



Nancy Stuart Tonkin

November 29, 2017

Nancy Stuart Tonkin passed away at her home in Nitro, West Virginia on November 29, 2017. Her parents, John B. and Nancy S. Tonkin, of Clarksburg, West Virginia and brother, John B. Tonkin, preceded her in death. Nancy lived a life deep with purpose, happiness, faith and courage, and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Nancy was an active member of Saint Marks Episcopal Church of Saint Albans and enjoyed helping people, gardening, reading, art, cooking and swimming. She had a special gift of bringing people together and hosted many celebrations for family and friends.

Nancy was founder and owner of Tonkin Management Group, a government relations and association management firm in Charleston. Prior to establishing her company, Nancy served as Vice President of Charles Ryan Associates, and the West Virginia Hospital Association.

Active in professional and volunteer organizations, Nancy served as President of the Children's Home Society Board of Directors and was named Board Member Emeritus. She also served as President of the West Virginia Society of Association Executives, and was a charter member and served as President of the Capitol City Civitan Club. Additionally, Nancy was a charter member and President of the Vandalia Rotary Club, and helped organize the

Summersville Rotary Club.

As a board member of the WV Children's Coalition, Nancy was instrumental in working on a number of issues and initiatives to improve the health and well being of children. Nancy chaired the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free West Virginia, and was passionate about fighting tobacco use among children. She also served on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Charleston, and chaired the public policy committee. In 2016, Nancy was influential in passage of West Virginia's Oral Anticancer Treatment Access legislation, which removed barriers to life-saving treatment for cancer patients. She received several awards during her career, including the Exemplar Award in Excellence for Social Work Management, and the West Virginia Rural Health Association Award in Excellence In Rural Health.

Nancy was a graduate of West Virginia University with a bachelor and master's degree in Social Work, and served as a member of the WVU School of Social Work Visiting Committee.

Nancy is survived by Tommy H. Mullins, long-time companion; brother, Loring L. (Tim) Tonkin and his wife, Veronica Malfregeot Tonkin of Clarksburg; niece Holly Ann Tonkin and Amanda Deitz, and children Emma and Chad Deitz of Saint Albans; nephews, Timothy Luke Tonkin and daughter, Abigail Tonkin, of Factoryville, Pennsylvania, and John "Jeb" Tonkin and wife Abby of Weston; and step-mother, Betty Preston Tonkin, of Clarksburg.

The family would like to give special thanks to Kim Miller, hospice nurse, and caretakers April Boggs, Morgan Smith and Cheryl Wallace for their care and support.

Funeral services will be held at 9:30 am Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, 405 B St., Saint Albans, with Father Charles Pope

officiating. Burial will follow at 2:00 pm Saturday at Bridgeport Cemetery, Bridgeport, West Virginia.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 pm Friday at Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home in Saint Albans.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Children's Home Society, P.O. Box 2942, Charleston, West Virginia, 25330, or Saint Marks Episcopal Church of Saint Albans Outreach Ministries, 405 B St, St Albans, WV 25177.

You may visit Nancy's tribute page at chapmanfuneralhomes.com to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Tonkin family.

Cemetery Details

Bridgeport Cemetery

Bridgeport, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
St. Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<http://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 2. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
405 B Street
St. Albans, WV 25177

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Stuart Tonkin*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Nancy was my first girlfriend back on Temple Terrace. We walked to Morgan School each morning and played after school. I will always remember her laugh and how much fun we had all through school until we went our separate ways to college. I miss those times and her entire family. God Bless you, Nancy, and thank you for all we shared.*

Melissa Buffington Damiano

Melissa - April 03, 2018 at 09:19 AM



“ *I've known Nancy since I served in the legislature in the late 80-s through 90's. She was a gem and will be missed. I will pray for her. Sincerely, Brian Gallagher*

Brian Gallagher - December 02, 2017 at 03:51 PM



“ *She was a wonderful soul. All were blessed who knew her. Dee Webb*

Dee Webb - December 01, 2017 at 08:33 PM

DS

“ Tommy, Tim and other members of Nancy's family: Nancy was a beautiful person inside and out. I worked with Nancy while I was in Congressman Bob Wise's Congressional office. She always greeted me with a smile and so willing to help on our health care projects. She will be missed by so many people. Tommy, my prayers go out to you in the loss of your loving companion.

