



Nancy Jean Dickens Cooke

April 11, 1938 - October 19, 2024

Nancy Jean Dickens Cooke, age 86, passed away on October 19, 2024 in her home in San Antonio, TX. Born to parents Melvin and Margie Dickens, Nancy grew up alongside younger sister Linda in San Antonio, graduating from Brackenridge High School in 1956. After earning her degree from The University of Texas, she started her teaching career in Brazoria, Texas. She would eventually return to San Antonio, where she continued her teaching career, while also spending much of her life caring for her family and friends.

Nancy married the love of her life, John Cooke, in 1959. In 65 years, they built a family and multiple successful businesses together. She would be quick to tell you that he's never tired of looking at her legs! But no success can be counted more highly than their two daughters, Allison and Lauren, whom she cherished deeply. Her grandchildren Zachary, Kara, and Risa, brought her immense pride and joy.

A lifelong learner, Nancy inspired hundreds of students during her 20 year teaching career at Highland Heights Elementary, Leon Valley Elementary, Anson Jones Middle School, and Hobby Middle School. She was frequently stopped by former students with heartwarming tales of the paths they charted after Nancy's engaging classes. Whether in the classroom or on one of her many travel expeditions abroad, Nancy's spirit of curiosity shone as brightly as her infectious smile. Her love of learning often made her ahead of her time, exploring yoga and meditation before it was hip; becoming a trained Color

Consultant for fashion and makeup; sourcing and baking breads with organic whole grains when no one but living museums was doing so; or exploring the world of essential oils before anyone else had even heard of such a thing! She was always curious and open to new ideas.

Nancy was also curious and open to people. There were no strangers for Nancy. She was always having what she called Angel Experiences, where she would just feel the need to talk to someone and it turned out they were in need in one way or another. She used her grief in the death of her youngest child Lauren in 1982 to comfort and encourage others, even those she had never met. And although Nancy managed chronic pain, many would never know, as she was a force of nature - pushing herself to live, love, and serve. Managing invisible pain made her particularly tender to many.

Nancy found solace in her faith as a longtime seeker and learner. What joy the heavens will know as she finally gets to meet her Savior and ask Him all of those questions!

Often the epicenter of social gatherings, Nancy was known as a generous host and bright, gregarious friend. You were fortunate to have shared a game of bridge, a cocktail at the Petroleum Club, a sunset sail on Canyon Lake, or a bowl of her chicken and dumplings.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, sister Linda Gamble, and daughter Lauren Cooke. She is survived by her husband John; daughter Allison and husband Alan Pyle; grandchildren, Zachary Pyle, Kara Pollette, and Risa Evans. "Nana" leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue to inspire those who knew her.

A memorial service to celebrate Nancy's life will be held at the Fred J. Tips Mausoleum Chapel located at the rear of Mission Burial Park North Dominion, 20900 IH West on Sunday October 27th. Visitation begins at 1 pm followed by a celebration of life at 2 pm, and a graveside service to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Women's Club of San Antonio in her honor.

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park North

20900 I.H. 10
West San Antonio, TX 78230

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **27**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Fred J. Tips Mausoleum Chapel
20900 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257

Celebration of Life

OCT **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Fred J. Tips Mausoleum Chapel
20900 IH 10 West
San Antonio, TX 78257

Tribute Wall

JZ

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Nancy's passing. I remember well sailing with her and John at Canyon Lake and her infectious laugh. Rest in Peace. Jennifer Johnson Zambrano

Jennifer Johnson Zambrano - June 06 at 08:30 PM

KM

“ She was without question my favorite Teacher. Much love to her family

karl minzenmayer - December 14, 2024 at 05:42 PM

JD

“ I always enjoyed our conversations. We both loved Jesus, so it was easy to talk to her about anything, especially the LORD. I'm glad she's with Jesus now, but I know she will be sorely missed by her loved ones. She was a sweetie and I look forward to spending eternity with her! Jean Dukes

