



Nancy Jane Nally

January 19, 1929 - March 26, 2016

Nancy Nally, lovingly known as “The Nana,” passed away in the care of family on Saturday, March 26, 2016 following complications of dementia. She was born on January 19 to Leo and Florence Dirkman and lived most of her life in Toledo, Ohio.

She attended St. Catherine’s School of Toledo for first through third grade, Mary Mother of Mercy School in Pitman, New Jersey for fourth through eighth grade, and high school at Central Catholic of Toledo.

Upon high school graduation and until she married, she worked as a bookkeeper for Pemberton Cadillac. In 1950, she married James Edward Nally. Together they raised three children, Kathryn, Sharon and Michael. The early years of marriage residing on Gould Road among other young families where the spirit was one of endless fun, practical jokes, and every neighbor’s house was every neighbor’s house. In 1964, Nancy and Jim moved to Glen Ellyn Drive in south Toledo where life was never dull, especially the day she returned home from work to discover her husband beginning to build a full scale experimental aircraft in the living room. When weather warmed, the project thankfully moved to the garage.

In 1966, Nancy returned to working, first in the accounting department of Sears and Robuck, followed by the accounting departments of Food Town and later Paul Inman Food Brokerage Maumee, Ohio. During her retirement years she worked seasonally at H & R Block as a receptionist.

Nancy was a wonderful daughter . Her Mother Florence and elderly windowed

Aunt Peg were at the house every Sunday for dinner, birthdays and holidays and sometimes along on family vacations. As a busy working Mother of three, she telephoned her Mother each evening to compare their days and to ensure her Mother was ok.

Nancy had one sister, Janet and brother-in-law Richard Brown, whom she spent many summers visiting at the lake and at fall apple orchard harvest time.

She loved her nine grandchildren and was borderline boastful of their success and happiness in various careers. Nancy saw herself fortunate to have two kind and good men as son-in-laws, Mark Bruss and DeWayne Evans who she truly loved as sons.

Nancy served as a greeter at masses at St. Patrick's of Heatherdowns. She volunteered with the Toledo Police RSVP program whose role was to check on homebound and at risk Toledo citizens.

She enjoyed playing in numerous ladies' neighborhood and couples bridge clubs, though more for the socialization aspects than the bridge playing itself. She found cooking dreadful, and baking to be even worse. Instead, she saw baked goods from Churchill's or something from Monnet's plated in her own serve ware as the more prudent spending of her time. In keeping with that, she loved to go to dinner with friends or family. To say she loved shopping would be the understatement of all time. Upon returning from the mall with shopping bags in tow, her husband Jim once glanced up from reading the paper to inquire, "does the sign outside still read Lion Store or has it been changed to Nally's?"

One of Nancy's least-kept secrets was that of her self-appointment as a family shadchan. If you were single and were of post college age, it was not happenstance to find yourself strategically seated opposite her dinner table to her chosen one for you, nor a coincidence that at any gathering for Nancy to have invited an eligible suitor to stop by. The introductions themselves were less than subtle and were as if she all but had a wedding dress and tux at hand.

Nancy chummed her way through life laughing with neighbors and friends, especially her quartet of lifelong friends, Marilyn, Marcy, Jayne and Joanie. She became pre-school playmates with Marilyn as a result of their respective mothers being members of the same three bridge clubs. They remained friends through and into Nancy's stages of dementia. Marcy and Nancy met in high school, both eventually moving to the same south Toledo neighborhood, both women avid followers of the Toledo Blade's real estate transaction postings. Marcy would telephone Nancy or vice versa to discuss somebody or other they knew's transaction, before you know it they would be in the car performing their own drive by real estate evaluation. Marcy sadly preceded Nancy in death, as did her dear friend Jayne. Jayne and Nancy met through the friendship of their daughters and always shared instantaneous and nonstop laughter. Her dear friendship with Joanie began when the two worked together at Sears Robuck. Together they shared the same no holds barred matter-of-fact approach to life.

