



Nancy Jo Leonard

December 23, 1947 - October 23, 2022

Nancy Jo Leonard, age 74, of Ottumwa, IA, passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Unity Point Health-Allen Hospital in Waterloo, IA.

Nancy was born on December 23, 1947, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ottumwa, IA, to David and Harriet (Windle) Lewis. She grew up attending school in Ottumwa and graduated with the class of 1966. On October 16, 1971, she was united in marriage to Fred Leonard at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ottumwa and to this union, a daughter, Nicki, was born. Nancy and Fred shared 51 years of marriage prior to her passing.

Nancy had a long career in teaching dance classes. She taught at the Lois Rae Watts School of Dance in Ottumwa. When Nicki was around 10 years old, Nancy started Nancy's School of Dance, teaching in Eddyville, Blakesburg, and Moravia. In 1994, she starting teaching at Dance Time in Ottumwa before working as the receptionist and helping teach at Nicki's Dance Time in Albia in 2006-2007. Nancy then worked at Busy Bee Laundry in Ottumwa until she retired.

Nancy was very artistic and talented with crafts. She was an excellent baker, making cookies and cakes of all kinds, and was known for her cake decorating skills. She was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and loved cats and dogs, especially her dogs, Mimi, Muffy, and Taylor and Siamese cat, Charlie.

Nancy was very thoughtful, caring, and generous. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and helping plan and decorate for birthday parties. Her true joy in life was her grandson, Ben, whom she adored. She cherished all of the time she spent with him, especially taking him back to school shopping each year, to movies and out to eat at McDonalds and to the park to feed the geese. She was one of his biggest fans, never missing a baseball game, no matter how early she had to get up or how far she had to travel to get there. She often brought treats for Ben's team, the Timber Rattlers, who affectionately called her G-ma Rattler.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Fred Leonard; her daughter, Nicki (Brian) Pumphrey; her grandson, Ben Pumphrey; and good friends, Georgia Larue and Carla Ladely.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, David and Harriet Lewis and her grandmother, Donna Windle.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Nancy's family present to greet family and friends. Per Nancy's wishes, her family requests that those in attendance dress casually.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 29, 2022, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Pastor Ryan Smith officiating. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the family to be used for youth baseball.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Jo Leonard*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Nancy Jo Leonard*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Nancy and I went to school together. She was one grade behind me but we rode the bus together. We met up again later in life. She was neighbors with my brother, Junior. I was so happy to reconnect with her. She was such a sweet friend.*

Marcene Powers - October 25, 2022 at 05:46 PM



“ *As next-door neighbors growing up we shared a lot of memories. Horseback riding, going to look for a Christmas tree and having cookies and hot chocolate at your house afterwards, my sisters and I attending your dance recitals, and being involved in the fun activities of your wedding... A lot of good memories! A couple of years ago we reconnected on Facebook and I will definitely miss your cheery good nights and good mornings! Rest in peace sweet lady, you will be so missed.*

Debbie Hintz - October 25, 2022 at 10:40 AM

MH

“ *Dear Sweet Cousin, I met you so late and you and Fred were such great hosts. I wish I'd met you earlier so we could have known each other more. I love you, Dear One and I'm so sorry you're gone now. I hope my Howie catches up with you. Love to you, R est well now.*

Marcy Howell - October 24, 2022 at 05:17 PM