



Caroline Josephine Spana

July 24, 1937 - January 14, 2021

On Thursday, January 14, 2021, Caroline Josephine Spana — revered matriarch, nursing professor, vaccination advocate, ruthless Scrabble opponent and seamstress — left this existence on her terms, at home with family. She was 83 years old.

She was born in San Antonio on July 24, 1937, to Leo and Hazel (Terry) Schoch. She attended Incarnate Word College where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1959. Caroline wed Ronald Spana, on July 29, 1960. Immediately afterwards, the couple left for Turkey for a few years. Upon returning to San Antonio, Caroline joined IWC's School of Nursing faculty in 1964 and soon thereafter completed a Master of Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University. In 1994, she earned a doctorate in Parent Child Nursing at the University of Texas at Austin.

Caroline was active in faculty governance at Incarnate Word, serving as the first woman to preside over the Faculty Association. In 2013, after a distinguished 50 years of service at the university, Caroline retired from her role as coordinator of student advising and director of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. For over 60 years, she acted in various local and state roles for the Texas Nurses Association, encouraged her students to become members of TNA and, ultimately, advocated for nurse participation in change and health policy making.

Caroline was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her brother Michael. She is survived by her siblings and their partners: Terry Schoch, Paul Schoch, Rita Schoch, Louise Wurz, Philip and Melanie Schoch, Pamela Schoch, Kyra and Jimmy Terral, Alan and Sylvia Schoch; her children and their partners: Paul and Susan Spana, Monica and Donna Schoch-Spana, David Spana, Chris Spana and Brenda Gentry, Adam Spana and Heidi Novotny, Aimée Spana and Stephen Wilson, and John and Amanda Spana; grandchildren: Chris, Leo, Sarah and Elizabeth; many nieces and nephews; and cat: McCracken (“Mac”).

Caroline will be remembered for many things: beneficence, both private and public; thriftiness (she never met a tin she wanted to throw out); her David-and-Goliath attitude toward the healthcare industry; making countless drapes, dresses, pajamas and Halloween costumes; her cross-stitch; her dolls; her wit; being a life-long reader; deftness with butterfly bandages; puzzling over puzzles.

A socially distanced funeral mass will be held at St. Matthew’s Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach, at 10 a.m., Friday, January 29. The mass will also be live-streamed with a virtual wake to follow at 3 p.m. Interment in the Terry family cemetery in San Saba, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the nursing scholarship Caroline established, the Margaret Wallace Nursing Scholarship at University of the Incarnate Word. Donations can be made online or mailed to University of the Incarnate Word, Development Office, 4301 Broadway CPO 317, San Antonio, TX 78209. Details for virtual services and online donations can be found at www.missionparks.com

Funeral mass livestream

<https://www.reelmissionmedia.com/live>

Virtual Wake, 3pmCST, Jan 29, 2021

To request Zoom login details, please email the family at
SpanaWake@gmail.com

Margaret Wallace Nursing Scholarship at
University of the Incarnate Word

https://commerce.cashnet.com/UIW_Margaret_Wallace_148

Tribute Wall

GW

“ I learned of your Mother’s death only today, and so I am freshly reminded of the wonderful things she achieved in her lifetime and of the very special place she holds for me. Ron, your Dad, was the dearest friend of my life, the source of a wit and jest I haven’t known since. Caroline became part of that, the cool, sharp foil to Ron’s brilliance. She is with him in my memory, in my gratitude for a joy that still shines, there and in the children and grandchildren who carry on after them.

George Wead

George Wead - February 23, 2021 at 02:18 PM

RS

“ I have known Caroline for as long as I have been in San Antonio, meeting her along with other SA nurses, by joining the local District of Texas Nurses Assoc. I held a (jokingly) grudge against her, as soon after I joined, Caroline nominated me as vice president of the organization, leading to major and continuing involvement in TNA. Later, I got to know Ron and to some extent, the Spana tribe, which was always a delightful. experience.

When I became a cat owner (servant?) and needed help with this when leaving town, Monica took over the chore...riding her bicycle across I10 from their home to mine. When she left home, the younger Spana's filled in. My cats were always satisfied with the Spana kitty kare.

Caroline was such a delightful person and such a major contributor to our profession. She remains in my memories and my heart.

Ruth Stewart

Ruth F Stewart - January 30, 2021 at 03:46 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Caroline Josephine Spana.*



January 27, 2021 at 10:13 AM