



Nikki Gavalas Nance

September 23, 1944 - September 12, 2020

Nikki Gavalas Nance

North Augusta, SC – Funeral Services for Mrs. Nikki Gavalas Nance, 75, who entered into rest September 12, 2020, will be conducted Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock from Grace United Methodist Church with Rev. Thomas B. Wilkes III, Rev. Randall Haase and Rev. Dr. Anthony N. Gavalas officiating. Interment will follow in Magnolia Cemetery. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed on the Posey Funeral Directors Facebook page. Those in attendance are encouraged to wear a mask and social distancing will be practiced.

Mrs. Nance was a native of Augusta, GA, having made North Augusta, SC her home for the past 20 years. She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, where she was also a member of the Stillwell Sunday School Class and the Knox-Wilhelm Circle. Mrs. Nance retired from Thermal Ceramics, formerly known Babcock and Wilcox, with 42 years of service. During her career, she provided immense leadership as the first female to serve on the Board of Directors and as the first female Vice President of Human Resources. She enjoyed her time at the beach and volunteering with the United Way. Mrs. Nance will be fondly remembered for her love of family and for having a servant's heart. She was preceded in death by her parents, Nickolas and Louise Gavalas.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Lester Alan Nance; two daughters, Rebecca Nance (Doug) Carroll, Brooklet, GA, Deborah Nance (Wayne) Kunze, North Augusta, SC; two brothers, Rev. Dr. Anthony N. Gavalas, Athens, GA, Joseph L. (Donnis) Gavalas, Canton, GA; a sister, Vikena Gavalas (Milton) Thigpen, Philomath, GA; five grandchildren, Stephen Carroll, Nicole (Joe) Snoad, Meagan Owen, Michael Kunze and Mitchell Kunze.

Active Pallbearers will be Nickolas Anthony Gavalas II, Anthony George Gavalas, Victor Eugene Gavalas, Michael Joseph Gavalas, Nicholas George Gavalas, Robert Kip Gordon, Edward Trent Gordon, Zachary Dean Wilson, Nicholas Connor Wilson and Mickey Bryan Newby. Honorary Pallbearers will be the Stillwell Sunday School Class.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday evening from 5 until 7 o'clock. Those in attendance are encouraged to wear a mask and social distancing will be practiced.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Epworth Children's Home, c/o Grace United Methodist Church, 639 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta, SC 29841.

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta is in charge of arrangements (803)278-1181.

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Cemetery

Hale Street
Augusta, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors
1307 Georgia Avenue
North Augusta, SC

Service

SEP **19**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Grace United Methodist Church
639 Georgia Ave
North Augusta, SC

Tribute Wall



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Nikki Gavalas Nance



Posey Funeral Directors - September 19, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Nikki Gavalas Nance



Posey Funeral Directors - September 17, 2020 at 02:31 PM

DG

May God give you rest where there is no more pain and suffering. Our hearts are broken without you here, so until we join you in heaven we will miss your lovely face, your laughter, and your love. You were an amazing woman and life will never be the same with you gone. We love you and will miss you for always. 🕊️❤️

*Love,
Donnis*

Donnis Gavalas - September 18, 2020 at 01:29 AM

AS

Wishing you all peace in knowing that she is with our Heavenly Father, he has his loving arms wrapped around her. She was an amazing woman who was full of joy & laughter. Rick and I are so sorry for your loss. She will be missed dearly.

*Love,
Rick and Amy Swanson*

Amy Swanson - September 19, 2020 at 10:29 AM



“ *Nikki Gavalas Nance*

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ *Nikki Gavalas Nance*

September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM

JH

“ *Alan and girls, I just learned of Nikki's passing and I am so sad. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. If I had known, I would have been at her service.*

We were very close when I worked at B&W; went to lunch together almost every day. We shared a lot of laughs. I know you will miss that dear lady.

*Jean Hammond
Edgefield, SC*

Jean Hammond - September 21, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Nance Graveside Service



Posey Funeral Directors - September 19, 2020 at 07:21 PM

EH

“ Donnis and family, I am truly sorry for your loss. Prayers for God's comfort, peace and strength.

