



Nancy Woods

June 10, 2020

Our Mom, Nancy Woods, Mother of 14, Grandmother of 38, Great Grandmother to 14 and friend to thousands, passed away peacefully on June 10th surrounded by her family. She is survived by her children: Gail, George, Regina, Martha, Christopher, Philip, Valerie, Andrew, Martin, Pauline, Timothy, Sarah and Eric. She is predeceased by her daughter Cathy and her husband George Allen Woods. She was born in NYC to Janet Herzog and Alan Shaw on June 1st 1928. Her Mother passed away when she was 6 years old. Her Grandparents, distraught at the death of their daughter, moved to Cannes, France where she lived for many years. Due to their Jewish heritage, they fled France when it fell under Nazi occupation and moved back to New York City. She then attended Pembroke College, now part of Brown University, before marrying George Woods in 1948. Since 1951 Nancy lived on the same street in Demarest NJ where she raised her 14 children and was an active member of the community. Her involvement included 15 years as a member of the Demarest Board of Education, PTO and Democratic Club. For her entire life, she fought fiercely for the causes important to her. She was a tireless advocate for peace. She was instrumental in establishing the Demarest Peace Site a gazebo in the center of Demarest and was an active member of Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. Nancy was a resolute fighter for the homeless and the disadvantaged. She could not abide even one child going to bed hungry, homeless or feeling unloved. She volunteered 15 hours a day, usually 6 or 7 days a week, for nearly five decades to do her part in making the world a

better place. She championed causes with boundless energy for the poor, the homeless, the dispossessed, the abused, the mentally and physically challenged, the lonely, the under- educated, the environment, endangered wildlife and endless others. She took part in countless boycotts and protests to stop oppression both at home and around the world. She founded and helped to operate the Family Shelter at St Cecilia's Church in Englewood. She personally welcomed guests every day where she cared for them, advised them, consoled them, counseled them and occasionally exercised tough love until its closing. She saw tremendous value in every person, no matter their circumstance, and she treated them all with dignity. One of her most enduring achievements, other than her family, is co-founding The Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless, now Family Promise of Bergen County. The organization offers shelter and support in all its forms to working families who have become homeless. In 1991 she also co-founded a dinner program to feed the poor in the community. However, she never wanted any attention for her good works. She believed service to others, especially the poor, is our mandate on earth and is its own reward. When Bill Clinton wrote his book "Giving" about volunteering and wanted to use her as a shining example, she refused to let him use her name. Nonetheless, the story is there on page 48. Absolutely nothing was more important to her than the support and love of her family and the family's love and support for each other. She stressed it constantly. For decades a sign over her desk read, "Family first. No exceptions." In heaven, she is reunited with her grandsons Luke Schamberger and Gregory Piatkowski as well as sons-in-law Dan Martin and Mario Acevedo. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Family Promise of Bergen County <https://www.bergenfamilypromise.org/> or the York Street Project in Jersey City. <https://yorkstreetproject.org/> . The burial will be a private affair due to Covid 19. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.. In the meantime, if you truly want to honor her, go out today and help someone less fortunate.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ Dear Andrew and the Woods Family,
We did not know Nancy, but after reading about her, I wish we had.
She was an amazing woman. You will have many special memories
to help you through this time.
We are sorry for your loss.
Sincerely,
Don and Mary Ann Farrell

Mary Ann Farrell - June 19, 2020 at 02:24 PM

HR

“ Dear Andy and the entire Woods family this is to convey our
deepest sympathies and condolences at the passing away of your
mom our dear vibrant, caring loving friend. She with her personality
did not have any problem in rounding up volunteers to help her
cause and she introduced me to the Family Shelter at St Cecilia's
Church in Englewood.
She will be truly missed. May she rest in peace. God bless you
all. Helen and Mahesan Richards, parishioner from St. Joseph's
Demarest.

helen and mahesan richards - June 17, 2020 at 12:39 AM

YL

“ I loved ur Mom. Condolences to all of u. Love & miss u Val. ❤️

Yvonne Layden - June 15, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Woods family. I remember when you were all having dinner in the side yard and your wonderful Mother Mrs. Woods came out of the house carrying the biggest pie I had ever seen in my life. It had a circumference of about 2 1/2 feet (no lie) And she came out twice! Each time carrying one of these huge delicious looking pies! And I remember thinking “well, that’s about the size of a pie she’d need to feed everyone in her family and luckily she’s got 2!!” I also remember thinking about what a good mother she was and to have baked such humongous pies for her family was another example. Mrs Woods and my Mother would talk to each other on the phone so very often. They were very good friends. I think Mrs Woods was one of the few people in Demarest who shared the same political views that my Mother did and that was just one of the characteristics of their friendship that kept them close friends over the years. May you Rest In Peace Mrs Woods 💔🙏

Catherine Greene - June 13, 2020 at 10:51 PM

MO

“ From the 7 O’Brien siblings from Orchard Road our sincere condolences to the 14 Woods siblings. Your Mom will have company in Heaven from some of the other great Mothers from Demarest.

Michaela O'Brien - June 13, 2020 at 07:55 PM



“ Doreen Cuomo lit a candle in memory of Nancy Woods



Doreen Cuomo - June 13, 2020 at 03:32 PM



Anthony and I send our deepest condolences to all the Woods family .

Doreen Cuomo - June 13, 2020 at 03:39 PM

SG

“ *One of my favorite memories of Mrs. Woods occurred during one of the many water fights we had in the Woods' driveway on hot summer days. What fun we had!. Mr. Woods held sway with the garden hose and a bunch of his children and I were counterattacking with dinky little water pistols. He was drenching us and loving it! Suddenly the side door burst open and Nancy Woods popped out, dumped a huge pot of cold water on Mr. Woods' head, and then quickly retreated back into the house before he could turn the hose on her. With that single act of defiance against the tyrant with the hose, she became my hero for life :)*

Steve Greene - June 13, 2020 at 01:37 PM

HO

Great story Steve. I was an infant when my family left Demarest for Mountaindale. I still love hearing these stories though, and am glad my big sisters got to take part in some of them.

Harry Oesterreicher - June 13, 2020 at 02:57 PM

RS

“ *Rosanne Stella lit a candle in memory of Nancy Woods*



rosanne stella - June 13, 2020 at 09:48 AM

RS

So very sorry for your loss.

rosanne stella - June 13, 2020 at 09:49 AM

SF

“ Your whole family was such a huge part of my life growing up and your mom was the center of it. I have such vivid pictures of your house in my mind. The table in the kitchen. The family room. The garage that always scared me! I will always remember Christmas mornings at your house watching you open presents, one gift at a time. And I will always remember your moms laugh and warm, welcoming ways. May you all take comfort from your families and friends. She lived a good life. Sending love and hugs.
Sue (Susie Foley) Fischer

Susanne Fischer - June 12, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Nancy Woods.



June 12, 2020 at 03:20 PM

KM

“ Taking care care of you Nancy was a pleasure and we had a great relationship.i will miss you greatly. Lov you Nancy rlp. Kathy marshall-DeSomma

kathy marshall-Desomma - June 12, 2020 at 10:51 AM



“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Lauren Losquadro - June 12, 2020 at 10:36 AM