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the National Association of Women Lawyers, and the American Bar Association. She earned the MAAT Justice Award from the State Bar of Texas for the attorney who most contributed to the furtherance of justice in society. She was also a member of the Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club. Although she had a long legal career, and participated in litigation matters throughout her career, her favorite case was one of her earliest, representing the NCAA in a win at the Supreme Court in *NCAA v. Tarkanian*, 488 U.S. 179 (1988). One of her most proud accomplishments was participating in a major clean-up of Cold War legacy nuclear waste by closing two 1.3-million-gallon underground storage tanks that previously held radioactive liquid waste from nuclear weapons production, significantly reducing environmental risk to people and to the environment.

She loved her family fiercely. She was a devoted wife, mother, aunt and sister. Nobody was more important to her than her husband and sons. She was also thrilled to welcome daughters-in-law and then grandchildren into her family, and she loved them all dearly.

She also developed many lifetime friends in various places that she lived and worked, from growing up in Waynesville, teaching at the Laquey and Waynesville VI School District to working at various law firms and federal agencies throughout her career. She loved her co-workers, friends and family. When her son, Eric, died in 2019, she relied upon her faith, family, friends and fun to get her through that time of intense grief and suffering. It was essential to her that she was surrounded by such a strong circle when she needed it most.

Nancye loved to travel. She was always looking forward to her next trip or happily reminiscing about her most recent or favorite adventure. Some of her favorite trips were “road trips” from Dallas to Florida or other destinations when the family took yearly vacations. Nancye loved her family, her friends, her co-workers, and she also loved music. She also loved to take photos of the family and the places that they visited. She was kind, intelligent and loved helping others. She was known for her generosity and her legacy of service, compassion and empathy. She will always be remembered for her volunteer spirit. Nancye was a beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. Nancye will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by those who knew and loved her.

She leaves to cherish her memory her husband: Steven Joseph Bethurem of the home; son: Steven Joseph Bethurem, Jr. (Amy Eads-Bethurem) of Troy, MO; five grandchildren: Brandon Bays, Brooklyn Bays, Steven Jones, Ben Bethurem and Connor Bethurem; two sisters: Linda Johnson of Osage Beach, MO and Carol Gassner (Robert Benavidez) of Lake Ozark, MO; sister-in-law:

Beverly Bethurem Richardson of Stoutland, MO; brothers-in-law: Bruce Bethurem (Karen) and Robert Bethurem of Stoutland, MO; along with many other cherished relatives and friends.

Her family takes comfort in knowing she has been reunited with those who have gone before, including her beloved son, Eric Andrew Bays, her parents, Frederick and Edna Briesacher, her father-in-law and mother-in-law Waldo and Alice Bethurem, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, February 10, 2025, in the Waypoint Church of Waynesville, MO with Pastor Brett Reith officiating. Nancye's neice, Stacey Mosher and Nancye's dear friend, BG (Ret) Maritza Ryan, both recalled their wonderful memories of Nancye and delivered beautiful eulogies of Nancye. Pianist Cheryl Wood led the congregation in singing "It Is Well With my Soul", "Standing on the Promises of God", and "Hymn of Promise". The songs "Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole and "Happy" by Pharrell Williams were played. Following the service, a celebration of Nancye's life continued in the fellowship hall with a hot chocolate social. Services were under the care and direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Nancye Bethurem to the Waypoint Church and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert or at the church the day of the service.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 9:30 AM.

Waypoint Church Of Waynesville

Celebration of Life Service

FEB 10. 11:00 AM.

Waypoint Church Of Waynesville

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancye and I met as young children. Our mothers were friends who sang in the church choir and shared a love for bowling. Our early years and youth revolved around life in our small town and wonderful church home (then, Waynesville United Methodist Church). In Sunday School, we sang joy-filled songs, listened to beautiful stories of God's love and learned about Jesus . . . the Center of our Joy.*

As young adults, we taught school and bowled in the teachers' league together. Over the years we took different paths, reconnecting now and again - - always at the best possible moment - - the Divine moment.

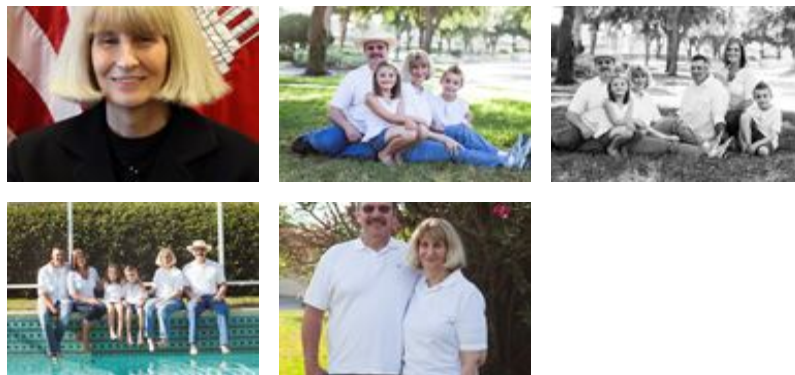
God used Nancye to encourage, comfort and intercede in my life. I am grateful for this Godly woman; thankful to call her a lifelong friend.

Holding you Steve, and all the family in our hearts!

