



Nancy W. Martelli

December 27, 1924 - September 5, 2017

Nancy was born in Washington D.C. on December 27, 1924, to George and May Willits. She grew up in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan where she attended Lincoln High School and graduated as the salutatorian of the Class of 1943. A prolific painter, Nancy first attended art classes at the Detroit Institute of the Arts, later earning her Bachelor of Design degree from the University of Michigan's School of Art in 1948.

While attending college, she met her future husband, Robert V. Martelli, on a double date and the two soon hit it off. They were married in a double wedding with her sister Jean Willits and Jean's fiancé, John Sellers, on August 13, 1949. Nancy and Robert spent their honeymoon exploring the remote Isle Royale National Park and touring the West where they visited Nancy's sister Shirley and Shirley's husband, Ward Austin, in Colorado. Wearing men's hiking boots and long skirts she explored the wonders of the Rockies.

The couple raised four children, first starting a family in Royal Oak, Michigan and later moving to Bloomfield Hills. Nancy's family spent many enjoyable summers at her parent's cottage in Bayfield, Ontario starting when she was a little girl. Upon retirement their love for travel continued and they enjoyed many adventures in Italy, Australia, and New Zealand, even taking a cruise through Alaska's famous Inside Passage and visiting the wildlife on the Galapagos Islands. Their sailing trip to many of the remote islands of the South Pacific aboard the beautiful Sea Cloud was a true highlight. Just as rewarding for Nancy were the Martelli family trips to the Canadian Rockies, Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, and the family gatherings at the cottage the couple built on Lake Huron. Robert and Nancy were married for 60 years until his passing on January 6, 2010.

Throughout her many adventures Nancy always kept her camera at the ready to capture images she could use as artistic inspiration for her paintings. Sometimes, while on vacation, she would even paint in their boat while Robert would fish! Through the Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Center she attended classes and displayed her work. Her family's homes are all graced with many of her wonderful watercolor landscapes.

Nancy's later years, were spent in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to be closer to her children Charles and Ronald and his family. She is survived by daughter Carol (Jim), and sons Robert (Cathleen), Charles, and Ronald (Jennifer) and ten grandchildren (Krista, Kevin, Liza, Paul, Marie, Emille, Olivia, John, Alyssa and Anthony). She is preceded in death by her parents and her three sisters, Ruth, Shirley and Jean.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

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Liberty Road Chapel

3767 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

SEP **Service** 02:00PM

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Liberty Road Chapel

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Comments



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Nancy W. Martelli.



September 09, 2017 at 08:37 AM



“ The staff at Atria Park of Ann Arbor purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Nancy W. Martelli.



The staff at Atria Park of Ann Arbor - September 08, 2017 at 12:36 PM