



## Nancy Ann Ryan

December 28, 1954 - March 16, 2017

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Nancy Nowacki Ryan, 62, on Thursday March 16, 2017 in Vancouver, Washington. Nancy was born on December 28, 1954 to Louis and Betty Nowacki of Columbus, Ohio. Nancy grew up in Columbus and attended Bexley Elementary, Middle School and High School. Her college days were spent in Athens, Ohio where she graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work with a minor in music that became her life's passion. Nancy's education influenced her interaction with every person she touched. It was in Athens that Nancy fell in love with the bucolic country life and her life partner Thomas Edward Ryan, who have celebrated 37 years of marriage. After Nancy and Tom married, they embarked on their first adventure, living in Anchorage, Alaska. In 1981 they moved to Vancouver, Washington where Nancy and Tom would bring their son Sean into their world in 1989. She shared with them her love for music that had begun with her mother Betty. Nancy was an active member of the Clark County Music Teachers Association for over three decades, and had a significant impact on all her students. Each student was given her undivided attention and respect. Her desire was to find each student's unique personality and tailor her teaching to broaden their potential beyond just music. Nancy loved football, especially watching her beloved Ohio State Buckeyes in the fall. It was a tribute to her Ohio roots and a connection to her father. When her son Sean became a student at the University of Washington, the Huskies were added to her favorite team list. Nancy is survived by her husband Tom,

son Sean, brother James Nowacki and his wife Catherine, as well as her many beloved cousins, nieces, and grand nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her father and mother Louis and Betty and her partner in mischief, brother Robert Nowacki. Visitation will be held on Tuesday evening March 21 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Evergreen Funeral Home at 1101 NE 112th Avenue, Vancouver Washington. A service will be Wednesday March 22 from 2:00-3:00 PM at Columbia Presbyterian Church at 8715 St. Helens Avenue, Vancouver, Washington. There will also be an opportunity for viewing at the church before the service on Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. Flowers for Nancy can be sent to Evergreen Memorial Gardens (address above). Donations in Nancy's honor can be made to the Clark County Music Teachers Association Scholarship Fund or a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 09:46 PM

RH

“ Dear Sean and Tom...My heart breaks over the loss of my sweet sister-in-law. Gone from us too soon. And oh what a wonderful laugh she had. When I think back on our time in the NW I always smile. Nancy would have the best celebrations planned! Her thoughtfulness to the details made the family gathering magical... birthday parties, 4th of July picnics, Halloween parties with haunted trails and trivia questions. Wonderful trips to the apple farms and pumpkin patches. I even recall when a day trip we took to MT Hood was almost ruined by an unforcasted snowfall. Nancy was not going to let a little winter weather get the best of our day...we had our picnic in the snow. :) Nancy made everyday moments a joyful memory we will carry in our hearts forever.

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**Rita Hart** - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Nancy, i dont know what to say. Your laugh and love touched my childhood. I have so many fond memories of the visits and how everything was always just so. You had everything perfect from tiny soaps to exactly when to start the grill. Joy around you was effortless. Had i known it was our last visit, i would have hugged a little longer, and taken the chance to listen a little closer, and said thankyou for believing. You made such an impression on Logan, your faith in him, he will hold onto forever. He asked to learn the piano because of you. I hope to always keep the music in our hearts too. I love you so much, and miss you more. Lindy

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**Melinda Hart** - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MH

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**Melinda Hart** - March 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I never knew Nancy personally but I heard a lot about her friendship to others. May she rest in peace and condolences to all her family.  
Larry

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**Larry deClair** - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Whenever I think of my sister-in-law Nancy I always think of her laughter and how it could just fill a room and make you want to smile and laugh too. Whenever she would talk with you, she had such a way making you feel like you were the only person in the room and she truly was listening. Even though we lived across the country and didn't see her often, I miss her so much already. But I'd like to think she's up there playing some ragtime and laughing with the rest of gang.

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**Laura Ryan** - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Whenever I think of my sister-in-law Nancy I always think of her laughter and how it could just fill a room and make you want to smile and laugh too. Whenever she would talk with you, she had such a way making you feel like you were the only person in the room and she truly was listening. Even though we lived across the country and didn't see her often, I miss her so much already. But I'd like to think she's up there playing some ragtime and laughing with the rest of gang.

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**Laura Ryan** - March 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Remembering Nancy with much love. She was a very special lady - a great friend, who will be forever in our hearts.

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**Liam and Maire** - March 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM