



Nancy Graves Perrin

May 11, 1935 - May 4, 2022

Nancy Warwick Graves Perrin, 86, of Creve Coeur, passed away on May 4, 2022, in Creve Coeur, Missouri.

Nancy was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Nancy Warwick Graves and Howard Cleaton Graves on May 11, 1935. She attended Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama. Nancy married Victor Don Perrin on June 9, 1956, at Haygood Memorial United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Nancy passed away one week before her 87th birthday and five weeks before their 66th wedding anniversary. Nancy worked at Coca Cola's International Headquarters in Atlanta for three years as Secretary to the Vice President of Marketing, and for 20 years as Production Assistant for Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Nancy was an accomplished ballroom and swing dancer. She taught private dance lessons as well as group ballroom and swing dancing for St. Louis Community College and the YMCA. Nancy taught dancing from 1985 until January 2022. She was also a gifted pianist and soloist at churches in Alabama, Georgia, California, North Carolina, and Missouri.

Nancy is preceded in death by her parents.

Loving and devoted wife and mother, Nancy is survived by husband Don and their four children, son, Vic Perrin (Amie), daughter, Donna Sarmanian (David), daughter, Sandra Merritt (Dallas), and daughter, Jill Perrin; sisters Patricia Kees and Susan Melton (Jim); and 'Nina' to 11 grandchildren Jeff (Stephanie), Cortni, Katy, Sarah (AJ), David (Aisha), Kylie, Michael, Joey (Samantha), Nicholas, Sammy, and Claire; and seven great-grandchildren Austin, Owen, Isa, Abby, Flora, Hannah, and Cameron.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice in memory of Nancy Perrin.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Bellerive Garden Indoor Mausoleum Chapel
740 North Mason Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Memorial Service

JUN 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Bellerive Garden Indoor Mausoleum Chapel
740 North Mason Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Tribute Wall

LG

“ After starting Variety Dance at the Edward Jones YMCA, I didn't know Nancy Perrin. There were other dancers who joined me in practice times in order to actually start a class named Variety Dance (now known as Dance Fitness). YMCA management liked the idea and I wanted it well known that we were not a line dance class, but would include some line dancing in our class. I met Nancy in a Cardio Mix class (called Silver Sneakers) taught by my good friend Jeff Mahoney. When I found out about Nancy Perrin's ballroom instructor past, I recruited her to be our ballroom instructor for Variety Dance. She accepted the challenge and became everyone's darling teacher with her strict rules about "frame" and "footwork". I thought of myself as a pretty good dancer, but Nancy showed me I had a lot to learn as a ballroom co-instructor or demonstrator. The times were so fun with her and I asked her if she would perform a waltz and swing dance with me at one of our potluck YMCA luncheons. She again accepted the challenge. Because of her COPD, I broke the performance into two separate sequences so she could catch her breath. At the end of the waltz, I apologized that we did not do the promenade sequence with a chassis and she told me nobody noticed. I looked at her and told her how very special she is. I didn't worry about the swing dance as it was not choreographed and we just danced very well, with enthusiasm and smile on our faces. I had a photo of us with Linda Kramer in between two of my Friday classes with a pair of pants that my sister Cheryl had given me. The pants were white with big black notes, just like piano score sheet music. If I knew how to post it I would. Perhaps I can do an update later! Thanks so much for all the wonderful times you gave me Nancy. I will always think of you, when I ballroom dance! Love you Nancy P!

L David Gangloff - June 06 at 01:10 AM

JD

So sweet David... she had so much fun dancing and teaching with you!

jill davis - June 06 at 01:26 AM

VM

“ My first memories of Nancy were when she started taking my Senior Circuit class at the Y. She always had a great attitude and a wonderful smile. Loved watching her work with the members in her dance class and watching her dance at the AOA luncheons. Nancy wasn't just a member, she was a special part of our Y family and she is missed.

