



Nancy Owen Cecil

October 14, 1930 - July 9, 2016

Nancy Owen Cecil, beloved wife of George H.V. Cecil, passed away peacefully at home overlooking her beautiful garden on Saturday, July 9, 2016 surrounded by her husband and six children.

Nancy, the daughter of Catherine A. and Charles D. Owen, was born on October 14, 1930 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Her family moved to Asheville when she was three years old, beginning her life-long dedication to the people of Western North Carolina.

Nancy is best known for her love of family and generosity to many people in the community. Her volunteer work started at Memorial Mission Hospital in the mid-1940's as a candy striper and continued for many decades culminating in her volunteering thousands of hours to the Mission Hospital Gift Shop which provided significant funding for the Hospital. She was a member of the first class of Asheville Country Day School (now Carolina Day School).

Throughout her life she has generously supported the education of many deserving students.

A passionate and knowledgeable horticulturalist, Nancy was happiest working in her gorgeous garden. She was a member of the French Broad River Garden Club for fifty-five years and her guidance was often sought after by friends and family.

Nancy is survived by her loving husband of sixty-one years, George H.V. Cecil, her sister, Jean Owen Izard of Rye, NY, and brother, Charles D. Owen, Jr. of Asheville, NC. She is also survived by her six children: Jack and Sarah Cecil of Asheville, NC, Edith Cecil and Richard Parker of Washington, DC, Catherine and Gordon Taylor of Alexandria, VA, Margaret and John Sinnott of Asheville, NC, Chris and Ruth Cecil of Charlotte, NC, and Louisa Cecil Harrison of New York, NY, as well as sixteen grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside rites will be held at Calvary Episcopal Churchyard in Fletcher at 11:00 AM on Thursday, July 14, 2016. The Right Reverend Robert Johnson, Retired Bishop of Western NC will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Memorial Mission Hospital, c/o Mission Health System Foundation, 890 Hendersonville Road, Suite 300, Asheville, NC 28803.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Episcopal Churchyard

2840 Hendersonville Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Episcopal Churchyard
2840 Hendersonville Road
Fletcher, NC 28732

Tribute Wall



“ *Nancy Owen Cecil*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Dear Mr.Cecil and Family,
I was very sorry to to hear this news. While I had limited contact with Mrs Cecil, her graciousness and genuine interest in others were certainly evident. Her devotion to family, community service and a number of causes in the Asheville area will be long remembered.
With sincere sympathy,
Bob Fitzgerald*

Bob Fitzgerald - July 20, 2016 at 04:23 PM



“ *Dear Mr. Cecil and family,

You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Nancy was such a gem! She will be truly missed.

From our family to yours,

Elliott and Eva-Michelle (Greene) Spicer
Michael and Eva Greene*

Eva-Michelle Spicer - July 14, 2016 at 08:54 AM

KK

“ To Mr.Cecil & Family,

Thinking of you at this time of sorrow and extending my deepest sympathy to you and your family. Mrs.Nancy truly left this world a better place, as well as comfort in all the lives she touched.

Kelli Pressley Knoupf

Kelli Pressley Knoupf - July 13, 2016 at 10:18 PM



Jacqueline Brown

“ *I worked for Biltmore Farms for 11 years in their hotels. Everytime Nancy and George came to the property she was always engaging and kind. I will never forget working there or her.*

Jacqueline Brown - July 13, 2016 at 08:54 PM

WA

“ *She was A beautiful person inside and out.I met her at the hospital when I worked there.She let me know when the dolls would come in.I wont forget her.*

wandahightower - July 13, 2016 at 02:06 PM



“ *Loving Grace was purchased for the family of Nancy Owen Cecil.*



July 13, 2016 at 12:06 PM

LH

“ I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family. I have fond memories of our mutual love of nature and our conversations about the importance of being a volunteer in our community.
Lew Herron

Lewis Herron - July 13, 2016 at 07:25 AM



“ Nancy was a brilliant example of love and compassion for children through her dedication to Mission Children's Hospital. Wishing peace and comfort to all her family,
Susan Mims

Susan Mims - July 13, 2016 at 04:55 AM

RK

“ For Jack and Sarah Cecil, their family and Nancy Cecil family; we send our sincerest condolences to all. Nancy Cecil was a fine example for many to follow and established a standard second to none. She accomplished quite a bit in her life, which has been reflected numerous times during her life as well as now, in her passing. I believe one of her greatest accomplishments has been in the family she was able to bring into the world and properly prepare them for their eventual careers. She also established herself as a fine inspiration for them to continue her example of giving to the community, to improve the lives of those around them. You need look no further to see a better example of what she has given to the community, than her children and family.
May her passing leave you with fine memories of all she has done for you as a family, and for the community as a whole.
Richard & Julie Kidd

Richard Kidd - July 13, 2016 at 01:03 AM

DI

“ To the Cecil family,
Our deepest condolences on the passing of
your wife and mother. We admired her
passion for gardening, her joyful personality ,
and her concern for humanity. Our thoughts
and prayers are with you.