Erma Hiott-Ellis - September 18, 2020 at 06:51 PM

CI

“ Carol Dye Irwin lit a candle in memory of Nikki Gavalas Nance



Carol Dye Irwin - September 18, 2020 at 03:56 PM

CI

My heart is broken for you and your family, Mr. Nance. You and Mrs. Nikki drifted into my life several years ago and she always brightened my day when I saw or spoke with her on the phone. She put up with our shenanigans. always with laugh, smile or shaking of the head. May our Lord hold you all very close in the days and months ahead. Love you! C

Carol Dye Irwin - September 18, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Nikki Gavalas Nance.*



September 18, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nikki Gavalas Nance.*



September 18, 2020 at 07:30 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Nikki's passing. My husband, Ed Hickman, also knew Nikki and some of the boys. We grew up together....she lived on Washington Road and I lived on Woodbine Road. Cannot remember the many years that we were in school together...first T. Harry Garrett and onto ARC in 1963. Knew the boys a little. We had some good times together. I was Nancy Kelly when Nikki knew me. Will certainly be praying for all of you. May God surround you with His Angels and bring you healing and comfort in this time of sadness. Nikki will truly be missed. Take care and stay safe. May God shower you with His Blessings....in Jesus Name. Love & Prayers, ALWAYS....Nancy & Ed Hickman.*

Nancy & Ed Hickman - September 17, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ 73 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Posey Funeral Directors - September 17, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish* was purchased for the family of *Nikki Gavalas Nance*.



September 16, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of *Nikki Gavalas Nance*.



September 16, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nikki Gavalas Nance.*



September 16, 2020 at 07:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nikki Gavalas Nance.*



September 15, 2020 at 07:32 PM

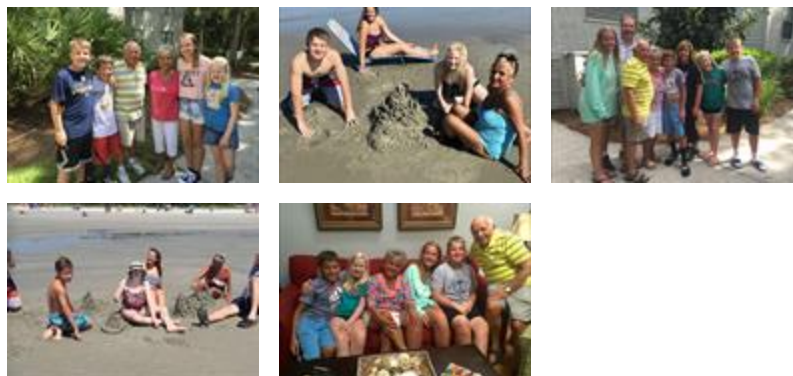
PE

“ *Intelligence, grit, loving, loyal and true to her faith are just a few ways to describe Nikki. The quintessential Southern Lady, and all that that implies, Nikki was also a tough business woman ahead of her time. She lead the way, proving by example that women could ‘have it all’. Even while traveling the world running a division of a large company, Nikki was still a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, cousin, aunt, etc. No one could love their family more than she loved hers. Also, she was genuinely interested in others. Nikki never met a stranger (she wanted to know everyone!) and was unwaveringly welcoming as she continually expanded her ‘extended’ family. When Hurricane Matthew forced me to evacuate Hilton Head Island, she and Alan opened their home and ensured that I was the best kept ‘refugee’ ever! A fellow tan-olholic, Nikki really enjoyed the beach, always bringing treats for the lifeguards. In some way, Nikki touched everyone in her orbit. I am just one of the many hundreds of people who were so fortunate. In my mind, Nikki is in Heaven in a big kitchen (unless there are restaurants!) cooking up a feast for her new friends - all the other angels. Kind, giving, open and a whole lot of fun, Nikki will be forever missed. -Peggy Edwards*

Peggy Edwards - September 15, 2020 at 03:02 PM

TE

“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



Tim Etchison - September 15, 2020 at 01:30 PM

TE

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Tim Etchison - September 15, 2020 at 01:28 PM

TB

“ *My heart is full of sadness right now as we mourn this beautiful soul of a woman. I had the pleasure of working with Nikki at Thermal Ceramics. Her guidance and wealth of knowledge encouraged me to become a dedicated Human Resources Professional. I have shared many great moments with Nikki and had grown to love and respect both her and Mr. Nance.*

May family and friends celebrate her life and find comfort in knowing that God will cover you through this difficult time.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

*With Deepest Sympathies,
Tamisa Barrow*

Tamisa Barrow - September 15, 2020 at 10:56 AM

IP

“Wowwww we could not believed when we heard the news of our dear friend for so many year, Nikki. Praying for all of you, Alan, Rebecca, her family, Deborah and her family. To her grandchildren, Stephen, Nicole, Joe, Meagan, Michael, and Mitchell Now you have an Angel in Heaven watching after all of you. For Nikki siblings and all of touch that one way or order she touch our life, praying for Peace, Comfort and Acceptance. Now she is enjoying the Glory of God with her parents and loved one. Well dear Nikki you are gone but not forgotten. Nikki, Until we meet aging dear friend Rest In Peace. Sending lots of blessing and comfort to all of you.



