



# **Nancy Sayres Obituary**

JAN 31, 1949 - FEB 19, 2012



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# Nancy Sayres Obituary

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**N**ancy Sayres, 63 of Mystic passed away Sunday, February 19, 2012 at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer.

Nancy was born to Arthur & Julia(Kvasny) Heimann in Des Moines on January 31, 1949. She received her education from Grinnell-Newburg High School in 1967. She attended college at Upper Iowa University graduating with a double major in Education and Art. Nancy married Rick Van Blaricon and later divorced. She would be united in marriage again to Gary Sayres on June 18, 1983 in Centerville.

Nancy served on the Board of Directors for SIEDA, a member of Family Alliance, Iowa Federation of Families, Iowa Laureate Beta Iota Sorority, Learn to Swim Program and the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. She was an Art teacher at Moravia Schools for 14 years and would later become the Parent Education Coordinator with the local Area Education Association. She was also the Aquatics Director at the YMCA in Centerville.

Nancy was passionate about the family circle, especially children. She enjoyed teaching swim lessons to two generations of kids in the Appanoose County area. She was instrumental in establishing and maintaining the local swim team. More importantly she loved the time spent with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

Nancy is survived by her husband Gary of Mystic, four children; Erin Lawson(Brian) of Cincinnati, Bradley Van Blaricon(Felicia) of Pella, Hilary Sayres of Centerville, Emily Sayres of Centerville, three grandchildren; Taylor Lawson, Kolby Lawson and Alizabeth Van Dusseldorp, her father, Arthur Heimann of Grinnell, Iowa, three brothers; Ray Heimann(Kim) of Newton, Iowa, Mark Heimann(Teri) of Dike, Iowa, Ed Heimann of Superior, Wisconsin, a sister Jo Heimann-Schreck(Rod) of Manchester, Iowa and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother Julia.



## Obituary

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Visitation will be all day Thursday, February 23, 2012 with the family present from 5-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home - 23548 Hwy 5 - Centerville, Iowa 52544.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 24, 2012 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church - 410 E. Sheridan - Centerville, Iowa 52544 with Rev. Kathy Franzenburg. Interment will be in Numa Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to First Evangelical Lutheran Church or the YMCA Swim team which may be left at or mailed to Thomas Funeral Home - 23548 Hwy 5 - PO Box 125 - Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences and video may be shared at [www.thomasfh.com](http://www.thomasfh.com) Book Travel to Services To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Nancy Sayres Obituary please visit our Sympathy Store.



## Tribute Wall

## Nancy Sayres Obituary

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PP

**Peggy Worley Van Pelt** posted:

Nancy and Rick Van Blaricom moved in next door when I was still in grade school. She was always smiling and ready to sit down on the front porch for a visit. Nancy became a friend to so many people in my family. She was a rock solid friend. Nancy was always straight-forward and honest about her feelings. She had one of the biggest most loyal hearts I have ever encountered. After I moved away, I came back to Centerville with children. One of our boys has Dyslexia and as he made his way through the Centerville school system, Nancy was there to help us along the way. I will always admire and love her.

April 22 at 7:00 PM

MD

**Margery Davison** posted:

Erin, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. She will be greatly missed.

April 22 at 7:00 PM

RD

**Renee Dalrymple** posted:

My thoughts are with your family at this sad time. I had Nancy as an art teacher and she was a neighbor to us for a while when she lived in Moravia. Nancy had a passion for her art and life. I'm glad she touched my life.

April 22 at 7:00 PM

MG

**Marshall Gill** posted:

I will always remember Ms. Nancy. She was the woman who taught me how to swim and I will always love her for that. She was a great woman and an even greater friend, and teacher. Ms. Nancy is in a better place now and there will always be a place in my heart for her. I love and miss you Ms. Nancy.

April 22 at 7:00 PM

MC

**Mike & Bethony (Bills) Cockrum** posted:

Our thoughts go out to Nancy's family. Sorry for your loss.

