



## Nancy Sampson Craft

February 9, 1937 - June 3, 2023

Nancy Sampson Craft, a force of nature and a pillar of this community, passed away on Saturday, June 3, 2023. She dedicated her life to her family, her church, her community, and the people of Hardee County. Nancy's impact on this county was immeasurable, and her indomitable spirit will be remembered for generations to come.

Born on February 9, 1937, in the sunny city of Miami, Florida, Nancy quickly fell in love with her childhood stomping grounds. She fondly referred to it as "Mi-am-uh" and formed lifelong friendships during her time at Miami Edison. It was there that she learned the importance of loyalty and the power of genuine connections.

In her quest for love, Nancy met her beloved husband, Allen "Gene" Craft, from Sweetwater, and became a Cowboy Sweetheart. Together, they embarked on a remarkable journey, which brought her to Hardee County, his hometown. Nancy instantly fell head over heels for the county, its people, and its rich agricultural heritage. She saw the potential and beauty in every corner, and she was determined to protect and nurture it. Her children and their friends, and her grandchildren couldn't ride in the car with her, without the reminder to sit up, pay attention and look out the window. She wanted them to see the beauty in the animals and land.

Nancy and Gene were lifelong companions for an incredible 50 years until Gene's passing in April of 2011. Together, they built a beautiful family that included their five wonderful children: Terry Darlene Tillman (Hank), Andrew Craft, Joy Smith, Jeanne Myrie (Alex), and Rodney Craft (Julie).

Nancy was an active member of the United Methodist Church of Wauchula. Her faith in God was unshakable, and she drew strength from her spirituality. Nancy's commitment extended to her work as well, as she served in the Clerk of Courts office in Hardee County as well as the Circle 3 Western Store. Her sharp mind and attention to detail made her an invaluable member of any team.

Nancy was also a respected realtor, specializing in agriculture properties. Her passion for the citrus and cattle production in Florida was infectious, and she actively contributed to organizations dedicated to the research and preservation of these industries. Nancy's involvement in numerous community and civic organizations, such as the Children's Home Society Rose Keller Division, Rotary, Hardee County Chamber of Commerce, 4-H, Pioneer Park Days, Hardee County Fair, Cattlewoman's Association, and various boards at the First Methodist Church, showcased her unwavering dedication to making a positive impact.

One of Nancy's defining characteristics was her unwavering love for Hardee County. She fought tirelessly to protect its integrity and ensure that no one took advantage of its treasures. Some may have mistaken her passion for intensity, but in reality, it was a reflection of how deeply she cared. She pushed hard and fast because she believed in the potential of this county and its people.

Nancy's love for her community extended far beyond her professional endeavors. She actively participated in local politics and fearlessly voiced her

opinions. Her column in the local paper became a platform for her insightful and often humorous observations. Nancy's words were never just ink on paper; they were a call to action, urging others to join her in taking care of this beloved county.

She had an undeniable strength that inspired others to stand up for what they believed in. She instilled a sense of pride in her family and friends, reminding them to fight for what they hold dear. Nancy's tenacity was matched only by her quick wit and infectious laughter. She had a unique ability to find joy in even the most challenging situations and had an uncanny talent for turning ordinary moments into extraordinary memories.

Nancy Sampson Craft's impact on this county and its people will forever be etched in our hearts. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, passion, and unwavering dedication. Her love for Hardee County was a testament to her character and her unwavering spirit. Nancy's home was here, and everyone she encountered became family. Her memory will continue to guide us, reminding us to fight for what we love, cherish every moment, and never take our community for granted.

Nancy Sampson Craft is survived by her 5 loving children, 9 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews that she held dear to her heart.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Gene Craft, as well as her parents, Grover and Beulah Sampson, her brothers Glenn, Pat, Bill, and sister Alice. Nancy's spirit will continue to live on through the memories shared by her family and friends.

A visitation for the family will be held on Friday, June 9, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.

- 12:00 p.m. at the First Methodist Church of Wauchula in the Fellowship Hall. Following the visitation there will be a luncheon to sit and break bread with the family and share in one of Nancy's most favorite past times: Having a simple conversation with people she cared for.

In honor of Nancy's legacy, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to First United Methodist Church of Wauchula Food Pantry Ministry: Feed My Sheep. These contributions will continue Nancy's love for her church, and for the things she held dear and help make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Nancy Sampson Craft was a woman of strength, resilience, and boundless love. She made an indelible mark on this county and all who had the privilege of crossing her path. As we bid her farewell, let us remember her infectious laughter, her unwavering spirit, and her unyielding dedication to the people she loved. Nancy may be gone, but her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Wauchula  
207 N. 7th Ave.  
Wauchula, FL 33873

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lillian Hughes lit a candle in memory of Nancy Craft* ”



Lillian Hughes - June 07, 2023 at 01:38 PM



*Many thanks.*

Joy Smith - June 07, 2023 at 06:24 PM



*Thank you very much.*

Joy Craft Smith - June 08, 2023 at 12:40 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Nancy Sampson Craft.* ”



June 06, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *Diane Pitts sent a virtual gift in memory of Nancy Craft* ”



Diane Pitts - June 06, 2023 at 06:10 PM



*Thank you very much.*

**Joy Craft Smith** - June 07, 2023 at 09:22 PM



“ *Many fond memories! She would always say, “Let’s see where this road goes!” That would make me wonder when we’d get home sometimes, but it was always a fun adventure with Nancy! I know where that final road took her! She’s with her Savior now. Gaila*

**Gaila** - June 06, 2023 at 06:09 PM



*Thank you, Gaila...she loved you dearly. ❤️*

**Joy Craft Smith** - June 07, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ *Everything that is said here is right on. Very well written*

**Connie Rowe** - June 06, 2023 at 05:51 PM



*Thanks, Connie. My sister Jeanne is the author.*

**Joy Craft Smith** - June 07, 2023 at 09:31 PM



“ *The world lost a real fine lady. Mrs. Craft was very kind and always smiling. I was friends with her Daughter, Joy, in school and I was always welcomed at their home. I loved going over there. Fly with the Angels Mrs. Craft. May God bless and keep the family. Sincerely, Mary Lovette Callahan*



**Mary Callahan** - June 06, 2023 at 03:53 PM



*You are the dearest, Mary. Thank you. ❤️*

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**Joy Craft Smith** - June 07, 2023 at 09:32 PM