



## Nancy Marie Volke

August 29, 1935 - January 24, 2011

Nancy Marie Volke, longtime Moses Lake resident, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 24th, 2011 at Samaritan Hospital. She was surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends – and more love than she ever could have imagined. She was 75. Nancy was the first of two children and was born on August 29th, 1935 in Lake Charles, Louisiana to Marie and Richard Schmidt. Nancy attended St. Charles Academy, where she played basketball and was lovingly teased by her friends, because she was quite tall compared to her classmates.

Nancy married Robert 'Bob' Volke on January 6th, 1955. Life in the Air Force had them moving all over the country. She and Bob had six children: Patricia Anne and James Michael were born in Lake Charles, LA; Robert, Jr. was born in Springfield, MA; David Gerard was born at Whiteman AFB, MO; Richard Allen was born in Moses Lake, WA; Susan Marie was born in Riverside, CA. In a letter from her loving husband to the children, written in 1989: "Your mom has been the glue that has molded us and the one who has endured the most, so always show her the love she really deserves." She was a selfless wife and mother, giving everything she could to her family so they never realized when times were bad. Nancy wrote to one of her daughter's years ago on the subject of love: "To me, love is a gift you give someone. It has no strings attached, it can't be bought, traded for, sold and it isn't turned off and on like a water faucet because you are hurt or angry or displeased by that person. Love is caring, compassion, giving and taking (not always 50-50), it's being there,

accepting that persons faults, it's understanding, being honest and love should always grow..."

Nancy attended Big Bend Community College and received her degree in nursing, leading to a twenty-two year career as an LPN at Samaritan Hospital in Moses Lake, WA. During her time as an OB nurse, she welcomed 13,997 newborns into the world with tender arms and unconditional love.

Nancy retired in October 1997 and spent her time enjoying her dogs, flower gardening, cross-stitching and watching the birds visit the numerous feeders in her backyard. She was an avid Seattle Mariners fan and loved to watch figure skating. Nancy was also quite the adventurer in her retirement years. She tried skiing in Idaho, white water rafting on the Yakima River as well as snorkeling and boogie boarding in Hawaii. She embraced these exploits with laughter and smiles.

Nancy is predeceased by her husband, Robert and brother Richard Schmidt. She is survived by her sister-in-law Margaret and nieces; daughter Patricia Stribling and her husband Neil, son James Volke and his fiancée Gretta Bailey, son Robert Volke, Jr., son David Volke and his fiancée Rebecca Sakarias, son Richard Volke and his wife Jill, and daughter Susan McElmurry and son-in-law Douglas; her grandchildren Deidra, David, Eric, Anne, Jennifer, Griffin, Aiden, Meagan, Julienne and Ian; and her great-grandchildren Judah, Piper, Natalie and Sawyer; loved ones Cheri Volke and Diva Volke.

Nancy also left behind dear friends Bev Laam and Lucy Messer.

Her family would like to thank her very special friends, Joan and Bill Frank and family, for their love, care and devotion over the years. Nancy talked with them every day and they were always there for her in whatever she needed.

Nancy's family would also like to thank the nurses and doctors at Samaritan Hospital, many of whom worked with Nancy over the years, for their outstanding show of compassion, empathy and love during her time in the SCU.

At Nancy's request, there will not be a memorial service. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the animal shelter of your choice.



# Tribute Wall



“ Sorry about your mom. I'm Mimi's friend. Remember hangin out in Toronto? please e-mail me.##imported-begin##Elaine Gold##imported-end##

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April 24, 2012 at 11:20 PM



“ So sorry to hear about the passing of you mom. She was a great lady. Nancy was a OB nusre when my kids were born and yes she would wrap them so tight. Although i was only a housekeeper at the time she shouwed as much respect to be as she did any other employee of Samaritan. God Bless.##imported-begin##Pam Hastings##imported-end##

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February 12, 2011 at 01:39 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Nancy;s death. She was such a grand lady and I was so priviledged to have the honor of spending many years working with her in the OB department. I have thought of Nancy so often since left Samaritan ....##imported-begin##Mary Jo Yager##imported-end##

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February 01, 2011 at 03:51 PM



“ Rich & family, I'm so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was a wonderful lady & am proud to say that my son is one of the babies that she helped deliver... I will always remember her. Rich, Hold her memory close it will get you thru those tough times. Rest in peace Nancy!!##imported-begin##Darla Ruffin Mast##imported-end##

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January 31, 2011 at 11:18 PM



“ Hi you guys sorry to about your mom and we are thinking about you all.

