



## Nancy Nielson Madson

June 13, 1954 - August 2, 2020

### Nancy Nielson Madson

Nancy Nielson Madson returned to her heavenly home on August 2, 2020, after a long-fought illness. Nancy was born June 13, 1954, in Idaho Falls, Idaho, to Errol and Elsie (Bowler) Nielson. The fourth of five living children, Nancy spent her childhood and early adolescence in Rigby, Idaho, later moving with her family to Boise, where she graduated from Capital High School in 1972. She went on to attend Ricks College and then BYU, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

At BYU Nancy met her future husband, Rand Ray Madson, whom she married in the Idaho Falls Temple on June 2, 1976. As the young newlyweds drove home from their honeymoon, they encountered chaos on the highway only to learn by radio the nearby Teton Dam had burst. Rushing home, their first days as a couple were spent filling sandbags to keep the floodwaters at bay. Nancy would go on to work as a 3rd Grade teacher in Shelley, Idaho, eventually relocating to Springville, Utah, where they put down roots and raised four children.

Nancy was a loving, supportive wife and mother, who was fiercely loyal to her family. Her children knew their mom loved them, and she was always there to celebrate their accomplishments, as well as hear concerns and offer comfort during difficult times. As a lifelong active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she served in her local ward and stake in various callings, including Relief Society and Primary presidencies. She also supported her husband in his numerous callings, wrangling four children in the church pew while Dad served on multiple bishoprics as a counselor and then as Bishop of the Spring Creek 9th Ward.

As her children grew, Nancy returned to her vocation of teaching. She taught 6th Grade Language Arts at Springville Middle and later Hobbie Creek Elementary School for almost 20 years. She instilled the love of reading and learning into hundreds of children over the years. Those kids knew they could confide in Mrs. Madson, and also find words of

encouragement, advice, and a good-natured reprimand when they needed it. She almost always had a piece of candy if they were good (or at least promised to be good).

Nancy loved spending time with family and friends. Highlights included annual summer reunions at the Nielson family cabin at Henry's Lake, Idaho, as well as visits to the Madson family in Ammon, Idaho. Extended family often stopped by to visit with Aunt Nancy, who loved to catch up on the latest family news. Mom also benefited from the love of her brothers and sisters in the local LDS ward – a second family with whom she exercised compassion, service and support during the four decades she called Springville home.

Nancy endured many hardships during her life, including the sudden death of her husband in 2003 and a more than 40-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis. It was difficult watching Mom decline over the years, yet even as her body weakened and lost function, her spirit remained strong. She possessed a steely, resolute, obstinate will to keep going as best as she could. It surprised the doctors and nurses during her hospice care, which stretched from a couple of weeks, to a couple of months, to a couple of years. It did not surprise her children. She persevered to the end, and when the end finally did come she left with a smile on her face. We are comforted to know that in death, Mom will be reunited with her eternal companion and their bodies will be restored to a perfected state, free from the cares and degradations of mortality.

Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, Rand Madson (2003); parents Alma Errol Nielson (1998) and Elsie Bowler Nielson (2004); and her infant sister Lorre (1946). She is survived by her siblings, Susan Berg (Dennis), David Nielson (Terri), Becky Shull (Jack) and Trudy Gayton (Wally); and her children Bart Madson (Autumn), Scott Madson, Emily Madson and Katie Redford (Brent). She also leaves behind five grandchildren, Harper, Eli, Elsie, Kylah and Hazel, which she loved to brag about and who will all deeply miss their Grandma Madson.

Our family would like to thank the hospice workers who cared for Mom and allowed her to die peacefully at home surrounded by family. Bart, Scott and Katie also wish to express their profound gratitude to our sister, Emily, who served as Mom's primary caregiver after Dad's death. You gave our mother a life of dignity and joy that would not have been possible without your selfless sacrifice. We are forever in your debt, as are our father and mother. You are a testament to the love that binds our family together. We love you.

Nancy will be laid to rest in a private closed ceremony, due to current public health conditions. Information about a livestream of the funeral service, as well as a future

opportunity to share memories of Nancy will soon be available. In place of flowers, the family would ask mourners to consider a donation to the National MS Society.

# Comments

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“ I just learned of Nancy’s passing. Macy was my sister’s best friend growing up and I was always grateful she let me tag along. I also shared some visits with her in Springville. She was such a hardworking person and so upbeat despite her loss of her husband and her health. I know it’s sad to lose a friend and loved one but I am grateful she’s healthy again and with her husband again. Much love to the family.  
Judy Hulet Fluckiger

**Judy Fluckiger** - February 20 at 08:33 PM

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“ Nancy was one of my best friends in High School. She was a wonderful girl and it sounds like she was a wonderful woman. I loved her very much. Your family is in my thoughts.

