



## Nancy Barnes Coffin

February 17, 1928 - March 30, 2020

Nancy Lee Barnes Wray Coffin Defeyter, a most gracious and kind woman, passed away on March 30, 2020.

Nancy was born on February 17, 1928 in Bristol, CT to Lillian H. and Harry C. Barnes. She was a sister to Oliver, Edith, Wallace and Harry Barnes and is survived by Wallace.

Nancy attended Westover School and received an Associates Degree from Sweet Briar College. In

1956, Nancy and her husband Sid Wray, along with their three children, moved from Bristol to southern

California, where they had four more children. Nancy was involved in a number of activities in southern

California, including serving as President of the Affiliates at the Webb Schools in Claremont, CA. Her

favorite activity, though, was to fill in at first base or as tight end in one of our endless games on the front lawn.

Nancy's greatest adventure occurred in 1969 when she and her husband Rush Coffin purchased a ranch

near Merrill, OR, which they named the WC Ranch, and moved the whole brood there. As she had for her

whole life, Nancy jumped right into community service in Merrill and Klamath Falls. She was a member

of Chapter FF PEO, the Assistance League and also worked with Hospice for a time.

Nancy had a real passion for OIT and served as a Board member of the Foundation from 1999 to

2016. She co-chaired the Scholarship committee for seven years with Gerda Hyde and became an Oregon

Tech Foundation Emeritus Director. The Nancy B. Coffin Scholarship was established to provide financial

assistance to students. There have been 13 recipients so far.

As the consummate traveler, Nancy enjoyed trekking in China, biking in France, visiting penguins in

Antarctica, fishing for the elusive Tyee in British Columbia, being at the finish line of the Iditarod and

taking a train through Siberia. She treasured her time on her boat, the Nantucket, with family and friends

and entertaining at her home in April Point, British Columbia.

However, Nancy's life was not without heartache. Her precious daughter Ellen died in 1989 and she

was widowed three times. Her first husband Sid, the father of her seven children, died in 1965. Her second

husband S. Rush Coffin, died in 2003 and her third husband Don Defeyter passed away in 2013.

Nancy's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the recipients of her many great gifts of

love and guidance. Nancy is survived by her six children Michael, Nancy, Mark, Steve, Susan and Judy. She

also leaves behind sixteen grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

We can only hope to live as fully and to be surrounded by as much love as she was. She will be truly

missed.

There will be no service at this time. Memorial contributions may be made to the OIT Foundation, 3201

Campus Dr., Klamath Falls, OR 97601, or Chapter FF PEO, 17356 Hill Rd., Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

# Comments

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“ Nancy you have no idea how you saved me financially by the work you gave me house sitting your "castle". It was difficult for me to earn a decent living in rural OR but I survived due mainly to the work you gave me.  
I will always cherish the memories of the talks we had and taking care of your home and kitties. We were kindred spirits...strong New England women! Rest in peace!

**Karen Ivan** - April 05 at 04:00 PM

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“ With deepest Sympathy,

We had the pleasure of being friends with Nancy for the past 3 years. She was a remarkable women. One of our daily talks revolved around "the word of the day". Nancy would like to have a new word that we may have read or heard that was unfamiliar to us. The challenge was to understand the meaning and to use that word in normal conversation. It always produced a lively and often funny conversation. She loved life and had so many interests. She will be missed and long remembered.

John and Donna Klein,  
The Springs @ Veranda Park

**John & Donna Klein** - April 04 at 12:51 PM