Jean Dukes - November 03, 2024 at 05:54 PM

KJ

“ Nancy always made everything more interesting and fun! What an amazing “lady” and a special friend. She will be missed by all who knew her! Kay jinks

Kay Jinks - October 27, 2024 at 01:23 PM

KT

“ Nancy had a joy for life and a smile for everyone. She has done so many wonderful things with her life, and all of us will miss her. I was honored to have her friendship and will think of her often. My prayers and condolences to John and the entire family. With love,
Kay Turner

Kay Turner - October 27, 2024 at 02:08 AM

MH

“ Nancy was a great lady, always smiling our prayers are with the family



Margo Horner - October 26, 2024 at 10:21 PM

JS

“ Nancy was the life of the party. She was a social butterfly and always happy and laughing. She was a great chef, and the food she shared either at home or brought with her was delicious. We love her and John always. We will miss her.



Jannette and Buster Sherry - October 25, 2024 at 04:14 PM

JS

We will miss you Nancy.

Jannette and Buster Sherry - October 25, 2024 at 04:15 PM

DM

“ I remember the four of us at Lake LBJ swimming , skiing, boating etc. LOVE !!!

DON M marshall - October 24, 2024 at 11:45 AM

BW

Nancy was a very special person. She is the kind of friend that you don't find often. She was an amazing bridge player and was always ready for a game.

She loved people and always tried to help. When my husband had cancer she came and brought her oils and rubbed his feet.

She will always be in my heart.

Love

Bobby Wood

Bobby Wood - October 25, 2024 at 10:00 PM

JG

My heart is breaking over this loss. We shared so many memorable times laughing and consoling one another. The most interesting thing is the unbelievable e.s.p. Truly! What joyful events and comforts she brought into the lives of others.

She will never be forgotten.

Love to Nancy Cooke

Jo Beth Galloway

jo beth galloway - October 26, 2024 at 09:43 PM

IT

“ Ian Davis and MS Team purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Nancy Jean Dickens Cooke.



Ian Davis and MS Team - October 24, 2024 at 11:42 AM

LW

“ Sweet Nancy was a constant presence in my family since we moved here when I was 13 - not telling how many decades ago that was - and we will miss her kindness and love.



Laurie R Welch - October 24, 2024 at 11:38 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Nancy Jean Dickens Cooke.



October 24, 2024 at 11:28 AM

AF

“ I taught with Nancy at Hobby Middle School. She taught 6th grade Science and was as innovative .as a teacher could be. I remember a large spider that had spun a huge web in Nancy's classroom. This was one of the huge spiders found in the garden. The kids loved it. Some of the teachers from Hobby spent a week in London on Spring Break and Nancy's exuberance for life was amazing. A lovely spirit that will be missed! So sorry for your loss. Ann Fritz

Ann Znoj Fritz - October 24, 2024 at 10:08 AM

LK

I also had the great opportunity to teach with Nancy at Anson Jones & Hobby Middle Schools. Once Nancy met you, she had to know how she could help you. She delighted in giving me a tour of the upstairs wing of her new home designed with an upstairs specifically for Allison & Lauren + an intimate conversation area for party guests.

On the saddest note, during lunch in the faculty lounge, someone asked Nancy if she was glad she had children. She replied, "of course, my daughters are the light of my life". At that moment, she was suddenly informed of Lauren's tragedy.

How and if she ever recovered remains a mystery to me.

With sincere condolences,

Lydia Kendrick

Lydia Kendrick - October 27, 2024 at 06:21 PM

TT

“ *The Steelhead Team purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Nancy Jean Dickens Cooke.*



The Steelhead Team - October 24, 2024 at 08:49 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Directions to Chapel at the Cemetery*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - October 23, 2024 at 05:20 PM

CM

Missing Nancy. We met at the Woman's Club and played bridge together each month. Nancy always had a top score and was so fun to play with. Funny and kind with stories of an interesting full life. Thanks for being part of my life Nancy.

Cyndi Munch - October 26, 2024 at 12:19 PM