



NanSea Lee Norton

FEB 5, 1943 - AUG 3, 2023



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NanSea was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 5, 1943 to parents Mary Bernice Vandenabeele and Michael Vandenabeele. She is survived by her husband John Vincent Norton, and daughters, Dawn Renae Norton of North Fort Myers, Florida and Stephanie Marie Ciner and her fiancé Richard Dawson both of St. Clair, Michigan. Also mourning her passing are her grandchildren, McKenna Roselee Ciner an elementary school teacher, John William Ciner a graduate in physical anatomy and mitigation manager, and Caleb Stephan Ciner an economics and finance major student at Saginaw Valley State University, her sister in-law Gladys Ann Bosel, and brother in-law Michael Emmett Norton, all residing in Michigan, as well as cousins and many nieces, nephews, and friends, students, and acquaintances all across the country from her long history in the field of artistic expression. She is also survived by her loving kitty cat, Shawnie, who sits in NanSea's chair waiting to be brushed.

NanSea passed on at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Fort Myers Florida on August 3, 2023 after an extended illness. She is predeceased by her parents and her sister Pauline Lana Humphries, and brother in-law Elwood Humphries formerly of Marlton, New Jersey, her sister in-law Mary Alice Greenberg and brother in-law Daniel Lyle Greenberg formerly of Allenton, Michigan, her brother in-law Dewar Albert Bosel formerly of Macomb, Michigan, her Aunt Bessie (Auntie B.) and Uncle Homer Morrison, formerly of Garden Grove, California, and her mother in-law Gladys Ann Norton and father in-law Michael Emmett Norton both formerly of St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

NanSea lived her early years in Detroit, St. Clair Shores, and Harrison Township, Michigan, where she graduated from L'anse Creuse High School in 1961. In 1966 she and John were united in marriage and lived 56 years together while building many homes in Michigan, Georgia and Florida. All of the homes they built together were either designed by Nancy or influenced by her skill as a draftsman in some way. NanSea also attended Macomb County Community College and enjoyed classes in the humanities and artistic design. She found her niche in artistic expression



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and became an art instructor as a result and taught in the medium of oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, china painting, drawing, old master's portraiture, and drafting. She taught in those methods for 50 years making many friends and followers along the way. Her home is adorned today by her works not the least of which is an old master's style painting of her grandchildren and their pets. NanSea loved dogs and cats and always had the company of one or the other throughout her adult life.

NanSea, as young child, wore a hat to cover her hair and went to work with her carpenter father pretending to be a boy, sorting and carrying supplies like nails and door hardware and such other small items. Once, she was so convinced she was going to be in the trades and wanting to "fit in", she found some money (about \$.25) and went to a barber shop and got her hair cut like a boy. That didn't last long though. She had long beautiful flowing hair most of her life afterwards.

John recalls their first meeting at age 12 years. NanSea lived in a mobile home park and there were three lanes in the park. She was walking down the middle lane wearing a pair of shorts and a white long sleeve men's shirt with the sleeves rolled up and the front of the shirt tail tied at the midriff. John said he thought WOW!! And he knew, "Yep, that's the one." They married 10 years later.

NanSea was a humble person who gave of herself and someone who will long be remembered and missed by many. She was praised by many as the "best teacher they ever had". And she took that compliment with humility and always tried to live up to it.

Her final arrangements are being attended to by Fort Myers Memorial Gardens where she will be interred in the "Field of Honor".

No services are scheduled at her request as she, although an outgoing person, was still private in her personal life.

If you feel inclined to make a donation, in NanSea's memory, please contact the Helping Paws Animal Sanctuary in St. James City, Florida, please contact them at 10060 Mallory Pkwy., St. James City, FL. 33956, or 239-283-9100.



Tribute Wall

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JN

John Norton posted:

We built our home on Pine Island in 1996-97. It was quite an experience. We got to the drywall part and the guys we hired were terrible at their trade. So we fired them but couldn't find anyone to take up where they left off so we had to finish it ourselves. Just the two of us. It took 7 weeks but we got it done. Lifting and attaching those 12 foot boards, just NanSea and me, and all the cutting and fitting and taping and mudding. Then one day in Winn Dixie I was talking to a guy and he turned out to be a drywall finisher so he came by and skip trowel finished the whole house, lanai, and garage for \$150.00. What a blessing. Then we finished the rest of the house ourselves. She never once complained or stopped working. What a spirit. What guts. What determination. What love. John Norton.

August 25 at 5:28 PM

JN

John Norton posted:

What a dancer. We had a dance step we made up ourselves. It was a combination of a dance called the Madison and another called the Sosh (from the word social). Both were famous dance steps when we were in high school. And when we danced our version of those steps it was a floor clearing moment. People just had never seen anything like it. She was a great dance partner. We did that dance all over this country and always had a crowd to watch us. John Norton.

August 19 at 4:28 PM

NA

Nano posted:

Mom, I'll miss you. I had a wonderful time in New Baltimore. Always remember those years with Dawn and Steph. Even though I didn't see all of you often you were always in our hearts. Love Nano

August 15 at 7:33 AM

JN

John Norton posted:

Our favorite movies were Fried Green Tomatoes, Shining Through, and Funny Girl. Over the years we watched them many many times. I'd like to be sitting with her right now seeing one of those movies. John Norton.

August 9 at 7:31 PM



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John Norton shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

When I woke up (actually didn't sleep at all) the first morning without her I looked at my phone to check the time (I don't have a clock on my nightstand any more) and this video of photos from the past (all including NanSea) was on the display when it opened. Didn't ask for it didn't select anything. It was just there. Thanks NanSea.



August 8 at 11:13 AM



Pat Cordy posted:

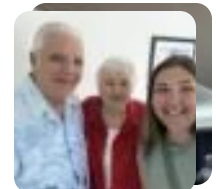
NanSea was a very special friend and had been ever since we first met her in 1998. She was the major daytime caregiver for our Mom who had Alzheimer's Disease. We cannot emphasize enough all the wonderful things NanSea did for our Mom, from taking her on roadtrips (boat trips too!) to helping her paint the most beautiful watercolor paintings. NanSea even made a pattern of our Mom's favorite hat and sewed more "Alice Hats" for her, including a red velvet one for Christmas. NanSea decorated a beautiful sweatshirt jacket with poinsettias which became one of Mom's favorite Christmas jackets. We'll never forget NanSea taking Mom for a ride in NanSea's long white '69 Cadillac -- it is one of our favorite photos! When Mom had to be moved to a Memory Care facility, NanSea continued to be a part of our family. She and her husband John frequently visited Mom there, and John even brought his music and sang to all the residents! Those song days were always our favorite and were enjoyed by everyone. NanSea continued to come out to Dad's house, helping our Dad with his meals, laundry, and general housekeeping. We remained friends even after our Dad's passing. When we'd meet for breakfast or lunch, other customers frequently commented on how they enjoyed watching us laugh and having so much fun. NanSea's passing came too quickly, and she will be missed very much. Patty/Paul Cordy and Bill/Rosaline Clark

August 8 at 10:57 AM



Mckenna Ciner shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

One thing she loved was "working the room" during my papa's performances! She loved talking to the residents and I loved being there with them. I love you Nana.



August 7 at 12:57 PM



Media

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August 8 at 11:13 AM



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August 7 at 12:57 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring NanSea by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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