



## Nancy Kay Middleton

March 12, 1955 - March 14, 2019

Princeton - Nancy Kay Middleton, 64, long time resident of Princeton, Illinois passed away on Thursday, March 14th, 2019, at her home.

She was the daughter of Marian and Mickey Middleton. Nancy grew up on Peru Street in Princeton, a thriving neighborhood of young families connected to Downey Drive. From backyard tag and baseball to weekends on Bureau Creek with family and friends, there was rarely a dull moment. Nancy attended Princeton High School (PHS) as did her father, Mickey Middleton, daughter, Jessica, sister, Deb. Nancy was very involved with the theatre department, and attended Girls State. She graduated from PHS Class of 1973, and then attended Drake University graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism in 1977. During her college years, she was a member of Delta Zeta sorority and Guide Ons, a color guard unit which marched during football games at Drake University. She also participated in several plays during the Homestead Festival and enjoyed attending plays in Chicago. In the early 1980's, she helped with the formation of Freedom House, a women's shelter in Princeton, Illinois. Nancy's career was in Chicago and Princeton, Illinois where she was a paralegal and a Registered Stockbroker from 1980 to 1998. Nancy worked with her Mom and Dad in the stock business (1980– 1993) and always gained enjoyment from studying the stock market. Nancy was voted Woman of the Year in Princeton during the 1990's for her business intelligence and skills, and she wrote on the importance and love of being the mother of Jessica Lee

Ruen, her young daughter. Her career was long and successful.

Her favorite sport was horseback riding, and this love of riding began in the back yard where the Middleton family had ponies. They had a famous neighborhood pony named Old Bill, who was famous simply because anyone could ride old Bill, he moved very slowly! Nancy's favorite horse was My Jaunty King William (Willie), a beautiful chestnut thoroughbred, and her favorite riding area was Hidden Valley Farms. Her sister Deb would ride on her favorite Arabian horse, Ringo Ben Ali. Those cherished memories were a favorite time period of adolescence. The stable was a place where many friendships were forged and horseshows attended. The Middleton family enjoyed so many fun days with the many families of Hidden Valley Farms, and it remained a favorite topic of conversation for years to come. Nancy's command of horses and her ability to ride were superb. She won many prizes for Saddle Seat Equitation, and she loved riding during the early years of life, through high school. She commanded her horse Willie with gentleness, and loved working and spending time with her horse.

Nancy loved to travel and her family traveled every year, some of the highlights were Boston and the eastern seaboard, skiing in Vail, Colorado, visiting Florida many times for parks and beach time, Southern California, Nevada, and short trips to Wisconsin sightseeing. The emphasis was on learning and enjoyment. Later in life Nancy lived and worked in Vancouver, Canada with her daughter, Jessica.

She married Vernon Wayne Ruen on October 20th, 1983, at United Methodist Church, Princeton, Illinois. Their enjoyment of literature, White Sox games and fishing trips in Canada was passed to their daughter Jessica. Both parents enjoyed spending time with their daughter Jessica Lee Ruen, born in 1985. Their marriage ended, but after some time their friendship returned and Wayne introduced Nancy to her current church, First Christian Church of

Princeton, Illinois. Nancy has been a member of First Christian Church for three years and she found a welcoming home at the First Christian Church. Pastor Laura Mahn visited Nancy at her home many times during these three years.

The highlight of Nancy's life was having their daughter Jessica, the first grandchild of Marian and Mickey. Nancy loved raising Jessica! Nancy and Wayne shared the love of raising Jessica. Nancy loved hosting birthday parties, and loved finding the perfect gift for Jessica. Nancy enjoyed showing Jessica many places and instilled the love of animals, nature, and the ocean in her. Nancy and Wayne were very pleased as Jessica became an excellent student, and were thrilled as she grew academically. Nancy and Wayne remained lifelong friends, and spoke with each other frequently after divorce.

Nancy's favorite holiday was Christmas, the joy of the season, and finding the perfect gift for Jessica and family members. Marian and Mickey enjoyed creating a festive and welcoming Christmas day, and this spirit of Christmas lived on in their family. Nancy was a kind and loving daughter, sister, and mother.

Nancy is survived by her mother, Marian Middleton; one daughter, Jessica Lee Ruen, James Sidell (Jessica life partner), one sister, Deb Middleton Dickinson; brother in law, Tom Dickinson, and five nephews, Davis, Seth, Ford, Cooper and Lee. Nancy was the Godmother to Ford Dickinson.

