



Nancy Ellen Barnes

January 29, 1959 - January 20, 2025

Nancy Ellen Vancil Barnes, 65, of Hillsboro, passed away on January 20, 2025, in Huntsville, Alabama. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date and time.

Nancy was born in Greensboro, North Carolina on January 29, 1959, to Frances Anne Moore Vancil and James Leon Vancil. She is survived by her husband, Paul Barnes; daughter, Meaghan McFerrin; son, James McFerrin; two sisters, Carol Tipton (husband, Ernie); and Leslie Mills (husband, Eric).

Nancy was a member of the graduating class of Forest Park High School, Forest Park Ohio in 1977 before moving to Decatur, Alabama. She earned a bachelor's degree from Athens State University and enjoyed her work as an independent contractor currently working as a management system consultant and auditor.

Nancy had a talent for art and a passion for outdoor activities, photography, genealogy, and all animals, but in particular horses. She purchased her first horse, Bridget, at eighteen, and the one became two just days later when Spooky was born unexpectedly. Since that time, Nancy consistently remained active in the equine community, particularly with her husband attending Buffalo River Trails events and competing locally, most recently showing on January 18 at the Winter Blues Ranch Show at the Alabama A & M University

Agribition Center in Huntsville.

She loved to travel and frequently invited her sisters to join along as she explored Japan, Spain, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. She and her husband were planning trips for a cruise and to visit Ireland and Scotland.

Her family was the joy of all of her life. Nancy fiercely loved her children, and her children were an active part of her daily life. Nothing made her happier than spending time with her kids or talking with friends and family about Meaghan and Jamie and their latest accomplishments.

Nancy's husband of 5 years, Paul, was her high school sweetheart with whom, she had reconnected in the spring of 2019. They quickly rekindled their relationship and made their vows pledging to spend their lives together. Together again with Paul and near her family, Nancy was extremely happy and was living the life she always dreamed of.

She was preceded to the kingdom by her parents, Frances Moore and James Vancil; and two nephews, Justin and Cameron Tipton.

Tribute Wall

JT

“ Just found out this sad news about Nancy!! worked with her at DEKRA for a few years and really enjoyed visiting with her... RIP Nancy!!

John Trahan - June 17, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Nancy Ellen Barnes.



January 27, 2025 at 12:19 PM

JM

“ Paul, Meaghen and Jamie.
I am so terribly sorry for your loss. I understand your pain. She was such a magnificent woman that I'm sure her absence has created a huge hole in your lives. Many of the postings she had on Facebook after working at teh barn, riding or just spending time with her family demonstrated a well-lived life.



I had just lost my husband unexpectedly on January 6th and she had reached out to me to offer her prayers and condolences. She helped get me onboarded at Dekra as an auditor and was always willing to help me out with questions. Besides the auditing, we share love of horses. We had horses since 1999. I'm sure she has been reunited with some of them too!

Judi Markel

Judi Markel - January 25, 2025 at 04:34 PM

SP

“ Nancy and I were best friends in high school. When her parents moved to Alabama just before our senior year, she did not want to leave. She lived with my family so she could graduate with all her friends, then made her way to be with her family. She was like a sister to me. I loved her dearly. When she reconnected with Paul, she was the happiest ever. They were meant to be. I will miss her so much. But our sisterhood will live in my heart

Susan Stanley Piccirillo - January 23, 2025 at 03:04 AM

RC

“ Meaghan and Jamie, I'm so sorry about the loss of your Mom. I worked with Nancy at Automatic when you both were born. She was a proud mom and always talking about you both. Praying for you as you grieve her loss.

Ronda Carter - January 22, 2025 at 09:08 AM

SJ

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Nancy, she was my boss at Toray for a long time and became a very good friend as well. She is irreplaceable and will be missed by all who knew her.
Sandy Johnson-Alexander

Sandy Johnson-Alexander - January 22, 2025 at 08:19 AM

LM

“ 18 files added to the tribute wall



Leslie Mills - January 21, 2025 at 09:12 PM

LM

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Leslie Mills - January 21, 2025 at 02:43 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the album Family of Nancy Ellen Vancil Barnes



Carol - January 21, 2025 at 02:38 PM