Ivonne, Miguel Pereyo and Family

ivonne Pereyo - September 15, 2020 at 09:42 AM

IP

Sorry meant all of us that one way or other she touched our life.

ivonne Pereyo - September 15, 2020 at 09:47 AM

PW

“Aunt Nikki was such a ray of sunshine in our family and so much fun!



Patricia Wilson - September 15, 2020 at 09:02 AM

TS

“ Nikki was a fabulous lady and I admired her greatly. She and I worked on a mutual project together many years ago and I looked to her as a sort of mentor. She was a consummate professional with a big heart. She truly cared for people and that made her exceptional in her career. I was fortunate to reconnect with Nikki and Alan a few years ago after moving back to town. What a joy. My husband and I enjoyed our dinners and game nights with them. I have missed them since Covid and now am very sad to know I will never see this beautiful person again. My heartfelt condolences to Alan and the rest of her family. She will be missed.



Tracy Stolarski - September 14, 2020 at 10:17 PM

EE

“ Words cannot express my love and admiration for Nikki. My GEORGIA Mom forever. Always beautiful, always so upbeat, so loving, so giving, and a laugh and smile the size of Texas. I am so sad and so sorry for dear Alan, Rebecca, and Deborah who I love so dearly and so deeply like Family. Nikki was so dear to me and so loved by everyone who will read this post. I am so lucky and so fortunate to of had Nikki Nance touch my heart and my Life like she did. My love to everyone who reads this post and thank you God for Nikki Nance.

Eric Etchison - September 14, 2020 at 10:02 PM

EB

My condolences to you Allen and family. Nicki was a special person. Frank and I thought so much of her and she was so good for B&W and Thermal Ceramics. She always had a smile on her face and helpful to all.

God Bless

Eleanor

eleanor barbee - September 14, 2020 at 10:27 PM

PB

I had the pleasure of working with Nikki as a colleague way back in the Babcock & Wilcox era. The consummate professional and a joy to be around. I wish God's peace for Allan and her children.

Pete Brodie, Martinez

Pete Brodie - September 15, 2020 at 08:20 AM

TV

Barbara and I also want to give our condolences to the extended Nance family. Such a wonderful and warm person that was always upbeat and encouraging. Nikki's personality was perfect for HR. Will truly be missed.

Tom Viverito

Tom Viverito - September 15, 2020 at 08:23 AM

BT

MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE FAMILY. GOD BLESS

Buck Tinley - September 16, 2020 at 09:11 AM

JC

Nikki although small in stature was larger than life, and too me will always be one of the finest women ever to grace this earth. Alone from NJ and starting a career in Augusta, Nikki and her fabulous family made the South my home away from home and I consider the Nance family (Alan, Rebecca and Deborah) as Dad and my Southern Sisters. Will never forget all the times at Nance house which always felt like home, and I consider myself so fortunate to have had Nikki and the Nance family a part of my life.

Will continue to be thinking of you always as the finest Southern Lady to have blessed me with your larger than life presence. To Alan, Rebecca and Deborah, I am so sorry for your loss and hope that past memories like pictures in your minds will bring warmth and an occasional smile in the future as that is what this wonderful woman, as a gift, has given to everyone she came into contact with.

Sending my thoughts, prayers and love to the Nance family. Nikki will be missed but never forgotten, because of the spectacular woman she was.

Jeff Chambers

Jeff Chambers - September 16, 2020 at 01:04 PM

DC

The two times I interacted with Nikki outside of work they both involved food. One in her home on a Sunday sit down dinner with her family where she cooked enough to feed five families and another when I was invited for a lunch with just the girls of the Nance family in Colombia. I will never forget how welcoming they all were to me and how comfortable I felt in their presence. Nikki had a way to make you feel welcome whether in her home or just out for restaurant meal. This has been passed down to her daughters as Deborah has always made me feel welcome whenever I was in Augusta for a meeting and needed someone to pick me up at the airport or to make sure I had someone to share a meal with in the evening. I have great admiration and respect for the Nance family and I join you in mourning your loss.

Best wishes to you all,

Dean Conner

Dean Conner - September 16, 2020 at 11:01 PM

HM

Cheryl and I send our deepest sympathy to Nikki's family. It was a pleasure knowing and working with Nikki and Deborah at Babcock and Wilcox and Thermal Ceramics. My father Gene worked with Nikki for a lot of years in personnel. Nikki was always pleasant and upbeat and had a winning smile.

Our prayers are with the Nance family.

Herb and Cheryl Myers

Herb and Cheryl Myers - September 17, 2020 at 02:35 PM

KW

So saddened to hear of the loss of Nikki. Small in stature, but such a big welcoming personality! She was always one of the shining stars at Thermal Ceramics and now heaven has gained another star!

Sending prayers of comfort and peace to all,

Kim Wade

Kim Wade - September 18, 2020 at 01:50 PM