



Nancy Elizabeth (Small) McClernon

3/16/1941 – 3/24/2025

Passed in peace and comfort, surrounded by her family in the afternoon of March 24, 2025, at Friends of Caroline Hospice center.

She is survived by her devoted husband and best friend of 62 years, Thomas McClernon, her son Brian (Lanette) McClernon of York, PA, and her daughter Lori (John) Upchurch of Chicago IL. Nancy loved and was so proud of her five grandchildren: Erin (Jesse) Smeltzer of Wrightsville PA, Colin McClernon of York Pa, Louise Upchurch, Winston Upchurch and Mary Upchurch all of Chicago IL. The delight of her later years were her two great grandchildren, Reese and Walker Smeltzer. Nancy is also survived by her brother and good friend Jim Small (Jeanne) of Peoria IL, her brother Michael (June) Small of Scottsdale Arizona, and many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews all around the country. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Laura Small, and one brother Stephen Small.

Nancy was born in Peoria IL and grew up nearby in Washington IL and had a happy childhood there. She attended St. Patrick's church and grammar school, and Washington Community High School, and attended Illinois State University in Normal Illinois where she studied business administration and accounting. Nancy went on to work for Prudential insurance, before marrying the love of her life, Tom and moving around the country with his career. She worked in various office settings, her favorite being Century 21 in Marengo Illinois.

Nan was a friend to all, and easily made friends everywhere she went, often through joining bowling leagues. She was an excellent bowler, even when she had to switch from her right hand to her left hand in her 60's. She counted among her friend's people she met in bowling leagues in Peoria, Allentown PA, Warren MI, Marengo IL, Walled Lake Mi, and finally Spirit Lake Iowa, where she met her best buddy Dorothy Johnson. It was her final wish, and ours that she and Dorothy are off somewhere having a beer.

Nan was an avid reader her whole life, and loved libraries, secondhand bookstores and sharing books with friends and family. She instilled a love of reading and the importance of libraries in her kids and her legacy will live on by our whole families shared love of a good book. Nan also loved reading the news and read several papers each day on her trusty iPad, keeping track of everything from international news to the happenings in small towns. She believed the in power and responsibility to be a good citizen, always staying informed, and never missing a single election.

If you knew Nan, you knew of her beautiful smile, charming ways, and life long personal style. She loved to have fun and laugh. She was very active, and enjoyed cross country skiing, bike riding, camping, hiking, ice skating and canoeing. She loved travelling and saw much of the world with Tom and had fun going to sporting events and concerts with Tom, and with her groups of friends. She loved to laugh and hear a good story.

Nan was diagnosed with Scleroderma in 1990, and this horrible auto immune disorder caused many painful and debilitating complications to her health and eventually took her from us. She was never one to complain about her health problems. Tom, the love of her life, took excellent care of her as she lost her ability to swallow and eat, and was at her side until the end. She will be missed forever by all of those who ever knew her, but especially by her family. There will be a celebration of her life this summer. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Spirit Lake Public Library, or to The National Scleroderma Foundation. Please read a good book and have a cold beer for Nan.

Dear Readers,

Nancy McClernon loved to read! She loved books, and libraries and she especially loved kids reading!

She would be thrilled to know that her love of books and young readers will live on in this project.

• 1000 Books before Kindergarten.

May all who participate gain a life long love of reading just like Nan!

Happy Reading and

• Thanks to all who brought this project to life •

The McClernon family,

Tom, Brian, Vanette, Jessie, ERIN, Colin, Reese, Lori, John, Louise, Winston, Mary