



Nancy Branner Driver Stewart

February 21, 1933 - April 23, 2023

Nancy Branner Driver Stewart, 90, died on Sunday, April 23 at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community where she was a resident for two years. The first daughter of Allen D. and Pauline Theis Branner, she was born on Feb. 21, 1933 in New Market, VA, at the home of her maternal grandparents, Otis and Lillie Theis. Sister Anne and husband Phil Olinger, Winchester, VA, survive. Sister Sue and husband Albert Pence are deceased. Following a marriage to Lynn Rodes Driver in 1951, she became the mother of Lynn A. Driver, Basye, VA; Rev. Dr. Terri D. Driver-Bishop and husband Rev. Dr. Robert Driver-Bishop, Frederick, MD; Noel L. Rackie and husband Tony Rackie, Canton, GA; and Samuel P. Driver and wife Melody Driver, Madison, VA, all of whom survive. She later became the devoted grandmother of Carli Driver, Chris Belcher, Anna Kerns, Jordan Rackie, Brandon Driver, Paige Driver and Canette Fagan. Nancy was also blessed with six great grandchildren Logan and Kayleigh Kerns, William Rackie, Ariana Fagan, and Trace and Quinn Belcher. A graduate of New Market High School, Madison College, B.A., and James Madison University, M.A., she became a Teacher of English at Harrisonburg High School 1968-1989. For twenty-one years, she enjoyed teaching English to Harrisonburg juniors and seniors. In 1977, she married John Gideon Stewart, with whom she lived so happily for thirty-three years, until his death in August, 2010. Nancy and John lived in Broadway, VA and had many good friends of all ages in Rockingham and Shenandoah County, and beyond. Deeply interested in local history, she

studied, compiled notebooks, and wrote articles on the history of Reformation Lutheran Church, twenty-three Schools in New Market, the houses of New Market, the life of Jessie Hanning Rupert, New Market baseball teams, African Americans in the Shenandoah County, Georgian Houses in Shenandoah County, and Wealth in Dunmore/Shenandoah County, most of which are held by local libraries and the Shenandoah County Historical Society. Following cremation, a Memorial Service will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market, VA, officiated by Rev. Bradley Burke on Monday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon in the fellowship hall will follow the service. Later, Nancy will be buried beside her beloved John in Beth El Cemetery, Harrisonburg, VA in a private service. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be given to Nancy's lifetime church, Reformation Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 896, New Market, VA 22844 or to her beloved community of Beth El Congregation, P.O. Box 845, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. A fan of the musical Mama Mia!, Nancy says to all who grieve her departure, "Thank you for the music - for giving it to me." Previous Events Service MAY 1. 11:00 AM (ET) Reformation Lutheran Church 9283 N Congress St New Market, VA 22844

Tribute Wall

LD

“ I have fond memories of Mrs. Stewart as my 11th grade English teacher. She made Shakespeare come alive. She was one of the rare teachers who looked beyond the student and saw the person. She continued to influence me throughout my decades as a teacher. Thank you, Mrs. Stewart...”

Lesin Dippold - May 08, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ One of my favorite and most influential teachers

Jackie Wood - May 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VV

“ We attended the service for Nancy; it was as lovely as she was. May she reunite with John; walk through the sunshine and skip among the stars; have love, happiness and song through eternity. Our best to the family. Vic & Connie Velelli

Vic Velelli - May 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Ruth Reedy lit a candle in memory of Nancy Branner Driver Stewart

Ruth Reedy - May 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Mary Margaret and Hunter Hollar will always have fond and respectful memories of Nancy and all of her family, including her parents. She will definitely be missed. She was such a contributor to life in so many ways. We hope to be at the Memorial Service.

Mary Margaret and Hunter Hollar - April 30, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *My wife and I will miss Nancy - an educator who loved history and always tried to make the world a better place. Luther and Wilhelmina Santiful*

Luther Santiful - April 29, 2023 at 12:00 AM