Valerie McCool-Fry - June 05 at 06:03 PM

JD

Valerie, thank you for the sweet note! She always looked forward to her classes and seeing everyone there at the Y. Always had such nice things to say about everyone there ❤️

jill davis - June 06 at 01:27 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Nancy Graves Perrin.*



June 04 at 10:20 AM

CB

“ *Nancy, you and Don made us fall in love with ballroom dancing. Thank you for all the fun times, both on the dance floor and off. Whenever we dance or cheer for the Cardinals, we will think of you. Like everyone who knew you, we will miss you dearly.*

Cindy Russell & Doug Brown - June 03 at 07:30 PM

Jl

Such a sweet note Cindy and Doug. ❤️

jill - June 04 at 09:05 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Graves Perrin.*



June 03 at 07:15 PM



“ *Oh Nina ❤️ I'll miss your smile, your laughter, your hugs, your love of the Cardinals, watching you make homemade ice cream, all your cooking, and letting me explore your house as a kid. You lit every room with your happiness and made everyone feel comfortable. I remember the times you helped me on my homework, let me ask questions about your life and watching Cardinals games in your basement surrounded by STL memorabilia. Thank you for it all. You had a genuine and kind soul that will be greatly missed.*

Michael Perrin - June 02 at 03:27 PM

Jl

Michael.....such sweet memories you have...I love it ❤️ She loved you very much and always will.

jill - June 04 at 09:06 AM



Thank you ❤️

Michael Perrin - June 05 at 12:56 PM

CA

“ Twenty or more years ago, I sat at a table in the Y lobby with my friend Nancy. Three of us were contemplating creating a dance class that would include a variety of dancing styles. I would lead the line dancing segment of each class, Nancy would lead the ballroom section, etc. The one-hour class was scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It was my pleasure to share my love of dancing with this ever-sparkling woman in those classes. She tried her best to get everyone to do the steps of each dance perfectly, but a few people could not comply with her orders in the Foxtrot. It was the only time I saw her really impatient and frustrated as she pleaded with them to slide their steps in the proper way. Nancy's radiant smile and sense of humor is how I remember this dear friend and co-teacher of so many years. I treasure our many Christmas season dinners at her home with Don and their enchanting decoration displays everywhere. I will always miss her when I step into our dance studio at the Y every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
Carol Teicher

Carol - May 26 at 11:48 AM



Carol, thank you so much for the special words about my Mom. She loved teaching dancing ❤️

Jill Davis - May 28 at 07:22 PM

TR

“ Sandy, Donna and Vic,
I don't believe I ever met your mother but I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm sure you all are a reflection of your mother. Niceness personified. I truly enjoyed my connection with the three of you as student athletes at Central Junior High. God bless you all.

Coach Tom Reich
tmrslug@aol.com

Tom Reich - May 22 at 06:53 PM



Jill Davis - May 28 at 07:24 PM

AL

“ I remember Nancy's laughter. It was genuine and I couldn't hear it without joining her.

My only interactions with her was at the YMCA, but we use to talk quite a bit whenever we'd meet. My prayers are for the family for I know that she left grieving hearts, but also much love. Well met Nancy.

Alberta - May 15 at 06:47 PM



Jill Davis - May 28 at 07:24 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nancy Graves Perrin.



May 13 at 11:46 AM

MC

“ Nancy's presence always made my day better. I will miss her warm smile and words of encouragement.

Martin Caupp - May 13 at 10:53 AM



Jill Davis - May 28 at 07:25 PM

RP

“ Nancy and Don graciously let me stay with them shortly after my granddaughter (and their great-granddaughter) Isa was born. Jeff had told me their names were Daddy Don and Nina. I didn't realize those were their grandparent names so that's what I called them. Neither of them corrected me. They were the perfect hosts and when I left invited me to stay again anytime I came to St Louis. The next time I came to stay with them Isa was a toddler. My daughter Stephanie was in town for work and had brought Isa with her. I was feeling a little like I was intruding. Nancy noticed and told me how grateful they were that I had come. She said she and Don were getting too old to watch an active toddler on their own, and that they were so happy that I had come so they could get to spend the time with Isa. She put me perfectly at ease and I thoroughly enjoyed the rest of our time together. We sat and chatted for hours while we watched Isa play. Nancy talked lovingly about her husband, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She never had a negative word to say about anyone and it was clear she adored all of you. She will be greatly missed. I am so glad I got the opportunity to know her. Rhonda Presler

Rhonda Presler - May 12 at 10:33 PM



Jill Davis - May 28 at 07:25 PM

LD

“ Linda DuBois lit a candle in memory of Nancy Graves Perrin



Linda DuBois - May 12 at 08:45 PM

JD



Jill Davis - May 29 at 09:50 AM

LD

“ *Barry and I will always remember Nancy's smile and the way she was with us learning to dance. The giggles were the best.
I'll look for you on Mondays and Wednesdays. Love what you mean to us forever.
Linda and Barry DuBois*