April 22 at 7:00 PM



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**Tammy Escrogin** posted:

Gary, Emily & family, Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel about Nancy's death. Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. I had Nancy as a teacher in Moravia for Art. She was a fun but, stern teacher. She had a passion for life that most of us wish for! Going to the city pool I watched children with smiles as she taught them to swim and also to behave and 'SLOW DOWN' or 'STOP RUNNING'. LOL .... She was a TRUE FRIEND that would drop what she was doing just to lend a helping hand! If you needed a shoulder to cry on she was there! For advise you knew that she had the answer's you wanted to hear!! Nancy will be greatly missed by sooo many people that she had touched through out the years! And that simply adored her! With heartfelt condolences, Tammy ( Parcel ) Escrogin

April 22 at 7:00 PM



**Dee Norton** posted:

To the family of Nancy It seems like forever that I've been on the pool deck with Nancy in one way or another. She was a champion for the kids and an advocate for all. I will miss her 'insightful' quips as I pass her at State Meet, it won't be the same again. May your comfort be in the arms of God and may his strength carry you in these coming days.

April 22 at 7:00 PM



**Patti Richmond** posted:

Sayres Family, My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. I didn't know Nancy very well but with her help my grandson got his life turned around. She believed in him and told him so. She was the only one he trusted and relied on for help with decisions. May God give the strength, comfort, and peace that only He can give to you in the days ahead.

April 22 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Thinking of you and keeping you in my prayers!

February 26 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

My prayers go out to your family during this time of sorrow. She will be missed!

February 26 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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SP

**Steven Kerber - Centerville, Ia - Professionalpersonal** posted:

Nancy, I will surely miss you at the Board Meetings, you always made the Seida Meetings important will remaining fun... I will miss your encouragement to use the 'Y' pool for water activities and exercise, Thank You for always being encouraging... I miss you, and hope you are at peace, your family is very proud of you and will always remember you!

February 22 at 7:00 PM

AF

**Amanda Clark - Bussey, Ia - Friend** posted:

Nancy was such a wonderful woman who I will miss dearly. I was so blessed to get the chance to know her and the wonderful family that she loved so much. I am thankful to her for raising a daughter who I get to call one of my best friends. Em I love you...and the rest of the fam too. I hope that you are resting peacefully Nancy...YOU'LL BE MISSED BY SO MANY!

February 22 at 7:00 PM

MB

**Mark Heimann - Dike, Ia - Brother** posted:

Dear Gary and Family, I am so sorry that I will not be there with you at this sad time. I know that the loss is very painful, but I hope you can also remember the good times we all enjoyed together in spite of the sadness. While she will be missed, she will also be remembered by so many. Nancy was truly one of a kind, and no one ever had an encounter with her and walked away unaffected. We bring nothing with us into the world, and we take nothing with us when we leave, but we all leave behind memories and Nancy will be surely remembered by people far and wide. Mark Heimann

February 22 at 7:00 PM

LF

**Lacie Romans (Leib) - Runnells, Ia - Friend** posted:

SLOW DOWN.... I heard that alot at the pool... get caught running by Nancy and you were sitting a time out... not something a kid wanted to do at the pool...Nancy was a very loud,vivacious woman who helped many in the community. Nancy was very encouraging and loving woman.. Although not always at the pool, everyone knew when she showed up, how could you not, her laugh was CONTAGIOUS!!! Saddens me to see her family go through such grief of losing their loved one. Nancy was taken from us far to early but the Lord was ready to welcome her home...My prayers and deepest sympathy goes out to Brian, Erin, Brad, Hilary, and Emily...God be with you!!!!

February 22 at 7:00 PM



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NF

**Nikole Peek (Eckles) - Meta, Mo - Friend** posted:

Erin - I am so sorry for your loss. I will be with you in spirit if not in body for the funeral. I remember many days spent at your mom's house as we grew up and many more early mornings during swimming lesson season. She was a very forceful spirit that willed others to move forward to better themselves, whether it being learning to swim or just to do the right thing. You are in my thoughts.  
Nikki

February 21 at 7:00 PM

DW

**Dedie Thompson - Terril, Ia - Co Worker** posted:

I was incredibly shocked to hear of Nancy's passing! I worked with Nancy for many years as a Parent Coordinator for the AEA. Although we only met at state meetings, I could always count on her to be honest and to voice her opinions in a clear and concise manner. She was willing to help newcomers in many ways and be a support to anyone who needed it. When I told her I was going to retire, she wrote on my card that she might be following me. I had no idea that she had been sick. Parents, schools and children have lost a true and sincere advocate....we have lost a friend. Dedie

February 21 at 7:00 PM

KF

**Karen Sibley - Des Moines, Ia - Friend** posted:

I met Nancy and Gary when I worked at Fareway. Later as time went on Nancy tried to help and counsel my step-daughter. She was a god sent. I will miss her greatly. I loved how she was so open and straight-forward. My sympathy to Gary and their children in their loss. She loved helping kids and I loved her for that. The world has lost a great lady. Love, Karen

February 21 at 7:00 PM

TF

**Tony & Wendy Argenta - Centerville, Ia - Friend** posted:

Gary and family, So sorry to hear of Nancys passing. Please accept our sympathy for your loss. She will be greatly missed.