David and Diane Israel

Lonnie and Gail Israel

The staff of Jesse Israel and Sons Garden Center



Diane Israel - July 12, 2016 at 06:10 PM

SF

“ Mr. Cecil and family; You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Stephanie Floyd

Stephanie Floyd - July 12, 2016 at 05:21 PM

LV

“ Our deepest sympathy to Mr. Cecil on the passing of his beloved
wife, and our prayers and thoughts are with Margaret, John and the
rest of the family.

Lauren Vaught - July 12, 2016 at 05:18 PM

RL

“ To George H. V. Cecil and family,

On behalf of President Steve Solnick, the board of trustees and all at Warren Wilson College send our sincere condolences and are reminded of the wonderful times you and Nancy shared together. May those memories give hope and healing to you. We share your loss and send our blessings and prayers your way during this time of bereavement. We will hold you all up in the light.

With deep sympathy,

*Rodney Lytle
Warren Wilson College*

Rodney Lytle - July 12, 2016 at 03:00 PM

TB

“ Tena Smith Baker



Tena Smith Baker - July 12, 2016 at 01:01 PM

DB

“ My condolences to Mr. Cecil and the entire Family, please know that my prayers of comfort are with you at this time.

Diana Barbry - July 12, 2016 at 09:13 AM

DD

“ *Don Davis lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil*



Don Davis - July 12, 2016 at 06:31 AM


Melissa Sathe

“ *Melissa Sathe lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil*



Melissa Sathe - July 12, 2016 at 06:00 AM

TB

“ *May God bless the family she was a light to all who met her!*



Terry and Barbara Burnette - July 11, 2016 at 09:32 PM

JJ

“ *James Richard Rymer Jr lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil*



James Richard Rymer Jr - July 11, 2016 at 07:16 PM

SG

“ *Sharon Gordon lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil*



Sharon Gordon - July 11, 2016 at 07:14 PM

SG

“ *My heart goes out to Mr. Cecil and the family. She was a wonderful lady. My father loved the laughter and fun they shared. So sorry for your loss. Keeping the family and many friends in my prayers. Sharon Rymer Gordon (Richard's daughter)*

Sharon Gordon - July 11, 2016 at 07:12 PM

NK

“ *My deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the family*



Nancy Kennedy - July 11, 2016 at 06:14 PM

BT

“ George, Jack and Family, Both Jan and I are deeply saddened to learn of Nancy's passing. She was a true lady, strong, determined, kind, gentle and always thinking and acting on behalf of others. We were honored to have her as a friend for over 25 years and to share many special moments with her surrounding the place she loved so dearly--Mission Hospital. Our prayers are with you George, as we know you two were deeply committed to one another and looked out for each other.

Jan and Bruce Thorsen

Bruce & Jan Thorsen - July 11, 2016 at 06:07 PM

RB

“ Rich Boozell lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil



Rich Boozell - July 11, 2016 at 05:34 PM

CB

“ Carol Baker lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil



Carol Baker - July 11, 2016 at 05:09 PM

CP

“ Chief Dennis Presley lit a candle in memory of Nancy Owen Cecil



Chief Dennis Presley - July 11, 2016 at 04:45 PM

EF

“ To the Cecil family,
I met Nancy when I worked at Mission hospital. I would go down to the gift shop to just have a chat at break. (She had known my uncle Bob Brown who retired from the estate.) We had some great conversations. She was a wonderful woman and was always kind to all she met. She blessed my life by just knowing her. I know she will be missed by many. May God give your family the peace that only He can give. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.
Eva Farren

Eva Farren - July 11, 2016 at 03:38 PM

SS

“ Dear Jack, Sarah, John and the rest of your wonderful family,

Our thoughts are with you as you say good bye to your matriarch. Her obituary was wonderfully insightful and showed what a beautiful family you have. May her passing be reason to celebrate her life.

Fondly -

The Schenkers - Harold, Shelley, Elliott & gang

shelley schenker - July 11, 2016 at 02:03 PM

MS

“ *Mr. Cecil and the entire family, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.*

Michael, Ginny & Sarah Sinnott

Michael, Ginny & Sarah Sinnott - July 11, 2016 at 08:57 AM