Nancy valued her friendships with these four women, for these friendships were not only of laughter but saw her through her most difficult times: the devastating death of her son Michael (1975), the passing of her husband James (1989), and sorrowful loss of her daughter Kathryn Bruss (2003). She was also preceded in death by her parents Leo and Florence Dirkman. Nancy is survived her daughter Sharon (DeWayne) Evans along with their daughters Zoe and Mae, and by her daughter Kathy's husband Dr. Mark Bruss and their seven children, Pamela (Jedd) Frankforther, Dr. Andrea (James) McCartney, Dr. Patrick (Melissa) Bruss, Brett (Stacey} Bruss, Dr. Mitchel (Megan) Bruss, her unabashedly favorite grandchild Mike Bruss, and the youngest, Mark Bruss. She is great – grandmother to 9 young children with two more on the way. She is also survived by her sister Janet (Richard) Brown of Bellair Michigan and her three nieces Linda, Nancy and Mary. Nancy leaves behind an Irish clan that will miss her dearly. Our hope is that when Nana arrived at the gates of heaven, someone had the good sense to

greet her with a Manhattan and that she was not held from entry for an extended period of time explaining her elaborate and many fibs about her age. If you notice, per her command, there is no age at passing or year of birth in this publishing.

Nancy made an anatomical donation to the University of Toledo School of Medicine, the family memorial will be private.

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Dear Sharon and all of the Nally family,
I was very saddened to read of your mom's/Nancy's death. It is obvious from the obituary that she kept living and enjoying her family and friends despite the very sad loss of two children and her husband. Your loving description of her brought a smile to my face. It has been many, many years since I saw her, but the picture included here is as if she hadn't aged at all. May all of the many wonderful memories you hold bring comfort to you now and in the days ahead. I pray that you continue to see her spirit live on in you, Sharon, and in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Remember to speak of her often to the especially young ones so they will always have "memories" of her, too. May God's grace and peace be with all of you.

In sympathy,

Catherine Harantha Talda

Catherine Harantha Talda - April 06, 2016 at 03:03 PM

BH

“ Enjoyed working with Nancy at Food Town she was known by co-workers as Cha-Cha in the accounting dept. "When someone you love becomes a memory their memory becomes a treasure."
Thoughts and prayers are with the family. Becke (Karmol) Hickman.

Becke Hickman - April 04, 2016 at 12:26 PM

KS

“ Sharon, Mark and family, I am so sorry to hear about Nancy's passing. All I can say is I'm not sure even heaven is ready for Nancy and Marcie together again. Your mom was such a sweetheart , she was always ready to jump in and get involved-even if you really didn't want her too :) The world is a less sunny without her in it. I know she will always have a place in my heart. God bless you all. You are all in my prayers-Karen (Baumann) Shinaver

Karen Shinaver - April 03, 2016 at 01:38 PM

SF

Sharon,

Dad (Dick Zink) & I are so sorry to hear of your loss. We have many fond memories of Nancy. Her sense of humor got her through life's ups and downs.

You are in my prayers at this difficult time.

Sue (Zink) Fox

sue fox - April 03, 2016 at 02:35 PM

MC

So sorry for your loss. Your mom was a great lady. My children played with all of you. And had such fun. We lived on Green Valley 3rd. house from Glendale. Your in my prayers. Sincerely, Martha Collier

Martha Collier - April 03, 2016 at 07:39 PM



Dear Sharon,

I am so sad to hear of the passing of your mother. I have many cherished memories of the Glen Ellyn years. It was a time and place where we ran free as children, looked after by many moms. I can still close my eyes and see your mom, always with a smile and kind words for us. I have thought of her often over the years, she and the Nally family will always have a special place in my heart. We all loved Mike and were heartbroken when he passed. Through that time, a first loss for me at a young age, your mother was an example of faith, strength and love. She was an amazing woman. I feel blessed to have known her. I hold you all in my prayers.

*With love,
Megan Scott Belichak*

Meg Bel - April 07, 2016 at 11:35 AM