



Nancy Elizabeth Gunther

June 23, 1963 - November 24, 2023

Born to John & Mary (Krauser) Wolfe on June 23, 1963, in Peoria, Illinois, Nancy Gunther, the youngest and most vibrant member of the Wolfe family, brought warmth and laughter to everyone she met. On November 24, 2023, we said goodbye to a generous woman who shared her huge heart with everyone.

She is survived by; the love of her life, Rich Gunther; two sons, Tony (Jana) Gunther, Kyle (Kenzie) Gunther; three grandsons, Max, Lincoln & Zeke Gunther; four siblings, Mike (Eileen) Wolfe, Sharon Wolfe, Kathy (Jim) Lamb, David (Maureen) Wolfe; and numerous nieces and nephews. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents John and Mary (Krauser) Wolfe.

Nancy's journey began in a lively household in West Peoria with her four older siblings. Her spunky nature made her the heart of her family, a trait she carried throughout her life. Instead of math or spelling, her early years of school at Academy of Our Lady/Spalding proved that her favorite subject in school was undoubtedly "talking", leading to frequent visits to the principal's office. She then attended Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL where she continued to enjoy socializing and making new friends. Nancy's brief college stint was considered by her father, John, to be the most expensive vacation he'd ever unknowingly funded.

In October of 1985, Nancy married the love of her life, Rich, embarking on a 37-year journey filled with love and success. Beyond raising a family, they built a legacy through several small businesses. Rich handled operations while Nancy, the office manager, kept everything running behind the scenes. Together, they raised a family with their two sons, built their dream home and had an open-door policy as a haven for anyone needing a place to be. Nancy was in her happy place at home while fishing, walking with the dogs, mowing acres of grass, putting together her annual “pots”, hosting bonfires and buying takeout for everyone who happened to be at their house that night.

Her outgoing personality extended beyond her family to every person she encountered. Nancy never met a stranger, turning chance encounters with employees, waitresses, or random customers into heartfelt conversations and stories she could recount hours later.

Quality time with her sisters, Kathy and Sharon, was a cherished pastime, especially during their shopping escapades in Schaumburg. The aisles of Von Maur, Nordstrom Rack, and TJ Maxx became their playground, always concluding with a nightcap at Weber Grill or Cheesecake Factory for appetizers, drinks, and dessert. If Chicagoland was out of reach, Target or Walmart would suffice, with hours spent searching for everything and nothing, followed by a quick visit to Longhorn.

Nancy's departure leaves a void, but, as we remember her life, let's celebrate the joy she brought into our lives and carry forward her legacy of love, laughter, and compassion. She may be gone, but her spirit lives on in the memories and hearts of those she touched. Let's celebrate the joy she brought to our lives and honor her memory with a smile, just as she would have wanted.

In lieu of flowers, we would like to honor Nancy's passion for animals, the

family kindly requests donations in her honor to our local no-kill animal shelter, TAPS. Contributions can be made at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/TAPSshelter> or via Venmo @Anthony-Gunther. Tony will coordinate the final donation and share the love with everyone who contributes.

There will be a celebration of life held on Saturday, December 2nd, at Industry Brewing, 8012 N Hale Ave, Peoria, IL from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm and is open to anyone who knew her and would like to share a memory or a laugh.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 2. 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM (CT)

Industry Brewing
8012 Hale Ave
Peoria, IL 61615

Tribute Wall

PE

“ *Rich Tony Kyle ,I m sorry to hear about Nancy. God bless. You all. Keep keepn on the best you can. Love@ prayers. Persich*

Persich - December 05, 2023 at 11:21 PM

ER

“ *Dear Mike, Dave, Kathy, & Sharon, and Gunther family- I am deeply saddened to hear of Nancy's passing. She was my best childhood friend. We had so much fun over the years trick or treating, playing barbies, going on your family vacations to TN., and FL. We would lay out in the summer, she would get a beautiful golden tan and I would fry to a crisp. We lost touch since I no longer live in Peoria, but I CHERISH my memories with her and pray for your broken hearts and wish you peace.*
Erin Kelly

Erin - December 03, 2023 at 11:44 AM



“ *Ohh Nancy. My heart aches that you departed from this physical world, but I'll always cherish our conversations, laughs, and hugs at longhorn. For the little time that I got to embark on a journey swapping life stories and such, you made an impact. Rich I am so very sorry. Sending love light and healing energy to you and your family.*
Much love
Tiffany, from Longhorn ❤️

Tiffany Sue - December 02, 2023 at 01:56 AM

MO

“ Rich
Sending love and prayers to you and your family. Nancy was so full
of life. I will always cherish her joy, laughter and kindness,
She will be greatly missed.
With Sympathy,

Mary Oberholtzer

Mary Oberholtzer - November 30, 2023 at 02:48 PM

VB

“ Rich and family,

Deepest sympathy to all.

Many hugs and prayers.

Nancy was so full of life, she will be missed.

Sincerely,
Vicki and Gary Baumgarten

Vicki Baumgarten - November 29, 2023 at 10:55 AM

MW

“ Praying for Nancy and all the family at this challenging time. Words
cannot express my sorrow for all you. God bless you, always! Mary
Beth Wittry

Mary Beth Wittry - November 29, 2023 at 06:46 AM

NH

“ I only have the best memories of Nancy. Her vivacious personality and laugh, she was truly one of a kind. She was so generous and I will never forget her helping throw my engagement party. I'm sending positive energy to the Gunther family <3 I am so sorry for your incredible loss.
- Natalie Herman

Natalie Herman - November 28, 2023 at 02:29 PM

PM

“ I first met Nancy while working for Dr. Werking then again when we worked together at Illinois Mutual. That girl could light up a room!!! She was by far one of the nicest, funniest, most loving people I have had the privilege of knowing. Her stories were priceless and she could make me laugh until I cried!! What great memories I have of that beautiful wife, mother, grandmother, family member and very dear friend. My prayers go out to all of you as we mourn Nancy's passing. Heaven just welcomed an incredible angel with an absolutely beautiful smile!!!!

Pam Miller - November 28, 2023 at 02:16 PM

KS

“ To the Gunther Family, Nancy was a great neighbor and always had a smile and a wave for us. You are all in our prayers. Kevin & Sue

Kevin and Sue - November 28, 2023 at 10:52 AM

JG

My heartfelt condolences to all of Nancy's family. Her friendship meant the world to me. Her care, love and laughter we're the best!

Julie Gross - November 28, 2023 at 01:04 PM

DP

*Rich and family, I am so very sorry for you loss. Prayers for y'all.
Denice White Patroff*

Dee Patroff - November 28, 2023 at 03:55 PM

MM

Rich and family, I just heard about Nancy's passing this afternoon and was/ am in complete shock and saddened all in the same breath. I looked for her obituary and missed her celebration of life that was earlier today as well. I am sad I missed this and I owe you a great big hug when I see you next. OMGosh Nancy was so beautiful, and loved her family so. I remember way back when she and you first started dating and I met this gorgeous, smiling, life loving girl who was just super sweet. I grew to know her through the years and she would not too long ago bring you up to MD's for a BLT with pepperjack cheese added. My heart hurts for you all with this tremendous loss, and you have unending prayers and love. Gone way too soon. RIP Nancy.

MaryBeth (Gilfillan) Milburn - January 02, 2024 at 07:30 PM