



Nancy Graves Ball

June 12, 1934 - October 16, 2023

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Nancy Graves Ball, daughter of Palmer Ray Ball and Bonnie May Ball (nee Sage) was born in Toms Creek, Virginia on June 12, 1934. She was the third and youngest surviving child in the family. Her childhood consisted of regular movement in the southeast Kentucky/southwest Virginia coal mining region of the Appalachian Mountains until the family eventually settled in Haysi, Virginia. Her father was an accountant and her mother was a teacher and renowned local historian. She grew up amidst hardship, and yet emerged an intelligent, sensitive, creative and fiercely independent woman.

She graduated from Haysi High School in 1952 and went on to Berea College, where she earned a degree in English and graduated in 1956.

After completing school, Nancy moved to Chicago, where her sister, Dorothy,

and
brother-in-law, Basil had settled following their marriage. In Chicago, she
worked a
variety of jobs, including case worker, receptionist and bicycle messenger.
She also
acted in local theatre and most importantly, made numerous close and life-
long
friends.

Nancy's father passed away in 1981. When her mother's health began to
falter later
in the 1980's, she moved to Big Stone Gap, Virginia, where she cared for her
mother until her passing in 1996. Following the loss of her mother, Nancy
remained
in Big Stone Gap and was well-known for creating the breathtaking scenery
for the
local outdoor drama, The Trail of the Lonesome Pine. Her scenery is briefly
captured
in the film Big Stone Gap, based on the book by Big Stone Gap native Adriana
Trigiani. She was often called upon for her extraordinary artistic talent for
personal
projects and background scenery for local school theater and dance events.
Her
family and friends were annual recipients of her exquisite holiday drawings of
nativity scenes.

Nancy was a faithful and active member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in
Norton,
Virginia.
Father Tim Drake was with her shortly before her passing, and her dear
friends Joie

Cantrell and Christina Gipson were holding her hands as she transitioned. Nancy was preceded in death by her father and mother, her sister Dorothy, her brother George, her brother Maurice, (who passed in infancy before Nancy's birth), and her niece Deborah Sams.

She is survived by nephews Eric Ball, Timothy Sams and Barry Booton, and by niece Katharine Booton Wilson, by her brother-in-law, Basil Booton, and by countless close, loving friends.

Nancy's independent spirit and gentle nature inspire us to speak our own truths while remaining loving and connected to those around us. She will be dearly missed.

The family will receive friends from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday November 13th at Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Norton, with a service to follow at 11:00 officiated by Father Tim Drake.

Burial will be at the Ball family plot in the Cecil-Fry Cemetery in Pennington Gap following.

An online register is available for the family at www.holdingfuneralhome.com
Holding Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Ball

Cemetery Details

Cecil-Fry Cemetery

Pennington Gap, VA 24277

Tribute Wall

GM

“ I was saddened to learn that my cousin, Nancy, had passed away. We had a good relationship over the years that she lived in BSG. We kept in contact with each other through visits, phone calls, and text messaging. I will miss having our conversations and her friendship. A memory of her will still linger with me. She is gone but not forgotten.

Glenna Ball McReynolds - November 11, 2023 at 08:43 PM

LM

“ Larry & Glenna McReynolds purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Nancy Graves Ball.



Larry & Glenna McReynolds - November 11, 2023 at 10:20 AM

JW

“ Nancy has been a beloved, and constant part of my life since 2005. You have been an inspiration to me, and to many who truly know you. Your loss is felt deeply even though you have transitioned to a greater realm of light where pain and suffering linger no more. May light perpetual shine upon you, and as John Donne has written in a sermon preached at White-hall, February 29, 1628:
*Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
Into the house and gate of heaven.
To enter that gate and dwell in that house,
Where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
No noise nor silence, but one equal music;
No fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
No ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
In the habitation of thy glory and dominion,
World without end, Amen.*

Jeremy Woodard - November 02, 2023 at 10:27 PM

RM

“ Roy L. Munsey lit a candle in memory of
Nancy Graves Ball



Roy L. Munsey - October 27, 2023 at 10:35 PM

SS

“ Nancy’s incredible talent was such a gift to everyone who have participated or attended the “Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama.” Nancy literally painted the giant backdrop every year for years and years and it was magnificent! If you knew Nancy she was tiny, almost frail but she stood on ladders or platforms, very often in the scorching Sun and donated her talent to the masses! In all the years I was Treasurer I don’t remember being asked to reimburse her for the paint or brushes either! Rarely has ANYONE given so much to so many with so little recognition! If you knew Nancy you knew that she didn’t have a vehicle and she walked miles and miles in her lifetime! Many of us gave Nancy a ride when we saw her passing by! Thank you, thank you Nancy for sharing your talent and your gifts with so many! Welcome to Heaven!

Susan Moon Sanders

Susan Sanders - October 24, 2023 at 11:07 AM