*Diana Smith
Ripley, WV*

Diana Smith - December 01, 2017 at 04:44 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Nancy Stuart Tonkin.



December 01, 2017 at 12:03 PM

KK

“ Heaven gained another Angel. Nancy was a beautiful lady inside and out. She was extremely nice to our family back in the 90's when my father was in the hospital. She will be missed by all that knew her.

Kathy and Paul Kodosky - December 01, 2017 at 10:13 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Nancy Stuart Tonkin.*



December 01, 2017 at 08:47 AM



“ *I worked closely with Nancy when she was Executive Director of the West Virginia Physical Therapy Association. She was a guiding light for the association and her contacts and respect in the community opened many doors for us. She and Wanda set very high standards for all of us and we will be forever in her debt.*

Sally Oxley

Sally Oxley - December 01, 2017 at 06:51 AM



I first meet Nancy in 2010 when I went to Charleston to introduce myself after I arrived at Marshall University to develop the physical therapy school. She was so welcoming and helpful as I got involved in the West Virginia Physical Association. She was a principled, generous person always working for the benefit of others. The world has lost a magnificent person!

Penny Kroll - December 01, 2017 at 12:24 PM

EM

“ Tommy, Tim, Veronica, Buddy and to all of Nancy's family, Nancy has been a part of my life for 43 years, having first lived together at WVU. Despite being at opposite ends of the country, we saw each other regularly and had long talks by phone. Our trip to Florida last year was especially memorable and I will particularly cherish our time snorkeling on Shell Island. Like everything Nancy did, she faced her illness with fortitude, grace and a positive attitude.

I wish that I could be there Saturday to pay tribute with you but that is unfortunately not possible. Please know that I am with you in spirit and in prayer. There is a huge void in my heart, as I have lost an incredible friend that can never be replaced.

Love, Emma

Emma Mayer - December 01, 2017 at 12:27 AM

TF

“ The McPherson Families purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Nancy Stuart Tonkin.



The McPherson Families - November 30, 2017 at 09:05 PM

YW

“ Yi, Jing, Prince, Ben Wang purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Nancy Stuart Tonkin.



Yi, Jing, Prince, Ben Wang - November 30, 2017 at 08:12 PM

BT

“ Dear Tim and family,

I was so shocked and saddened to learn of Nancy's passing. I have so many memories, not only of Nancy, but the whole Tonkin Family. All or our lives seem to have been so intertwined all those years ago through the neighborhood, the country club, and so many other ways. I guess my biggest memory is that for so many years your mother was Big Nancy and Nancy was Little Nancy.

I know that Nancy is in some outstanding company in Heaven by those who have gone before and love her dearly.

My deepest sympathy and prayers are with you and all of your family and extended family during your time of loss.

*Sincerely,
Betsy Wilson Turner*

Betsy Wilson Turner - November 30, 2017 at 08:12 PM

YW

“ Nancy had been a great friend of Wang's family since 90's. We had several sweet time with her & Tommy while they were visiting the DC areas. she was charming, pleasant, very easy to get along with kids. She was an excellent political commentator as I learned a great deal of American politics & the functions of the local gov systems. We loved her & will be missing her. Nancy is living alive in our hearts.

Yi Wang - November 30, 2017 at 07:56 PM



“ I am a Washington Irving alumni and I remember Nancy. Such a nice person. My family and I are sending prayers to the family of Nancy.

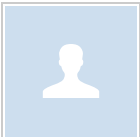
Sheila Reel - November 30, 2017 at 07:51 PM



“ I am very sorry for your loss, which is also a great loss to the people of West Virginia. Years ago, I served as counsel to the Legislature, where Nancy was a shining light. She always, every day, had a sweet smile and friendly greeting for everyone regardless of position or title. She introduced a lovely custom by hosting female legislators, counsel, and lobbyists for a picnic at her home, including a river cruise on her pontoon boat. One year when I had suffered a lengthy illness, her party lifted me up and helped me return to work. I felt a special connection with Nancy, because of her goodness and concern for others. I am blessed to have known her.



Susan Conner - November 30, 2017 at 06:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nancy Stuart Tonkin.



