



Nancy Jane Harrison Fox Merriam

February 10, 1942 - June 11, 2024

On June 11, 2024, at the age of 82, Nancy, a lifelong West Toledo resident, passed away peacefully with family by her side at the home of her daughter in St. Ignace, Michigan, where she had been living for the last few years battling dementia.

Nancy attended Old Orchard Grade School, graduated from DeVilbiss High School (1960), and was most proud of her time at Hope College (1964). She continued her education, receiving a master's degree and furthering her studies at The University of Toledo.

Her career spanned many titles, with her most extensive being 40 years at The Toledo Hospital as Medical Conference Coordinator. Her children remember many happy hours at her office in the old Croxton Nursing School and many dinners in the cafeteria.

In 1968, she married Donald George Fox in a beautiful wedding at Trinity Episcopal Church and reception, held at The Toledo Club. They had two children and lived happily until his passing in 1982. Later in life, Nancy married John Goodwin Merriam and had many amazing world-traveling adventures with family and friends. Together they enjoyed their summers at their seaside Windrift Cottage in Harpswell, Maine. Nancy always loved the water.

Nancy was an avid reader and a member of many book clubs, as well as a member and supporter of multiple organizations and clubs throughout the Toledo community. She loved Toledo!

Nancy was preceded in death by two husbands, Donald G. Fox and John G. Merriam; her parents, Betty Jane (Flanigan) and Earl Harrison; her grandfather, E.Y. Flanigan; her beloved grandmother, Anna Carmen Flanigan (Gamble); a dearly loved aunt, Doris Firestone (Flanigan). She leaves behind a large number of the most amazing friends and family that have shown their love for her, including her best friend and sister, Kathleen Anne Hecht (Harrison); daughter, Ellen Fox Ruddle (Chad); and son, Ryan Fox (Jessica); stepchildren, Chris Merriam (Kim), Heather Vosberg (Whitney), and Jennifer Truax (David). She loved her time with all of her grandchildren, near and extended.

With hearts full of love, we would like to thank all of Nancy's friends and family for their caring and emotional support; her amazing Hospice team, Karen, April, and John; the Community Action Agency of St. Ignace; Shannon Slocum and the staff at Mackinac Straits Hospital; her dear friend and helper, Kelly Grogan, for years of support that allowed us to keep her at home with us while treating her like family. Thank you to Family Life Funeral Homes of Pickford, MI for your kindness and help.

At this time, there will be no service for Nancy. Please celebrate her with your next trip to the water, a good glass of wine, the blooming of a flower, or a gathering of her friends or family. Much love and thank you to all who have loved and cared for our mother throughout her extraordinary life. Thank you, Ellen and Ryan

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Nancy's name to McLaren

Northern Michigan Hospice Services, 360 Connable Ave, Petoskey, MI 49770.

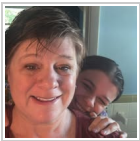
Obituary written by family.

Tribute Wall

CW

“ Ellen and Ryan, I was just going to send your mom birthday wishes this morning as I did every year, but thought I'd better check first since she's not posted anything on Facebook for ages. So sorry to just learn about her passing today! What a beautiful tribute her obituary is—you've captured her lovely spirit beautifully. I worked with Nancy for over 20 years at Toledo Hospital (plus lived near her in Old Orchard). Because I was in PR /Communications, our paths often crossed. And I, too, had an office in Croxton House. Your mom was always so kind to me, and her calm demeanor amid those busy days was always so welcoming. Please know I'm sure she is missed by many among her TTH family, including me, and I'm grateful she had you both to see her through her final days. Hugs and prayers that happy memories of your precious mom continue to bless your lives.

Christine Wasserman - February 10, 2025 at 09:19 AM



“ I always enjoyed talking to Nancy and know she loved the water, Maine, her dogs, Dad and people. We will miss her, but so glad she lived a full and wonderful life of work, many lasting friendships, traveling and family and many other interests and hobbies. Prayers for you all.

Jennifer Truax - June 27, 2024 at 07:28 PM

MC

“ When I read through the obituaries, the first time this past Sunday, your mother’s name was familiar to me. It didn’t click until I read it the second time online tonight. And actually, it was her picture that caused me to immediately say, “oh my goodness it’s Nancy Fox.” I worked at Toledo Hospital for eight years before moving away for 25 years working in another hospital in Indiana. I remember how sweet and pleasant your mom was to work with. Her demeanor was always very calm. My office was also in the old nursing school building, the Croxton House. I can almost picture exactly where her office was located and how we sat and talked there for several conversations. My former mother-in-law likely had more interactions with your mom as she was a nurse director and educator. Please accept my deepest condolences on your mom’s passing. I understand how difficult it must be. I also lost my mother and father in the last five years. May you be blessed abundantly with beautiful memories of a beautiful woman. Prayers for all of you.

Mary Jo (Choiniere) Campbell - June 19, 2024 at 10:29 PM

DM

“ I worked with your mother at The Toledo Hospital. She was a lovely person and someone I always enjoyed talking to. She had a lovely smile and a lovely demeanor. Im so sorry for your loss and grateful that I had the pleasure of knowing Nancy. God bless.

Debbie McMullen - June 19, 2024 at 01:07 PM

MC

“ Ryan, I am so sorry to hear of your Mom’s passing. Just in the last week I was thinking about her. We had run into each other in a yoga class some years ago and I was wondering if she was still going to yoga somewhere. Thinking about you and wishing you and your family Peace.
Marge Cadaret

marge Cadaret - June 17, 2024 at 09:59 PM