*Love Dave Zeke Brooks and Jack###imported-begin##The Marshman's###imported-end##*

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January 30, 2011 at 11:45 PM



“ Mom - It seems surreal, still. As expected, we've all pulled together to get through this. Like you always said, we're all different but we always support each other when times are tough. That is a testament to you, Mom. You were loving, sympathetic, fair; never judgmental. You loved us unconditionally. I will miss you.  
*David###imported-begin##David Volke###imported-end##*

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January 30, 2011 at 11:24 AM



“ Well Mom, we said our good byes to you today and I know you were proud. God Bless you for everything you did for us and we shall see you again. Rest peacefully Momma, you have earned it!###imported-begin##Rich Volke###imported-end##

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January 29, 2011 at 11:48 PM



“ I worked with Nancy for many years at Samaritan, she was a good lady and friend. She took very special care of those babies for a lot of years, she would have them wrapped up so tight, and those babies loved it. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the family during this difficult time. She is finally free of pain and together with Bob again. With sympathy, Emily###imported-begin##Emily Webster###imported-end##

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January 29, 2011 at 12:29 AM



“ *Rich:*  
*Working with you gave me a picture of the fine human beings your mom was responsible for raising. So sorry for the loss of this very important person in your life.*

*Sympathy and love to you and your family.*  
*Janeil###imported-begin##Janeil Kikuchi###imported-end##*

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January 28, 2011 at 09:55 PM



“ *It goes without saying the feelings we have for all of you. Your all lucky you have each other and this will always be a great source of strength in the coming hours and days ahead. It was one of the finest obits I have ever read. The one paragraph about love is very touching. Stay close to each other always ! We send our thoughts and prayers and hope you all get through these very trying days. Love Uncle Gerard, Hazel and Uncle John###imported-begin##Gerard, Hazel & John Volke###imported-end##*

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January 28, 2011 at 03:47 PM



“ *My thoughts go out to the family and friends during this time of loss. I had the opportunity to work with Nancy when I was the HR Director for Samaritan, and it was a pleasure to get to know her. She had a love for her patients that came from deep inside herself. Bonnie###imported-begin##Bonnie Polhamus###imported-end##*

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January 28, 2011 at 03:05 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Nancy was loved by many. Bob and I send our condolences from our family to the Volke's.##imported-begin##Marcie and Bob Laam##imported-end##

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January 28, 2011 at 10:58 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

Steve B##imported-begin##Steve Borgelt##imported-end##

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January 27, 2011 at 12:51 PM



“ so sorry to hear of nancy's passing. i had no idea. i had the privelage of doing nancy's hair for the past 15 years. my husband sold her , her Camry that she loved. i truly enjoyed my visits with Nancy and she loved getting her hair done,.i will miss her,she was soooooo interesting. LINDA##imported-begin##Linda Beehner##imported-end##

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January 27, 2011 at 12:29 PM



“ Mom and I are sorry to hear of Nancy's death. Mom enjoyed having her as a neighbor. I always enjoyed working with her on the OB Unit.##imported-begin##Pat Zielinski##imported-end##

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January 26, 2011 at 09:06 PM



“ *Nanners...*

*You were a part of our family for many years and your departure has left a hole in our hearts. You were one of the women of the '50s that brother Joel spent his entire life trying to find and we have no doubt you both are up in heaven watching some kind of game on tv They definitely don't make them like you anymore!*

*All my love,*

*Colleen Roth*

*I will think of you fondly every time I drink a cup of*

*Starbucks.##imported-begin##Colleen Roth##imported-end##*

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January 26, 2011 at 04:22 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of your moms passing.I had great love and respect for your mom. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you love tina##imported-begin##tina nuss carvo##imported-end##*

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January 25, 2011 at 11:55 AM