November 30, 2017 at 04:33 PM

TF

“ *The Brigham Family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Nancy Stuart Tonkin.*



The Brigham Family - November 30, 2017 at 01:18 PM

JS

“ *I first knew Nancy when she was one of my students at West Virginia University, but she reentered my life more recently and brought her passion, her wisdom, and her amazing ability to bring people together for a shared purpose to help endow a Professorship in Women's and Gender Studies at WVU. It couldn't have happened without her skills and commitment, and when she gave me the privilege of meeting her beloved niece Holly at a celebration last spring, I saw her own warm spirit carried forward in future generations.*

It was an honor to know her and I send my deepest condolences to her friends and family who loved her and shared her with so many others.

*Judith Gold Stitzel
Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies
West Virginia University*

Judith Gold Stitzel - November 30, 2017 at 12:29 PM

MK

“ Nancy was one of my oldest friends...Morgan School....Central Jr. High School....WV. Her physical presence will be missed....the World was better with her in it. My deepest condolences to Tim and the rest of the family as well as Tommy. I know that I'll miss her.

Mike King

Mike King - November 30, 2017 at 12:03 PM

DF

“ Ophthalmologists from all over WV knew and loved Nancy. She was the executive director of the West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons for many years. In that capacity, she was an exceptional leader, unusually well organized, and absolutely brilliant in dealing with government-related issues. She will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by all who knew and worked with her. David Faris

David Faris - November 30, 2017 at 11:48 AM

GB

“ My sincere condolences for the loss of this very special lady. Nancy worked tirelessly and passionately with me over the years as we worked at the state capital to strengthen children's eye care services and policies in WV. I valued her knowledge and enthusiasm, knowing that our successes were in larger part due to her involvement than to mine. Children in our state are better off because of her. Her legacy will surely be a lasting one and, on a personal level, I will greatly miss her smile and fun-loving nature. Geoff Bradford, MD, Pediatric Ophthalmology at WVU

Geoff Bradford - November 30, 2017 at 11:00 AM

LD

“ *A constant source of no-nonsense support for me and our friends. Most important- a constant friend. Our circle now is missing another link. Rest well my friend.*



lisa dooley - November 30, 2017 at 09:46 AM

KM

“ *We served as counselors together during the summer of 1975 at Peterkin Conference Center in Romney WV. She was devoted to that camp in her teens, twenties and most recently. I will miss this bright, funny and compassionate friend.*

*May the road rise to meet you,
And the wind be at your back,
And the Lord hold you always,
In the hollow of His hand, Nancy.*

Karen Mills

Karen B Mills - November 30, 2017 at 09:35 AM

LM

“ *I send my most sincere condolences to Nancy's family. Her tireless work to improve health and medical care in West Virginia is a powerful legacy. She will be sorely missed.*

*Lewis W. Gravely, M.D.
Saint Johns, FL
(formerly of Beckley, WV)*

Lewis Gravely, M.D. - November 30, 2017 at 09:33 AM

SI

“ You were a major part of my life that I will cherish forever.

Scott

Scott Icard - November 30, 2017 at 08:24 AM

JF

“ Nancy was the administrator when I was president of the WVAEPS in 2000. Her willingness to help and advocacy expertise were invaluable to me. Since then my respect only grew , Finally I admired her dignity in the way she approached her illness. She will be missed.

Joseph LoCascio, MD, FACS

Joseph LoCascio, MD, FACS - November 30, 2017 at 08:06 AM

SB

“ I'm vividly seeing in my mind being little on Temple Terrace hiding and playing outside all day long. I will miss her laugh.

Suzanne Huffington Berman

Suzanne Buffington Berman - November 30, 2017 at 05:02 AM

JE

“ A life well-lived. Nancy made a difference to so many people. We will miss her so very much. Jennifer Taylor & Steve Haid

Jennifer - November 30, 2017 at 03:28 AM

JG

“ *It was a pleasure to have known and worked with Nancy. I will miss her and will keep wonderful memories of her help and tireless energy on behalf of the WV Academy of Ophthalmology.*
Jim Genin, MD

Jim Genin - November 29, 2017 at 09:35 PM

JK

“ *My sincere condolences to Nancy's family and friends. She was a dedicated advocate for those who needed a voice, a worthy adversary when issues collided and always a truthful and honorable lady who cared about people. A class act. RIP.*
Jeff Kessler
former WV Senate President

Jeff Kessler - November 29, 2017 at 09:16 PM

 Lisa
Seaborn

“ *I will always remember her generous heart. Thanks always for adopting my fur baby, Josie, and giving her a great home.*

Lisa Seaborn - November 29, 2017 at 07:56 PM