Randee Gibson - February 20, 2025 at 03:08 PM



“ 179 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - February 09, 2025 at 04:37 PM

SK

“ I had the pleasure of working with Nancye at the North Atlantic Division. Her kindness and positive spirit always brightened meetings. It was a privilege to collaborate with such a brilliant and thoughtful person. I am sending my deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Suzanne Kimble - February 09, 2025 at 12:41 PM

SS

“ Susie Snelling lit a candle in memory of Nancye Bethurem



Susie Snelling - February 08, 2025 at 06:09 PM

JS

“ James and Belinda Sands lit a candle in memory of Nancye Bethurem



James and Belinda Sands - February 08, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ How tragic. Nancy and I were high school classmates, college classmates and later legal contemporaries. She was a brilliant mind, and a good person. She ranged far and climbed high, but never lost touch with life. I'm glad to have know her, sad that she is gone so soon.

Pat Starke - February 07, 2025 at 08:26 PM

DC

“ To the Bethurem Family and Loved Ones,

I am so sorry to hear of Nancye's passing. I worked with Nancye for several years when we were both attorneys with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Nancye worked as hard as anyone I know, took great pains to be as prepared as possible, and always sought a solution that protected and defended the law. She did so with great tact, generosity, and warmth. Farewell, Nancye.

David Cooper

David Cooper - February 07, 2025 at 09:07 AM

PT

“ *I am so deeply sad to know that Nancye has passed. We have been friends since childhood. Her brilliant mind and kind heart will be missed greatly by all who knew her. My deepest sympathy goes out to her family and loved ones.*



Pamela Thompson - February 06, 2025 at 02:07 PM

JB

“ *Nancye always ran toward the challenges. Whether we were facing high-powered opponents, a complex legal issue or a nearly insurmountable research task, Nancye approached our hardest problems with an enthusiasm that proved infectious. She was a force for good, inspiring those around her to achieve their highest levels, but this drive was powered by her family. Even when she provided her all to us at work, her heart was always with them. She loved them deeply. They were the center of her existence, and rightfully so. May she rest in peace.*

Jacqueline Bouchard - February 06, 2025 at 01:42 PM

JB

“ *Nancye you will be truly missed in this world. Not just for your professional experience (which was incredible) but for the kindness you showed to everyone who crossed your path. I enjoyed our every conversation and your boundless wisdom! Julie Byars*

Julie Byars - February 06, 2025 at 12:53 PM

LH

“ *linda (Lytell) Harkness lit a candle in memory of Nancye Bethurem*



linda (Lytell) Harkness - February 06, 2025 at 12:35 PM

LH

“ *Steve so sorry for your loss it's been way to many this past year . you Bruce, Robert, and Bev have been a part of our family for many years. My heart and prayers go out to your family May God bring your family peace. God Bless Linda (Lytell) Harkness*

linda (Lytell) Harkness - February 06, 2025 at 12:35 PM

SD

“ *I am sending prayers and condolences to your family.*

Sandra Duerinck - February 06, 2025 at 11:35 AM

AD

“ To the Bethurem family,

I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. I am a colleague of Nancye's and I am very sad to hear this news. Nancye was such a lovely person and helped me countless times at work - always with a smile and a lot of patience. I wish you peace and comfort as you grieve.

*Respectfully,
Ann Marie DiLorenzo*



A DiLorenzo - February 06, 2025 at 10:28 AM

RV

“ *Nancye was a selfless teammate and an absolute joy to work with. Her passing leaves me with great sadness. The grief for the passing of such a bright and kind soul for those in her personal and family lives must be immense. May God bless you.*

Robert Vohden - February 06, 2025 at 09:58 AM

AC

“ *A very heartfelt message I just read by Paula Schasberger for Nancy, as a friend and a colleague. I did not know Nancy, but was touched by the message and the dedication that she has with USACE, her profession and her colleagues. I understand that Nancy will be missed by many and I am glad at least to get to know about her a little. My condolences for her families and friends.*
Andrew Chan

Andrew Chan - February 06, 2025 at 09:58 AM

DH

“ I have so many thoughts to share that I can't organize them into something coherent. I'm so grateful I got to know Nancye, if only for a short time. Nancye was loved and will be missed by many. Rest in peace, friend.



Dennis Hutchinson - February 06, 2025 at 09:49 AM

HH

“ Condolences to Nancye's family and friends. May Nancye rest in peace.



Hibba Haber - February 06, 2025 at 09:47 AM

BR

“ Betty Lytell Rupard lit a candle in memory of Nancye Bethurem



Betty Lytell Rupard - February 06, 2025 at 09:34 AM

DM

“ Debby (Johnson) Myers sent a virtual gift in memory of Nancye Bethurem



Debby (Johnson) Myers - February 06, 2025 at 09:13 AM

BR

“ Beverly Richardson lit a candle in memory of Nancye Bethurem



Beverly Richardson - February 06, 2025 at 12:12 AM

ES

“ Ellen S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Nancye Lou (Briesacher) Bethurem.



Ellen S. - February 05, 2025 at 06:08 PM

CD

“ Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Nancye Bethurem



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - February 05, 2025 at 05:49 PM

TG

“ Nancye,
You were strong and selfless and are dearly missed. Thank you for all you have taught me by example. I know you are where God is, and I hope to see you there one day.
Tammy G

Tamar Gerhart - February 05, 2025 at 04:54 PM

ST

“ One of my best memories of Nancy was when we were little girls, her parents and my parents were the very best of friends and her family would come over on a Sunday and spend the day and evening with us and when it was time for my twin sister and I to take a bath, Edna, their mother, would put Nancy in the bathtub with my sister and I. That way when they got home late on those Sunday evenings, Edna only had to bath Nancy's two oldest daughters. Nancy would already be ready for bed.

Sue Terry - February 05, 2025 at 02:53 PM