February 21 at 7:00 PM



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AF

**Andre Ruby - Centerville, Ia - Dear Friends** posted:

I would first like to thank you for allowing me to be part of the life of a WONDERFUL women that Nancy is. Nancy is an inspiration and will always be loved. I send my thoughts and prayers for the family and for the many many people that Nancy had Touched. WE LOVE YOU THE RUBY'S

February 21 at 7:00 PM

KW

**Kathy Anson - Clinton, Ia - Co-Worker** posted:

My sympathy goes out to Nancy's family. I knew Nancy through her work with the Parent & Educator Connection program. She was a true advocate for families and students and will be truely missed.  
Kathy Anson

February 21 at 7:00 PM

LF

**Lisa Richardson - Ottumwa, Ia - Friend** posted:

Gary and family I'm so sorry for your loss of a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, daughter and sister. I have so many wonderful memories of Nancy, and she was a guardian angel to me and our family. Her dedication and support to a better education for children with learn disabilities was beyond awesome. She was truly an guardian angel, and her supoort to me when my son Eddie Richardson passed away was so special and helpful. And recently meeting up with Nancy at a SEIDA meeting was a good surprise for me. I will always carry her wisdom and determination with me for ever. God Bless you all. Prayers and thoughts to everyone.

February 21 at 7:00 PM

JF

**Jeff & Deb Reif - Oskaloosa, Ia - Friend** posted:

Erin and family, We are very sorry to hear about your Mom. We will miss her also. May God help you in the days ahead. Take care. Jeff & Deb Reif

February 21 at 7:00 PM

CA

**Cynthia Armstrong** posted:

Erin, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. She sounded like a very strong and and caring person. May you be surrounded by family and friends to help comfort you, and all the good memories of your mom. My thoughts are with you and your family. Cindy

February 21 at 7:00 PM



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DF

**Deb Samson - Nevada, Ia - Friend** posted:

To Nancy's dearest family and friends, I was so sad to hear the news of Nancy's passing - like you, thinking of the fun, noise and activity that surrounded her where ever she was has been with me. There was never a quiet moment - well, perhaps a few quiet moments - when Nancy was around. I will remember her laugh, her enthusiasm, her creativity and art work, and especially her belief in children, in families and a work ethic that made sure she got the things done for the child and the family that would be helpful and lead to good outcomes for everyone. I worked with her for a long while through the Parent & Educator Connection - and appreciate what she taught me along the way too. May you find peace, joy and wonderful memories in the midst of these very sad days. I am thinking of you all...

February 21 at 7:00 PM

RC

**Ruthann Burkman - Albia, Ia - Former Studentswim Coach** posted:

Erin, I'm so sorry for your loss. I always wanted to be able to whistle like her! I remember it in the classroom and around the pool at meets. I will miss comparing notes about swimming. You can be proud of all her accomplishments and the courage she demonstrated to everyone. Keeping your family in my prayers

February 21 at 7:00 PM

MC

**Monique Mosley - Centerville , Ia** posted:

I want to express my heartfelt sympathy to your family. Nancy was a fantastic and caring woman. She would never think twice about putting someone else's needs ahead of her own. She did a lot for the community of Centerville and Appanoose Co. and her presence will be surely missed.

