



Mary Nancy Copeland

July 30, 1944 - July 10, 2017

Mary "Nancy" Copeland, 72 year old resident of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died July 10, 2017 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She was born July 30, 1944 in Union, Arkansas to Jesse Ray Copeland and Ruth Franks Copeland. She graduated from Salem High School in Salem, Arkansas in 1962. Nancy earned her Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She worked as an educator for over 30 years. Nancy was appointed by former Governor and President Bill Clinton to help set policy and standards for teacher's certification for public schools in the state. She wrote numerous grants for the public school system through the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. Nancy was a member of First United Methodist Church in Siloam Springs.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her grandparents, and a great nephew, Dylan Thurman.

She is survived by one brother, Jack Copeland and wife Glenda of Colcord, Oklahoma; two nephews, Randy Copeland and wife Leah of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Clint Copeland and wife Sandra of Colcord, Oklahoma; and a number of great nieces and great nephews.

Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 14, 2017 at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, with Pastor Grant Barnett officiating. Burial will follow at Dickson Cemetery, Cherokee City, Arkansas. Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs.

Cemetery Details

Dickson Cemetery

Dickson Cemetery
Gentry, AR 72734

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Service

JUL 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

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441 U.S. 412
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Tribute Wall

JW

“*Condolences to Jackie and his family in the loss of his sister, a very special person. Mary Nancy was the daughter of my Aunt Ruth Franks Copeland, sister of my grandmother, Bertie Franks Sears. Mary Nancy was always a very intelligent, sweet and caring person. Even though we had no contact in over 60 years, good fun and fond memories remain. I thank Linda Sue Bicker for sending Mary Nancy's obituary.*

Jo Ann Sears Wright

Jo Ann Sears Wright - July 31, 2017 at 08:54 PM

LS

“*My husband, Carlos Joe Smith, student taught with Mrs. Copeland. He thought the world of her and he patterned himself after her teaching style. He was among the many who greeted Mrs. Copeland after Jesus welcomed her to Heaven.*




Leeann Smith - July 19, 2017 at 09:05 PM

BL

“ About 6 years ago, I had the privilege to meet Dr. Copeland "Nancy" but it was a friendship of a lifetime. With her health issues, she had moved to Siloam Springs to be near her family. What a blessing she was to me and all of those who came to know her. She truly was a modern day "Einstein", # 1 Educator, second to none. I listened intently to her wisdom and always was the better for it. She encouraged and inspired everyone with kindness and her compassionate spirit. I miss her and just wish we had time for another coffee or lunch.. Go well. Stay well in God's loving care.

Thank you for being my friend.
Beverly Lescard

Beverly Lescard - July 17, 2017 at 03:14 PM

 Steven
Huntsberg

“ Never in my life have I known someone that truly believed in the potential of everyone she touched. She was never disappointed or critical when we erred in our ways or missed the point. Always she loved and always she will be loved, and now, missed.

Steven Huntsberger - July 16, 2017 at 07:07 PM

GR

“ Thank you Ms. Copeland for being who you were which was such an inspiration to all of us who were lucky to not only have you as a teacher but as a friend, and role model. I never forgot you as years went by, but was glad to reconnect with you on FB 4 years ago. Always encouraging and positive responses to posts I would share and especially when I lost the love of my life three months ago, you have no idea what your words meant to me. This world has lost more than a person when God took you home. we have lost a legacy and a great friend. Until we meet again, and what a party that will be!!
Love you always



Gidget Ross - July 14, 2017 at 11:13 AM

CM

“ And into His arms goes one of the most impactful people to my life. What makes her so wonderful is that this humble, small town biology was the same to decades of students. I still shake my head wondering how anyone could create such an impact to so many....

Thank you Ms. Copeland for who you are and I know God is happy to have you.