**Becky Southwick Ames** - August 11, 2020 at 08:59 PM

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“ I'm Nancy Madson's brother-in-law. I married her late husband's sister Liz. I first met Nancy when I came out to pick Liz up on one our first dates in the late summer of 1975. Nancy and Rand were newly weds and were playing rook card games with Grant and Beth Madson, my future in laws. I was so excited to learn that Nancy had attended grade school in Rigby where I had just graduated from Rigby High. I was impressed with Nancy and loved her infectious smile. She had it as a young women and never lost it even during difficult and trying times. I would serve a mission but Liz would write and update me about Rand and Nancy. After our marriage Liz and I would spend a lot of time on family visits with Rand and Nancy and Grant and Beth. In all those times Nancy always focused on the good she saw in people. I loved fishing and hunting and so did her dad. She told me stories of wild game and fish for dinner at the Neilson family growing up. We shared a love of the outdoors that her dad taught while he worked at the Idaho Fish and Game Dept. I will miss Nancy's smile the most. Nancy is also the name of my little sister so in reality I had an older sister named Nancy and a younger one as well. I love Nancy Madson because choosing the right was her nature. When I observed the ravages of MS take away her walking mobility gradually it took my spiritual breath away for fleeting moments. But I never heard her complain to anyone about it. Her strength was from deep within her celestial soul. If heaven can be made more holy because of a returning daughter then I believe Nancy Madson fits the ideal. I extend our families deepest condolences and know we all are better because we had the unique privilege to share mortality with a saint, Nancy Neilson Madson. Paul the ancient apostle taught, "Know ye not that ye shall judge angels?" To me Paul was talking about a person like Nancy that really could be qualified to judge angels.

Sincerely, Dave Radford

dave radford - August 07, 2020 at 06:34 PM

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“ I taught with Nancy for 2 years in 6th grade at Hobble Creek. She was always willing to share her abundant Language Arts resources with others. She had a great sense of humor and a wonderful laugh. I remember one time when Nancy and I were approaching a large commons where the students were gathered after recess (to quiet them down before they entered the rest of the building.) Some boys in the back of the room were bouncing balls. The new teacher in charge hollered, "Boys! Hold onto your balls!" The boys, being at least part-unruly, inappropriate adolescents started laughing hysterically. The new teacher seemed unaware of how her words were funny to 6th grade boys. Nancy and I met eyes, widened in the knowledge of 6th-grade boys and laughed. Then she said, "I guess we better save her!" and she wheeled into the room and helped establish order. She also took on the task of explaining to our sweet, new teacher WHY the boys found it so hilarious and helped her brainstorm better ways to accomplish the same task on the future. That is just one Nancy story.

For Nancy, teaching became more and more difficult as her MS slowly ate away at her muscles and robbed her of the ability to do simple tasks without assistance. Teaching was very hard some days, but she persevered. She felt she had something to teach the kids and was going to do it as long as she was able. She ended up teaching in a motorized wheelchair and would dart around her room or down the halls at amazing speeds. I kind of think she liked being fast again! :) Nancy was a good person. a great teammate and a truly amazing, kindhearted woman. I know she will be missed here, but happily runs about heaven helping where needed, and doing it all with a touch of humor.

Memory by Michael-Ann McAfee

Michael-Ann McAfee - August 07, 2020 at 11:47 AM

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“ I loved your mom. I worked with her as her aid at the Middle School for a few years. She taught me endurance, patience and love. She loved those kids no matter what they brought with them. I worked with her when your dad died. She just kept right on going, she knew the plan of salvation and knew they would be together again. You were blessed with a great mom and with a great wit. I love her. Debbie Heaps

Debbie Heaps - August 07, 2020 at 10:30 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album BYU and 2019



**Kendolyn Fisher** - August 07, 2020 at 01:11 AM

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“ Nancy was one of my best friends while raising our children together. We did Joy School, took drives together to get a drink and talk about life. Our husbands were in the Bishopric together in the 9th Ward. She was my running buddy back in the 80's. After the kids went down to bed we would drive to the High School and run the track together. Memories will always be with me. When Rand passed away she gave his favorite hat to Alan and he wears it to this day. I know you were so happy to see Rand again! Love ya, Robinne

**Robinne Booth** - August 06, 2020 at 07:26 PM

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“ Nancy was my 6th grade teacher and was always so personable and I always knew she cared about me individually. I admired her so much for being such a good teacher even with her MS. I'm so grateful I knew her and I'm so glad she is reunited with her husband. Lots of love and I'll be praying for your family.

**Holly Harrell** - August 06, 2020 at 07:06 PM

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“ So very sorry to hear of Nancy's passing. She was always upbeat and positive. She always made one feel like she was truly interested in what you had to say and made you feel important. That's a great quality. She will be missed. Sending love and prayers to the family. René and David Dalley remember her with love.

**Rene' Dalley** - August 06, 2020 at 01:29 PM