Preceded in death by, father Mickey Middleton, brother Henry Middleton, grandparents Edna and Carl Nelson, Myrtle and Henry Middleton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Freedom House, Princeton, Illinois, and First Christian Church of Princeton, Illinois.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at First Christian Church, Princeton, Illinois, from 10:00 am to 12:00pm.

Services for Nancy will follow at First Christian Church, Princeton, IL, Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 12:00 pm officiated by Pastor Laura Evans Mahn of First Christian Church, Princeton, Illinois followed by a graveside service at Oakland Cemetery, Princeton, Illinois.

On line condolences may be left at [www.norbergfh.com](http://www.norbergfh.com)

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Princeton, Illinois.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue  
Princeton, IL 61356

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 30.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.  
701 E. Thompson Street  
Princeton, IL 61356  
(815) 875-2425  
norberg@norbergfh.com  
<https://www.norbergfh.com/>

## Service

**MAR 30.** 12:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.  
701 E. Thompson Street  
Princeton, IL 61356  
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norberg@norbergfh.com  
<https://www.norbergfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ *Much Love and condolences to all the Middletons and Dickinson families in honor of Nancy. Thinking of you all and wishing you peace.*

*Donelle and Alan Huth*

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**donelle duvall** - April 02, 2019 at 11:52 AM

KH

“ *Marian and family,  
So saddened to hear of Nancy's passing. I recall that Nancy was a very devoted mother of sweet little Jessica during our Bureau County Day Care Center days together.*

*Kathy Howard*

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**Kathy Howard** - March 30, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Nancy Kay Middleton.*



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March 29, 2019 at 07:50 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Kay Middleton.*



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March 29, 2019 at 03:36 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Kay Middleton.*



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March 28, 2019 at 08:11 PM



“ *To Debbie, So sorry for the loss of your sister. Please give your Mom a hug from us. Kevin & Deborah Schultz and family*

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**DI Schultz** - March 27, 2019 at 03:07 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Nancy Kay Middleton.*



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March 27, 2019 at 01:05 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Nancy Kay Middleton.*



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March 26, 2019 at 10:00 AM

JE

“ Jody Eble sent a virtual gift in memory of Nancy Kay Middleton



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**jody Eble** - March 23, 2019 at 10:53 PM

JS

“ Nancy was one of the kindest people ever to grace this world. She had a sense of humor that could make you laugh like you've never laughed before, and her fierce intelligence meant she could carry on a discussion with you about any topic for hours on end. She was compassionate with animals, and was among the most truly genuine people I've ever met. In the many years I knew her, I can't recall a single time she grew to anger. The world is a darker place without her.



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**James S** - March 23, 2019 at 10:14 PM

JY

I had the honor of knowing Nancy as her aide/housekeeper for several years before I could no longer assist her due to a broken wrist. I loved Nancy and she loved me. She is a friend in my heart for the rest of my life.

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**Julie Yanush** - March 29, 2019 at 01:35 AM

JS

“ *James S lit a candle in memory of Nancy Kay Middleton*



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**James S** - March 23, 2019 at 10:07 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Kay Middleton.*



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March 23, 2019 at 09:18 PM

ER

“Where do I begin...I sit here thinking about how people go their separate ways, but the wonderful memories are never lost. Nancy and I have known each other our entire life. From Lincoln School through Princeton High School. The best memories are those created at Hidden Valley Farm, where as said in her obituary we all gathered to ride our horses together. We were a group of girls that formed a friendship that could never be broken. Myself, Nancy, Debbie, Lesley Dewalt, Patty Anderson, Ann Williams, Deb Downey, Robin Buchannan, Karen Miller, John and Verna Lawton were just a few of the people that Lois and Jerry Zurlene opened up a wonderful world for us. Our families had a close bond through our love for our horses. We spent almost every weekend traveling to shows around the area. I truly believe this experience made us all better people. Very few people get to experience something like this. I will always cherish the memories I have of this wonder time of my life and how having a friend like Nancy to experience it with me made it even better. I am sadden by the loss of my friend. Be happy sweet girl. Give Willy, Ringo, Red, Chico, Cavilier, Goldy and Admiral a big hug from us.

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**Ellen Philbrook Ringenberg** - March 23, 2019 at 10:45 AM