



Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff

June 10, 2024

Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff, age 98, of Homestead Village, Lancaster, died after a brief illness on Monday, June 10, 2024. Born December 7, 1925, Peggy was the daughter of the late Christian Minnich and Myrtle Frantz Neff. She was preceded in death by her sister, Nancy Neff Tanger. The sisters' family heritage was Lime Spring Farm in East Hempfield Township, an early Lancaster County homestead of 118 acres from 1717. The two stone houses, built in 1720 and 1769, are among the oldest in the county. The farm was home to nine generations of Lehmans, later Frantzes, Neffs, and Stauffers, all philanthropically and politically connected to the Lancaster community. In 2004, Peggy and Nancy were the last family members to move off the farm. The family donated the \$6 million proceeds from the farm's sale to the Lancaster County Historical Society, now LancasterHistory, where a 2013 addition is known as the Stauffer Wing.

Peggy graduated in 1943 from Shippen School for Girls, now Lancaster Country Day School. She earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from New York University, from which she was recruited to create a kindergarten in Los Alamos, New Mexico – she taught the children of the scientists working on the Manhattan Project and the Native American children whose fathers were building the facility. Family beckoned her back east to Long Island, where she taught before receiving a Fulbright scholarship to teach in Scotland.

In 1960 Peggy went to Minneapolis, Minnesota to help start a coeducational Independent School – Highcroft Country Day – which later merged with the Blake School. She earned a Master's Degree in Education from Macalester College in St. Paul.

The failing health of her sister brought Peggy back to Lancaster for good in 1997, the good of Nancy, the good of Peggy, and certainly the good of Lancaster. Peggy has been an advocate of educational, art, and humanitarian organizations, among them Hospice & Community Care, Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute, Samaritan Center, International Piano Festival, Fulton Theatre, Lancaster Country Day School, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Milagro House, as well as the Ware and Winter Centers of Millersville University. She supported the Tanger Arboretum at Lancaster History, created by Nancy's mother-in-law, Louise Arnold Tanger, and later sustained by Nancy and "Charlie" Tanger. Most recently, Peggy supported Barry Kornhauser, his outreach initiatives, and family programming.

Peggy was recognized for her significant contribution to Hospice and Community Care, The United Way of Lancaster County, and Lancaster General Hospital Health Foundation by inducting her into Societas Generalis.

Peggy was a collector of people and a gardener of friendships. The warmth of her welcoming smiles, the intensity of her interest in others (rarely speaking of herself except to regale with tales of her girlhood, her teaching adventures, and her pride in Lime Spring Farm) drew all to her. Her focus was always on others – their interests, travels, opinions, and families. In the words of her dear friend Dr. Randy Oyer, "Peggy leaves an extraordinary legacy of sincere friendship, natural kindness, and meaningful community service."

Peggy is survived by her cousin, Judy S. Sandt, married to Roger W. Sandt of

Lancaster. In 2020, Peggy and the Sandts contributed to Homestead Village's erection of a clubhouse on the retirement community's Farmstead campus. The Stauffer Spring House is dedicated to the memory of relatives who founded and maintained Lime Spring Farm.

Friends are respectfully invited to attend Peggy's Memorial Service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 31 S. Duke Street, Lancaster on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Cliff Hanus officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until the time of service. A private interment will be at the convenience of the family. The service will be live-streamed starting at 2:00 p.m. by clicking the following link -- <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/a2406375242556>

In lieu of flowers, gifts made in memory of Peggy for the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute can be sent to the LG Health Foundation, 2110 Harrisburg Pike, Suite 205, Lancaster, PA 17601, online at lghealth.org/givetoabbci, or by calling 717-544-5956 or Homestead Village Benevolent Fund, 1800 Village Circle, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
31 S. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Memorial Service

JUN **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
31 S. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - June 19, 2024 at 07:13 PM

WE

So glad to see Peggy's ever present joyful smile again...she and that smile will be greatly missed...

Wendy Holmes Eshleman - June 21, 2024 at 05:54 PM

KS

“ *Miss Neff was my Kindergarten teacher in 1974-75 at Blake in MN and I am so grateful for her being in my life & beginning my education with her... she was incredible. I can't properly put into words just how much she means to me 50 years later. The world has lost one of the greats. xoxo Kristin (Stevens) Sexton*



Kristin Sexton - October 10, 2024 at 01:40 PM

FS

“ Peggy Neff was the kindergarten teacher for Kristin, Victoria and Christopher at Blake School Edina Minnesota. We all loved her dearly and I was Room Mother for all three. Her caring, strong support helped in developing my children in to the wonderful human beings that they are at 56yrs and 50yr olds [twins] they are today. We still talk about her and for many years we kept in touch with Christmas Cards. Just found out in Blake Alumni Magazine
Frankie Stevens

Frankie Stevens - October 10, 2024 at 01:07 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - June 19, 2024 at 03:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff.



June 17, 2024 at 11:10 AM

HC

“ Hospice & Community Care planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff.

Hospice & Community Care - June 17, 2024 at 11:10 AM

DL

“ Peggy Neff was a beautiful example of the best that a person can be: a loving heart, a quick and inquisitive mind, always ready and willing to help a person in need, engaged with the world around her. Her soul belonged to the Lord. She was a bright light that helped to illuminate the path toward goodness and excellence for many. She will be missed!

The Rev. Daniel Long, Kirsten Helin, Sara Helin-Long

Daniel Long - June 16, 2024 at 03:29 AM

JS

Thank you, Dan, Kirsten and Sara ❤️

Judy Sandt - June 20, 2024 at 10:28 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff.



June 13, 2024 at 09:35 PM

JR

“ Jan Rivers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret "Peggy" Jane Neff.

Jan Rivers - June 13, 2024 at 09:35 PM