February 21 at 7:00 PM

FF

**Fran McVeigh - Unionville, Ia - Friend** posted:

To Nancy's family, Nancy fought bravely and may your memories give you strength. Words cannot even begin to express our sorrow but may you take comfort in knowing that your own angel is now watching over you! Everyone will have memories of Nancy to share that will include her love and her passions: kids, learning, swimming, education, crafts, helping, animals, friends, sorority, and 'righting wrongs!' And above all was her love for her family and her own faith in God. You are in our prayers!  
Fran McVeigh

February 20 at 7:00 PM



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DL

**Dennis & Bev Sisul Laurson** posted:

Please accept our sincere sympathy and prayers, and may your loving memories give you peace.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

PF

**Patti Lind - Centerville, Ia - Friend** posted:

Nancy was one of a kind. She could teach anyone to swim. Anyone. She thrived on being around the pool and with kids. Our family was so blessed to see her bright and early at the first annual AGL Youth Hunt. She stayed all day and evening and worked with us to feed the kids and their parents and to make sure that they had a great time. She was one of the best volunteers you could ever imagine. Nancy will be missed by so many. Blessing to Gary and the kids.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

PU

**Patricia Spring - Uniionville, Ia** posted:

Nancy will be missed. You are all in my prayers.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

DF

**Dennis & Helen Helleur, Krystal Thomas - Ia - Blessed To Be Friends** posted:

Dear Gary & Family. This old world needs more people like Nancy, who aren't afraid to help right the wrongs or to stand up for what is right, no matter what. That will always be Krystal's and my memory of Nancy Sayres !!! For Krystal, also the hugs and purple ink pens, Nancy always brought to her. You all are in our prayers. God Bless you.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

JF

**Jennifer Nolan - Houston, Tx - Friend** posted:

You will be missed, Nancy. Ally and I loved you very much!

February 20 at 7:00 PM



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JS

**Jenel, Mike, Julianna And Greger Barth - Centerville, Ia - Friends And Students** posted:

Nancy helped teach me how to swim, then taught me how to teach children to swim. Years later, she was the only teacher who could get my scared little girl not to be afraid in the water and turned her into a little fish after several seasons of tough-love lessons. We owe her so much for helping Juli get over her fear and encouraging Greger to swim, swim, swim! Nancy, you will be missed...and I will forever hear your voice shouting, 'This class is now over, please leave by the side gate.' Thanks Nancy....

February 20 at 7:00 PM

CW

**Cory Menke - Fort Madiosn, Ia - Friend & Co-Worker** posted:

I was deeply saddened to learn of Nancy's passing. I knew Nancy from our time together as Parent Coordinators. First when Nancy was with Southern Prairie AEA 15 and I was with Great River AEA 16 and then when they became Great Prairie. Nancy and I always enjoyed our meetings in Des Moines and especially looked forward to the December meeting as we and others would go to the Jolly Holiday Lights. I will always remember Nancy's energy and infectious smile! I left the AEA in the fall of 2007 and sadly the last time I saw Nancy was when we went together to the funeral of a good friend a few years ago. We always promised to get together but never seemed to get it done. Please know I am praying for all of her family and friends that God will bring you peace of heart and soul. For I know Nancy is now with her Lord and probably organizing some group activity! Cory Menke

February 20 at 7:00 PM

SF

**Sara, Mason, Ian Roberts - Ottumwa, Ia - Friendswim Family** posted:

To the family of Nancy You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. My family is so blessed to have been able to get to know Nancy, she was a remarkable woman who inspired many and was a delight to talk with.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

BF

**Bob King - Center Point, Ia - Friend** posted:

Marilyn and I were shocked to see of Nancy's passing. I enjoyed working with her on youth group issues the whole time we lived Appanoose County. The world I lost a good youth advocate!

February 20 at 7:00 PM



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JS

**Jeremy, Emily, Braydon, Hannalee - Ottumwa, Ia - Swim** posted:

Family of Nancy We are saddened to hear of the passing of Nancy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Nancy was a great person. We enjoyed talking to her at the swim meets. She will be deeply missed.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

JF

**Jodie Butler - Ankeny, Ia - Friend Of The Heimann Family** posted:

May you all be blessed with the comfort of your memories of Nancy. I will remember her especially for her love of art, her family and her hearty laughter. Hugs to you all. Jodie

February 20 at 7:00 PM

KF

**Kim Crego - Centerville, Ia - Friend** posted:

Erin, Brian and girls, My heart goes out to you as you say goodbye to your mother and grandmother. Nancy was a very special lady who will be missed by the entire community. My prayers are with you during this very sad time.

February 20 at 7:00 PM

NF

**Nicole Repp - Centerville, Ia - Friend** posted:

Our thoughts our with your family at this time and we are so sorry for your loss. Nancy was a wonderful person and without her help in dealing with the doctors and school Mathew,Jonathan and I would have been lost. Nancy taking time to help me teach Mathew I will forever be grateful for she helped my family so much. There are no words to express what the gift of her friendship means to my son she will be forever missed. God bless you all through this difficult time.

