



Nancy Louise "Nan" Roye

February 24, 2019

Nancy Louise "Nan" Roye, 95 years young, passed away on Sunday afternoon, February 24, 2019, at Lancaster General Hospital. She was a resident of Homestead Village since 2013. She remained fully committed her entire life to her children and grandchildren, her community, and her belief in the Democratic party.

Born in Columbia, Pennsylvania in 1923, Nan grew up surrounded by family and a small town that shaped her independent and self-reliant personality. Her father Walter was co-owner of the Susquehanna Glass Company and a political leader in the community. Her mother Anna Witmer was a homemaker and mother to Nan and her younger brother Waltie, who died in 1946.

Nan graduated from Columbia High School in 1941, and the following fall entered the New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College at Rutgers University). She majored in art and upon graduation in 1945 entered a training program at Macy's in New York City. Within less than a year, she moved to House & Garden, a Condé Nast publication, and served as an editor until 1950.

Nan met her husband Edward Rowen of Boston, Massachusetts on a vacation trip to Bermuda. They were married in February 1950 and lived in New Jersey and Connecticut. Beginning in December 1950, she gave birth to her four children—sons Edward and Walter, daughter Deborah, and son Michael—over the next six years and 13 days.

In 1962, she and her husband decided to accept her father's offer to join the Susquehanna Glass Company and Nan and her family returned to the Lancaster area. Within a year she was engaged in developing the glass company's retail operations, which soon became an important profit center. In 1975, she became President of Susquehanna Glass Company, a position she held for the next 23 years, retiring at age 75.

In retirement, Nan nurtured a love of travel and summer days on the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. For over 30 years, her Carriage House in downtown Lancaster was the

venue for frequent social gatherings for her multitude of friends as well as fundraisers for candidates of her beloved Democratic Party. She was a founding member of Women United for Good Government, the WUGGs, a group that supports Democratic candidates in local politics. A supporter of local artists, she was an avid collector who frequented local art auctions. She continued to play bridge until the week before her death. Nan remained an intellectually engaged woman and avid reader committed to political debate and the status of women in all areas of American life.

Nan was fiercely devoted to her family and took enormous pride in the accomplishments of her sons, her daughter, and their children. Her greatest sorrow was the death of her daughter, Deborah, in a hiking accident in 2005. She was an adoption social worker in New Jersey.

Nan is survived by her three sons and their wives as well as seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Her eldest son Edward Rowen is retired from Ball Aerospace and lives with his wife Susan Short in Boulder, CO. Walter Rowen is the third-generation owner and president of Susquehanna Glass and lives with his wife Catherine in Lancaster. His daughter Kathryn Rowen Martin and her twin sons Blake and Kaden live in Louisville, KY. Walter and Catherine's sons Scott and Jamie both reside in North Carolina. Scott and his wife Keelan have two daughters, Blair and Alice.

Paul Arsenault, the husband of Nan's late daughter Deborah, lives in Media, PA. Their daughter Anna lives in New York, and son Eriq lives in West Chester, PA. Michael Rowen, the owner of Michael's Motor Cars, resides with his wife Molly in Lancaster. Michael's daughter Nikki Wible resides with her husband Jeremy and children Sam and Grace in Lock Haven, PA. His younger daughter Sophie Rowen lives in Philadelphia. Michael's stepsons Austin and Connor Fink live in Lancaster and Germany respectively.

A celebration of Nan's life will be held at The Groffs Family Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange Street, Lancaster, PA on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. The family will receive friends beginning at 12:00 Noon. Private interment in Mount Bethel Cemetery, Columbia, PA.

Memorial contributions in Nan's honor may be made to Planned Parenthood, 31 S. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 or Lancaster Creative Factory at ColumbiaCreativeFactory.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Remembrance Gathering

MAR 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Louise "Nan" Roye*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *My sympathy to all Nancy's family. My late husband, Frank McCarthy, and I were close Charlotte Street neighbors for many years. Parties at her Concord Street carriage house were always fun occasions with lots of good conversation and food. Nancy contributed much to the Democrat's cause and to the best of living in the city of Lancaster.*

Marge McCarthy

Marge McCarthy - March 04, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ *I have fond memories of Nan, having worked at Susquehanna Glass in the 1980's. My husband and I have great memories of a trip to New York City with her. Deepest sympathy to Walt and Michael and the rest of her family. A long life well lived.*

Pat White

Pat White - February 28, 2019 at 08:54 AM



“ *Heaven received a beautiful Angel. Nancy was my Mentor and good friend. I learned a lot over the years working at the Glass factory with her .. Traveling to New York for work I enjoyed our conversations and listening to her stories. Jessica and I would go to the shore with her (girls weekend), .we would have so much fun. She would take us to Strasburg railroad and other places. She treated us like we were part of her family and we considered her part of ours. I will miss you my dear friend...peace..until we meet again
Love Sandy Baker*

Sandy Baker - February 27, 2019 at 06:25 PM

TF

“ I extend my sincere condolences to the entire family. I have been employed by Susquehanna Glass since 1985 and Nancy had always made me feel like part of her family.

To this most beautiful woman, inside and out, may you rest in peace and enjoy eternal life!

Terri Fillmore

Terri Fillmore - February 27, 2019 at 12:56 PM

JB

“ I work for Susquehanna Glass Company since 1976 so I knew Nan very well and have been a part of the SGC family ever since. The thing about Nan is you could address her by her first name which as a young man in 1976 thought was so cool.

May you rest in peace.

Joe Baker

Joe Baker - February 27, 2019 at 11:37 AM

MH

“ Nan supported many who shared her values of fairness and progress. She helped those who made our community a better place to live. She lived her life well and will be missed.

Molly Henderson

Molly Henderson - February 27, 2019 at 08:47 AM

BS

“ She lived a long and prosperous life. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Barry Solodky

Barry A Solodky - February 27, 2019 at 08:27 AM

LH

“ Nan will be missed by so many of us for the inspiration she gave us and the support, especially for women in politics. She had a fantastic life and influenced generations.

Lois Herr - February 27, 2019 at 08:15 AM



“ Nancy was more than a friend, we considered her family. She was an amazing woman and I have many fond childhood memories of having the chance to spend time at the Glass Factory with Nancy, Ed, Walt, and everyone else. My heart is filled with sadness over her passing but the memories will always make me smile. On behalf of the family of my grandparents Lewis and Pauline Ott, I want to pass on my sincerest condolences and please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. I know Ed and Debbie greeted Nan with a lot of loving hugs as she begins her journey in the Heavens with them and her loving parents. Rest in peace Nancy. I will never forget you.



Dee Englehart and the entire Ott family

Dee Englehart - February 27, 2019 at 01:25 AM