Chris Martin

DeQueen Leopard - Class of 1986

Christopher M Martin - July 14, 2017 at 10:27 AM

VK

“ *The Class of 76 held their 40th class reunion last year in September. We invited Ms. Copeland, however she told me that she would not be able to attend due to her health. We told her that we would miss her very much. She asked if I would send her a copy of the booklet and any pictures. She told me how much she enjoyed staying in contact with everyone and seeing their updates. She remember everyone, their brothers and sisters and all that she had taught. We had the privilege to be students of hers the second year that she taught at De Queen. I will never forget the challenges that she presented daily with her pop quizzes, great discussion, science camp, and planting trees. Her class was interesting, fun, but never easy. We benefited greatly from her "famous word list" and used it daily with several jobs in the Medical field as most of her students did also. I never ate the worm cake, grasshoppers or the crickets, but she did make us homemade chocolate ice cream for our biology class. It was delicious! I also wondered how she came to be a teacher at De Queen. How could we have been so fortunate? I told her when I thought of her, I remember a show that I watched with my mother called " Good Morning Miss Dove,". The story was about a school teacher and how she had impacted the lives of her students with her teaching. I told her she was our Miss Dove! She told me that she was very humbled and flattered. Thank you Ms. Copeland for opening our minds and hearts, and all the fun adventures and great memories that we shared together.*

*Forever your friend and student,
Vicki Culp Keener and the Class of 1976.*

Vicki Keener - July 14, 2017 at 09:22 AM

BC

“ *Beckah Crowder-Arnold lit a candle in memory of Mary Nancy Copeland*



Beckah Crowder-Arnold - July 14, 2017 at 09:04 AM

WASSON
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

“ *1 file added to the album Life Tributes*



Wasson Funeral Home - July 14, 2017 at 08:55 AM



“ *My favorite teacher and dear friend. She was impressive!
She meant so much to me and to others.
Love you Ms. Copeland.
Rick Pruitt.*

Vox Poe - July 14, 2017 at 05:49 AM

JS

“ My condolences to the family. Nancy's mother babysat me when I was a very small child. I called her "Mamaw Popeland" because I couldn't say it correctly. She was always so proud of Nancy and Jackie both as she called them. Very fond memories of her. So nice to read the accolades and honors that are here about her daughter's life.

My mother is Alice Ruth Dover Lytle.

Blessings to the family

Jennifer (Watson) Sugg

Jennifer Sugg - July 13, 2017 at 09:12 PM

A(

“ Jack and Glenda, so sorry to read about Nancy in paper, wondered if that was her, no info in L.R. paper, got Jennifer to find out for me. I had lost track of her, I always remember her coming home from school and maybe be at Mrs. Copelands in summer time, she'd spend a lot of time in bed, I'd leave Jennifer and she'd be in bed, pick Jennifer up and she'd be in bed, one day I told her she was going to get a decubitus from laying in bed so long, she said What? Ha well she looked it up, a bed sore, so we always had a laugh about that, always enjoyed talking to her. Sorry I can not be there. Would at least to honor Mrs. Ruth by attending.

It was good to visit with Glenda on Pioneer Day in Melbourne. Alice Lytle (Dover)

Alice Lytle (Dover) - July 13, 2017 at 09:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.*



July 13, 2017 at 05:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasson Funeral Home - July 13, 2017 at 05:30 PM



“ *Melanie Barnes Barnhill purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.*



Melanie Barnes Barnhill - July 13, 2017 at 03:08 PM



“ 32 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasson Funeral Home - July 13, 2017 at 02:57 PM

 Debby Gordon

“ *An amazing educator and mentor. My memory and memorization skills today are sharp due to your lists, rhymes, Krebs Cycle and Photosynthesis. I hear your laugh and dry sense of humor! Biology camp, horse flies, planting trees and dibble bars! Whoever it was that came to our camp uninvited...the flea bitten carcass, as noted by Todd Joubert, that created a phenomenal bonding experience. All of us grew up exponentially through her teaching in and out of the classroom.*

Debby Gordon - July 13, 2017 at 02:30 PM

 Ron Huckaby

“ *No more hunger. no more fear. no more pain. no more sadness. no more darkness.
she lives forever, eternally in the arms of our savior.
O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
we are weak and greedy and wish for just one more moment.
we grieve for the greatness we know we have lost, but I will try to celebrate her victory, and I will praise GOD for each second I have left.
I love you and so do thousands of others, rest Miss Copeland.*

Ron Huckaby class of 82

Ron Huckaby - July 12, 2017 at 11:50 PM

RT

“ *Richie Calvin and Jeannie Tankersley purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.*



Richie Calvin and Jeannie Tankersley - July 12, 2017 at 11:03 PM

D7

“ *DeQueen Class of 76' purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.*