February 20 at 7:00 PM



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JS

**Jo - Manchester, Ia - Sister** posted:

The world will be a quieter, less interesting place, without Nancy. I'm sure anyone who knew her would agree! As a kid, I didn't appreciate her. We were kind of like gas and a match. We'd often beat the sht out of each other, when our parents weren't looking, of course! It wasn't until more recently that I knew of the many good things Nancy did and that she was well loved by many. I could feel the love, when we went down for the Pancake Days parade in Centerville, in September. I hope Nancy knew that I loved her, and valued her even though I was a stinker to her, when we were kids. I have lost my only sister and there is a hole in my heart that no one else can fill. Sincerely, Jo Heimann-Schreck Manchester, Iowa

February 20 at 7:00 PM

NF

**Nell Gates - Centerville , Ia - Friend** posted:

Condolences to Nancy's family. Sorry to hear of her passing!

February 19 at 7:00 PM

CS

**Camille Stocker - Albia, Ia - Student** posted:

I'm deepest sympathies to Nancy's family. I just saw her about 4 weeks ago and she was upbeat and looking good. I have such great memories of my years in Moravia in the Art room, made my high school days being in a new school so much better. Rest in peace great lady.

February 19 at 7:00 PM

TF

**Thelma Smothers - Centerville, Ia - Friend** posted:

Hold on to your memories, and let them guide you during this time of sadness. You are in my thoughts, my heart, and my prayers.

February 19 at 7:00 PM



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BW

**Bonnie, Nathan And Cheyenne Selby - Corydon, Ia - Friend Student Future Co Worker** posted:

Just wanted to extend our sympathies and prayers to Nancy's family. Our first encounter with Nancy was a loud one. Boy can she yell, it was our first night at swimteam and she could not get in the water with her kids. So, she had to yell! Well in an enclosed pool you can imagine the loudness and how far her voice could carry. Nathan was like is that my coach Yes, she was and awesome coach and lady she turned out to be. So excited to have Nathan on her team and my daughter Cheyenne tickled her pink as well. New lifeguard with all sorts of qualifications. She will be truly missed by us all. Thank You Nancy for pushing the kids to excel and be their best.

February 19 at 7:00 PM

DF

**Darin And Robin Turner - Sioux City, Ia - Friend** posted:

Our hearts are with you all in this time of sorrow. Nancy was a precious lady who will be sorely missed. She was wonderful to the kids. She taught our oldest, Carson, that it WAS okay to put his head under water. Not only did she do it, but in ONE lesson. Our other boys never had the pleasure of having lessons from her, but got to know her at Carson's lessons. 'Swimming Pool Nancy' is what they called her. May you rest in peace 'Swimming Pool Nancy'!

February 19 at 7:00 PM

NF

**Nancy Clark - Fort Madison, Ia - Friend** posted:

Sorry for your loss. I will remember all the great times in sorority.

February 19 at 7:00 PM

PF

**Paula Pratt - Centerville, Ia - Friend** posted:

I have had the pleasure of working side by side with Nancy for several years on all sorts of projects. Her whole life was dedicated to the kids of this community and helping those who were less fortunate. She was able to get things done and you could always count on her to stand up and fight to the end for any cause that would bring families and children in this community a chance to be loved, and be better. My children were finally able to join her swim team this year and have nothing but love and adoration for her, just as she had for them. Their hearts, like so many others are broken today with this sad news. This community has lost a real hero. We will miss you...The Pratt Family

February 19 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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CM

**Cindy Donovan-Steahr - Muscatine, Ia** posted:

Sorry to hear of Nancy's passing. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

February 19 at 7:00 PM

JF

**Jean Beeler - Ralston, Ne - Friend** posted:

I am so saddened in hearing of Nancy's passing. I so appreciated her in her work with the school district and at the pool. Nancy was such an encouragement to me when I taught in Centerville. I respected her so much. I will be praying for the comfort of her loving family at this time. May God bless. Love, Jean Beeler

February 19 at 7:00 PM

BF

**Becky (Johnson) Lunt - Bellvue, Co - Family Friend** posted:

I've had the pleasure of knowing Nancy most of my life - she knew me before I was old enough to remember! Some of my favorite memories are from giving riding lessons to her children. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this very sad time.

February 19 at 7:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Nancy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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