



Nancy Lee VonBank

December 3, 1943 - November 22, 2024

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Nancy VonBank, 80, of Lino Lakes, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 23, 2024, at Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes. Her life was marked by dedication to education, love for her family, and a spirit of adventure that touched countless lives.

Born in Halstad, Minnesota to Lee W. and Marjorie A. Helgerson, Nancy pursued her passion for education by earning both her undergraduate and master's degrees from North Dakota State University. On June 13, 1964, she married Jim VonBank at Holy Spirit Church in Fargo, North Dakota, beginning a beautiful partnership that would span 60 years.

Nancy dedicated over three decades of her life to teaching at Centennial High School, where she was a beloved Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher. Her extraordinary ability to connect with students and impart lifelong skills made her a favorite among generations of students. Her passion for education extended far beyond the classroom, as she continued to embrace new projects and learning opportunities well into retirement.

Known for her warm personality and gift for making everyone feel special, Nancy never met a stranger. Her passion for life expressed itself in many

ways: through her love of fashion (whether sewing or teaching about design), her excitement to plan family summer trips, her enthusiasm for crafting and creative projects, and her adventurous spirit that led her on numerous summer trips with her cherished group of lady friends. In retirement, Nancy and Jim particularly enjoyed bus tours to western national parks and visits to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre with friends.

Nancy's greatest joy was her cherished family. She took immense pride in her children, Jen and David, whom she and her husband welcomed into their hearts through adoption from Colombia. Their journey to become a family was one she treasured deeply.

Even after retiring from teaching, Nancy's energetic nature kept her busy with new projects and adventures. Above all, she treasured time spent with her grandchildren, pouring her love and creativity into making memories with them.

Nancy is survived by her children Jen (Steve) Papineau of Ham Lake and David VonBank of Florida; brother-in-law Ralph Thoreson; and her beloved grandchildren, Gabriella, Luciana, and D'Alessandro. She was preceded in death by her husband Jim VonBank, her parents, Lee and Marjorie Helgerson, and her sister, Marilee Thoreson.

Nancy's vibrant spirit, boundless energy, and loving nature will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched as a teacher, friend, mother, and grandmother.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, December 12 at 11AM (visitation begins at 10AM) at St. Odilia Catholic Church, 3495 Victoria St. N., Shoreview. Interment in the parish Prayer Garden.

In lieu of flowers or monetary donations, the family kindly requests contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association in Nancy VonBank's memory.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church
3495 Victoria Street N.
Shoreview, MN 55126

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Odilia Catholic Church
3495 N. Victoria
Shoreview, MN 55126

Graveside Service

DEC 12. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Saint Odilia Prayer Garden
3495 N. Victoria
Shoreview

Tribute Wall

NF

“ Just randomly talking about my favorite teacher in family life and sewing class. I had to look her up. She was a very memorable person. I absolutely loved her. Class of 2002

Nicole M Fisher - December 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM

KK

“ I so enjoyed my time working with Nancy. Such a kind sweet woman. Always knew the lyrics to the sing-a-long songs. She always concerned for everyone around her. I am happy she is with Jim. Miss her wonderful smile.

Kris Kempf - November 27, 2024 at 11:34 PM

AR

“ Nancy was one of a kind. Her smile, energy and love of life and family was always on display. She will be missed by her friends and colleagues. A life well lived. Rest in Peace. Arla Rost

Arla Rost - November 27, 2024 at 03:37 PM

EL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Nancy's passing. We attended NDSU together & Nancy sang at my wedding. Nancy & I shared lots of fun times together & she was a fun loving wonderful friend.

Elaine Lewis - November 26, 2024 at 04:40 PM