DeQueen Class of 76' - July 12, 2017 at 10:08 PM

MJ

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Michael Johnson - July 12, 2017 at 09:41 PM

MJ

“ *Biology Camp, Krebs Cycle, 200 Latin Prefixes, dissecting worms, frogs, and making us work, work, work. Miss Copeland was an amazing teacher. We knew it then and we certainly have all benefited from her tireless efforts from the first day we met her. We knew her as our biology teacher and later as the best teacher many of us had ever had.....ever. A Teachers Teacher. We will cherish her life with us and smile and laugh abundantly when we pass along the stories of all the things she did to us and for us. God's Peace,*

Michael Johnson - July 12, 2017 at 09:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.* ”



July 12, 2017 at 05:07 PM

JB

“ About 40 years ago, no doubt through dumb luck and happenstance, the little town of DeQueen, Arkansas managed to bring together an amazing collection of high school teachers. One, I'm proud to say, was my mother, Sue Barnes; but the others--like Howard Walthour, Bobby Holcombe, Jane Harding, and of course "Miss Copeland," were equally charismatic, caring, and intellectually rigorous practitioners of their craft.

It was my great good fortune, then--along with my three younger siblings--to know Miss Copeland both as a teacher and a family friend. After I graduated DHS, I subsequently spent thousands of hours in classrooms--both as student and as an instructor--but I can honestly say that I never met anyone who was a more genial and kind teacher. Miss Copeland for so many of us held open a window that looked out upon a larger world than we had been raised in: field trips to Little Rock, backpacking adventures to the wilds of Virginia, but never once with word or deed seemed to imply that we were provincial or lacking in the important things of life. Hers was a grace and humility that as a teenage boy I was ill-equipped to recognize, but now in my late middle-age I'm overcome with gratitude for once having the chance to encounter such a beautiful soul

As is typical, though, my memories from that time of my life turn toward the little things: the smell of formaldehyde from the cats we dissected our senior year; the occasional flash of Miss Copeland's wicked sense of humor ("You would make a wooden person crazy" was a favorite expression, and as always very apt.) I remember her MG convertible (complete with pistol in the glove compartment) and her grinning like a little gnome as she straightened the curves on our little city streets. My life--and that of so many others--was blessed by encountering her.

*Jon Barnes
DeQueen High School, Class of '81*

Jon Barnes - July 12, 2017 at 03:22 PM

PB

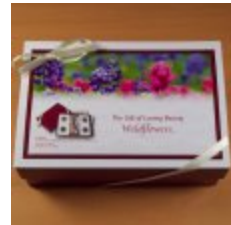
“ I have to take Biology?!!! NOOOOOO! Ms. Copeland made it interesting! She was one of the BEST teachers that I've ever had! You could tell that she loved teaching and she was AWESOME at it! She's one of the two teachers from DeQueen schools that I still kept in touch with. I will truly miss her words of inspiration and encouragement. Rest in love, Ms. Copeland!



Peggy Boyles - July 12, 2017 at 02:15 PM

RF

“ Rebecca Fernatt purchased the Wildflower Seeds - Build A Memory Garden for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.



Rebecca Fernatt - July 12, 2017 at 01:26 PM

TR

“ Toby and Bettye Rowe purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Nancy Copeland.



Toby and Bettye Rowe - July 12, 2017 at 09:35 AM

RF

“ Nancy was my Mom's dearest friend and my God mother. She was so inspiring and I loved to hear her laugh! She will be missed. I am praying for comfort for the family. Much love Nancy....Rebecca Fernatt daughter of Fran Sturgill

Rebecca Fernatt - July 12, 2017 at 09:30 AM

JS

What an amazing person and teacher, she was definitely an influence on so many students. To this day I still utilize the knowledge she provided and who could ever forget the worm cake. Her FB posts will be missed and it's sad to see so much knowledge and wisdom leave us. She will surely be missed but she left a legacy that will last generations.

Jeremy Sims - July 12, 2017 at 12:58 PM

LA

“*She was the first teacher that really made me think and want to learn. I always learned easily but she taught with such a purpose- it made me want to hear about Biology! She would say "isn't that amazing". What a treasure she was to so many students. Rest in peace.*

Ladeana Autry - July 11, 2017 at 07:59 PM