



Nancy Lee Bates

August 3, 1939 - May 23, 2024

Nancy Lee Bates, age 84, of Albia, IA, passed away on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at Vista Woods Care Center in Ottumwa, IA.

Nancy was born on August 3, 1939, in Winifred, MT, to Kuzma and Johanna (Pipinich) Simac. She was the 15th of 17 children and the youngest girl in the family. Nancy grew up on a small family ranch in Montana. She graduated from high school before attending Montana State University for 2 years. Nancy moved to California where she met the love of her life, Dr. James Joseph Bates. Nancy and Jim were united in marriage on September 26, 1964, in West Los Angeles and to this union, 4 children were born, Joe, Jim, Maggie, and Bob. Nancy and Jim were blessed with 48 years of marriage prior to Jim's passing on July 10, 2012.

Nancy worked for a physician's group while in California, receiving training in a variety of areas, including phlebotomy. Upon Jim's discharge from the Navy, they moved to Iowa where Jim opened a dental practice. Nancy's most treasured and important job was staying home to raise her children, ensuring all their needs were met, taking them everywhere, and never missing activities such as ball games or golf tournaments.

Nancy was a devout member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia and had an unwavering faith. She enjoyed being outdoors. She loved flowers, the

tropicana rose being her favorite, and took pride in her flower gardening. Nancy was always active and enjoyed playing golf and taking walks. She was a phenomenal cook, known for her lasagna. She was selfless and generous, a true example of having a “heart of gold” and was always demonstrating her love for others. Nancy enjoyed visiting with others and entertaining. Above all else, Nancy’s family was everything to her and she cherished all the time spent with them.

Nancy is survived by 4 children, Dr. Joe (Maureen) Bates, Jim (Lauren) Bates, Maggie (Mike) Cassidy, and Bob (Rebecca) Bates; 5 grandchildren, Katie Cassidy, and Sam, Charlie, Will and Hannah Bates; a sister, Lucy Carr; and 2 brothers, Jim and Bob Simac. Nancy is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Jim Bates; her parents, Kuzma and Johanna; and siblings, Helen, Joseph, Stephany, Anne, Mary, Margaret, Rosie, Katy, Joan, Fannie, John, Dicy, and Jerry.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Nancy’s family present from 4:00-8:00 p.m. to greet family and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Albia, with Father Mark Yates, C.P.P.S. and Father Michael Rossmann, S.J. co-officiating. Burial will follow services at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Albia.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to the Albia Public Library.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Albia, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 29. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
730 Benton Ave W
Albia, IA

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Nancy was such a beautiful woman inside and out. So sorry for your loss Maggie and family❤️
Anne Thomas and family

Anne Thomas - May 28, 2024 at 05:30 PM

MM

“ Martin, Mary, Ed, Kathy, Floss Mendel purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Martin, Mary, Ed, Kathy, Floss Mendel - May 28, 2024 at 12:39 PM

DF

“ Dale and Nina Smith and family purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Dale and Nina Smith and family - May 28, 2024 at 09:04 AM

DS

“ Daryl W Smith purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Daryl W Smith - May 28, 2024 at 05:31 AM

DU

“ Dustin purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Dustin - May 27, 2024 at 11:43 AM

SB

“ I was so sad to hear of Nancy's passing. I have so many wonderful memories of Aunt Nancy and will miss her birthday and frequent calls. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Cherish her memories and hold them close. Rest in peace. Shirley Burnham

Shirley Burnham - May 27, 2024 at 11:38 AM

YA

“ Your friends at Aristocrat planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Lee Bates.

Your friends at Aristocrat - May 27, 2024 at 11:12 AM

YA

“ Your friends at Aristocrat purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Your friends at Aristocrat - May 27, 2024 at 11:12 AM

RV

“ Roger @ Jackie Vestal purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Roger @ Jackie Vestal - May 26, 2024 at 10:19 PM

GS

“ Gayle, Dave, Lindsey, Ben, and Scott purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



Gayle, Dave, Lindsey, Ben, and Scott - May 26, 2024 at 07:51 PM

FR

“ From the Mueller's, Leskinen's, & Rowans purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.



From the Mueller's, Leskinen's, & Rowans - May 26, 2024 at 02:21 PM

DB

“ Desiree, Shane, and Jasmine Bradley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Lee Bates.

Desiree, Shane, and Jasmine Bradley - May 26, 2024 at 01:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.*



May 26, 2024 at 01:35 PM



“ *Jim and Bev Simac purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.*



Jim and Bev Simac - May 26, 2024 at 01:00 PM



“ *The Dunn's, the Tanner's and the Lambert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Lee Bates.*

The Dunn's, the Tanner's and the Lambert - May 26, 2024 at 10:43 AM



“ *The Dunn's, the Tanner's and the Lambert purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.*



The Dunn's, the Tanner's and the Lambert - May 26, 2024 at 10:43 AM



“ *The Lawrence's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Lee Bates.*

The Lawrence's - May 26, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Nancy Lee Bates.*



May 26, 2024 at 08:27 AM