



Kathryn A. Nickel

December 7, 1946 - August 24, 2021

Kathryn A. Nickel, (Kathy, Kay, Kate, Katie, Momma Kate, Yaya) 74 of Kearney, passed away on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at her home. Private family services will be at a later date. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to the Kearney Community Theater, care of the family. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements.

Kathryn was born on December 7, 1946, to Charles and Laura (Irons) MacDonald in Long Branch, NJ. She attended Holy Trinity High School in Glen Burnie, MD, graduating in 1964. She later attended Kearney State College and eventually earned a Doctorate in Nursing from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Kathryn worked as an Assistant Professor for the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Kearney. An advocate for nursing, students and public health, Kathryn participated in nursing exchange programs and volunteered with several community health initiatives.

A big personality, Kathryn was happiest in her garden, on the theatre stage, or adding to her collection of treasures and treasured friends. Following her retirement in 2013, Kathryn could be found traveling the country in "Harvey,"

her RV.

Surviving relatives include her daughters, Jess and J.T. Talkington of Fremont, NE; Kate and Isaac Ballou of Port Angeles, WA; Kate and Lisa Lamey of Weston, FL; Mary Ann and Matt Knispel of Tallahassee, FL; sisters, Jane and Rick Zilinskas of Branford, CT; Susan MacDonald and Gary Beeman of Branford, CT; grandchildren, Eli, Rory and Annora Talkington, Griffin and Logan Lamey, Kingsley and Thoren Knispel; and grandpups, Coto and Paxi.

Kathryn was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Chuck.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kathryn A. Nickel*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *God bless you for your service to our country during the Vietnam War.*

Jeff Jewell - October 18, 2021 at 07:19 PM



“ *Oo Kate I am so sorry to have to even be writing this....I enjoyed our time together and hope you know I would've tried everything I could to still help you. You amazed me and I am still in awe of everything you accomplished in life. You were determined, fun and had such an amazing aura....you will be missed and I am glad to have known you May you Rest In Peace my friend.*



Julie - August 31, 2021 at 11:20 PM



“ *Kate was such a joy to have in our world. She had such an undeniable passion for life, and we are proud to have known her. We'll miss our exchanges with her greatly.*

-Ross and Darcy Bahensky

Ross and Darcy Bahensky - August 30, 2021 at 09:40 AM

S2

“ She was one of my nursing instructors and one of the best! May her memory live on in all those students lives she touched!

Stacy Nelson-UNMC BSN Class 2017 - August 27, 2021 at 06:19 PM

SB

“ I am sad to hear of her passing. My nursing class chose Dr Nickel to speak at our graduation. She gave all the graduates a compass so we always find our way back. Our class was very fortunate to have inspiring nursing professors who filled our minds with the science of nursing and taught us how to love and care for people.

Sara (Mattson) Brandl - August 27, 2021 at 05:16 PM

HE

“ Dear Katie! I'm so very sorry to hear that you're no longer with us although I'm sure we'll meet again. Perhaps in a wonderful and lush garden like the one you had in Kearney. Sitting around a round garden table, enjoying an ice cold beer and just reminiscing. You're dog Stinky and I fell in love immediately and you inspired me to ask a real big-shot to wright the foreword to my thesis. You got Brenner and I got Charmaz. Until we meet again.

Love,
Hanna (Gothenburg, Sweden)

hanna falk erhag - August 27, 2021 at 01:10 PM

SP

“ Kate was a great supporter of global health opportunities for nursing students. This was an advocacy which I greatly appreciated! - Sara Pirtle, Program Manager for the Office of Global Engagement, UNMC.

Sara Pirtle - August 27, 2021 at 11:23 AM

BB

“ She worked for me at GSH PRN during summer. Always called her Dr Kate! She was a wonderful nurse and a great person!!

Brenda Bartels - August 26, 2021 at 05:20 PM

AS

“ You were a free spirit. Full of life, love and laughter. Ill remember you for all you taught me. You are already missed. Love you Kate!

Amy Stump.

amy stump - August 26, 2021 at 04:17 PM

TF

“ I first met Kate when we worked together, I at DHHS and she at UNMC. What a truly wonderful advocate, compassionate and lovely person she was. The heavens gained another bright star on Tuesday! Tammey Frick



Tammey Frick - August 26, 2021 at 12:57 PM

L(

“ She was one of my favorite teachers going through nursing school. She had a spark about her that flooded my passion for becoming a nurse. I am saddened to hear of her passing. Her family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Lindsey Ayles (Reinke) - August 25, 2021 at 07:54 PM