Linda DuBois - May 12 at 08:43 PM

JD

Thank you Linda and Barry for the kind words ❤️

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 09:57 PM

NH

“ *Nancy-To a wonderful person that Tim and I feel privileged to have known and considered a dear friend. Nancy and I had so much fun coming up with new dances for Variety Dance. We would stay after class laughing as we tried to figure out how to do the steps. She was a fantastic dance teacher. I never knew how to ballroom dance before I met her.
.Tim- I could talk with her on anything, politics, dancing, all sports, and especially Cardinal baseball. She was a great ballroom dance instructor and made me a believer in the "Frame."
Tim and Nancy-But most of all, she was a fun person to be around and it was an honor to have in our lives. We love Nancy and will miss her greatly.*



Nancy and Tim Hagen - May 12 at 07:25 PM

JD

The 3 Nancy's!!! Mom loved showing this picture and talking about you all. Tim and Nancy you meant a lot to my Mom and I thank you for that

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 09:58 PM

SP

“ I was so lucky to immediately be accepted as a granddaughter by Nina. She was wonderful to me, and our daughter, Isa, adored her. I'll remember her as always smiling, full of energy, and always busy caring for others. Christmas at her home every year was just magical. I am so thankful she shared her rum ball recipe with me this year so I can make them every Christmas and remember her!



Stephanie Perrin - May 12 at 03:10 AM

JD

♥ Rum Balls!!!

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 09:59 PM

LK

“ Jim & I were blessed to be welcomed into the Graves-Perrin family. We treasure the memories we made during vacations together, weekly dinners, Tuesday breakfast for Jim, Sunday breakfast at Waffle House, Corn Hole games, crafting with corks, Valentine's Day at White Castle, birthdays, holidays, and more. Nancy is an Angel too soon. We will remember her and miss her always. 💕



Linda Kramer - May 11 at 10:57 PM

JD

Jim and Linda... you know how I feel about you two. ♥ You are my moms "Bestie" and brought SO much laughter and happiness to her.. for that I thank you 😊

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 10:00 PM



“ We miss you so much Nina, we hope we showed you just how much you were loved. Sarah’s right, we grandchildren, and GREATgrandchildren had the best Nina. You’re the reason I love the Cardinals and St. Louis, and the first time Isa laughed as hard as she could is when you were holding her.



Jeff Perrin - May 11 at 10:30 PM

JD

Jeff.. her first Grandchild and you named her Nina!! She loved you so much and was so proud when she beat you at Cardinals Trivia (or anything else for that matter) 🙌

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 10:04 PM

AR

“ Nina was the epitome of a classy Southern lady. She welcomed me so warmly into the family and taught me so much in the short time I knew her — from the basics of ballroom dancing to how to play rummikub. Her kindness and sense of humor will be missed.

Aisha Richey - May 11 at 10:29 PM

JD

Couldn’t agree more Aisha. She never lost her southern charm for sure. ❤️

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 10:05 PM

DR

“ Nina will always hold a special place in my heart. She was the kindest, most caring, best-dancing grandmother I could ask for. She taught me how to boggle, how to cha cha, how to waltz, how to root for the Cardinals, and most importantly, how to love my family. I feel blessed to have had her in my life and will miss her dearly.



David Richey - May 11 at 10:23 PM

JD

Such a great picture David. She was the coolest Nina (and Mom) and we are all blessed to have been loved by her. ❤️

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 10:08 PM

SH

“ We grandchildren are so lucky to have had our Nina for so long...she was the best grandma! She never missed sending a card for each holiday for as long as I can remember. :)

Sarah Head - May 11 at 10:21 PM



It didn't matter where you were in the country, Nina knew when to send a birthday card to arrive ON your birthday :)

Jeff Perrin - May 11 at 10:31 PM

JD

Yes! Sarah and Jeff... Nina loved sending cards. I'd love seeing her calendar on the fridge that she had EVERYONES special days (in red of course) marked and cards labeled and stamped ready to mail a week before. She was thinking about you always no matter where ya were. #Nina Jackpot

Jill Perrin Davis - May 12 at 10:13 PM

NM

“ Sandy, I am so sorry for the loss of your Mom! I know it hurts....you are in my prayers. Nadine



Nadind Meade - May 07 at 10:41 PM

Jl



jill - June 04 at 09:08 AM

JP

“ 6 files added to the album *Family pictures*



Jill Perrin - May 07 at 08:48 AM