



## Nancy Bray

October 25, 1944 - April 25, 2026

Nancy Bray, 81, of Cape Girardeau, died Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Chateau Girardeau.

Daughter of Paul and Mary Lou Bray who preceded her in death, Mary Lou on Nov 18, 2001 and Paul on November 30, 2006.

Surviving are her first cousins Ellen Bray Busch and Dr. Jeffrey Bray, she thought of as siblings; other first cousins Kay Bain Jones, David Bain, Mike Bray and numerous second cousins as well as her lifelong friend Anne Lamkin Kinder, Godchild Kara Kinder Vidal, close friends the Chicks and the Scheaters and many, many other friends, former students, work colleagues, her Chateau Girardeau family and her First Presbyterian Church family. She also treasured a special relationship with her uncle Alton Bray on whose 25th birthday she was born.

She was a graduate of Cape Central High School Class of 1962, graduate of Southeast Missouri State University with a B.S. in Secondary Education and majors in English and French and a Master's degree in English. She also did post-graduate Journalism work at Mizzou in Columbia and at the School of Communications at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville

She taught English at Lindbergh High School 1967-1970 and was also

yearbook advisor, taught English and Journalism at SEMO 1970 -1980 and was yearbook advisor, influential in getting approval from Coordinating Board of Higher Education to establish a major in Mass Communications at SEMO Director of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications at Southeast Hospital from 1980 - the end of 2006. Under her leadership the Department won many state and regional awards.

She was the founding Member of the Friends of the Cape Girardeau Public Library, longtime member of the Chateau Girardeau Board of Directors and past president, trustee of the Cape Girardeau Public Library, Community Counseling Center Foundation Board and past president, United Way Board of Directors, Education Committee Chair for the Cape Chamber of Commerce and helped establish Outstanding Teacher of the Year Awards, Coordinator of Southeast Hospital Auxiliary's Meals on Wheels and Past president of Southeast Hospital Auxiliary

She was a member of Phi Mu Chapter, Tri Delta social sorority and former Area Financial Assistant.

Memorial service will be at 10:00 am Saturday, May 23, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church in Cape Girardeau.

Private entombment will be at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given in Nancy's honor to Southeast Missouri State University or First Presbyterian Church.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.



# Upcoming Events

## Memorial Service

MAY **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 477  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63702

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ 2 files added to the album Lindbergh Friends



chris - May 10 at 01:10 PM



“ I think Nancy was in my Brownie troop. She was definitely the first friend my own size I had after birth -- our mothers shared an apartment on Broadway while our daddies were at the War. Her steadfast friendship and ethical Everything formed a solid background for me and many others. Her contributions stand on their own as a life well lived. She will be dearly missed.

*Fly free, Nancy. They've been saving a Chair for you in heaven.*

MarySue Foster - May 03 at 08:59 AM

JM

“ Nancy always encouraged me to reach---she was a great influence on me in college. I'm grateful for her guidance and friendship---she made me a better person.

Jaclyn Morgan - May 03 at 08:27 AM

CA

“ This picture was taken in June 2010 at the Blue Owl in Kimmswick. Pictured are: Nancy, Cindy, Kathy, and Carol.



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**Cindy Ward Addison** - May 02 at 12:18 PM

CH

“ 4 files added to the album Lindbergh Friends



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**chris** - May 02 at 11:22 AM

PH

“ Nancy was a dear friend and adviser to all of us in the Southeast Missouri Journalism Teachers Association all of those wonderful years ago. Treasured memories of the activities she helped direct to benefit the cause of student journalism!

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**Pat Heckert** - May 01 at 08:47 PM

CC

*Nancy Bray was sincere, so friendly, so humble, so concerned about others, and so lovely in so many ways. I was blessed to grow up with her!*

*Cris Collie*

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**Cris Collie** - May 10 at 05:35 PM

JS

“*I share two memories of my connection with the Brays and the Semo Alma Mater which was written by Alton's friend, Wilhelmina Vieh! We sang it to each other at the strangest of times. It was our "love lullaby"! And Alton, I am certain, will direct!*

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**Jane Cooper Stacy** - May 01 at 11:17 AM