

## *Nancy J. Koenig*

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, passed away Friday, March 17, 2017 in Kansas City, MO at 93 years young. Formerly Florissant, MO, 58 years. Retired elementary music teacher and tireless volunteer advocate for persons with disabilities, particularly traumatic brain injury.

Survived by: son Don, St. Louis; son David, grandsons Michael, Jeffrey, Scottsdale, AZ; daughter Barb and son-in-law Pete Sturner, Kansas City, MO; nieces Nancy (Joe) Cox-Konopelski, Santa Cruz, CA; Debbie Cox (Ed McCormick), Oakland, CA, cousins, and countless professional and personal friends. Preceded in death by beloved husband, Paul; brother William B. Cox; sister-in-law Ann B. Cox; nephew William B. Cox.

Born Clinton, Iowa. Graduate Clinton High School. Attended Morningside College, Sioux City, IA where she began a lifetime as a "Grammar Girl", and Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. Graduated Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 1947 with a bachelor's in music.

Nancy was passionate about teaching children to love music, influencing countless students in her 20-year career as a music teacher at Meadows Elementary School, Riverview Gardens School District, St. Louis. Retired May 1981. She was an accomplished vocalist who sang throughout the metro St. Louis area. Member, Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity 69 years. President, SAI St. Louis Alumnae Chapter, 1959-61. Awarded Sword of Honor, 1961. Docent, St. Louis Symphony. Member, Missouri Retired Teachers Association.

Nancy's second avocation launched unexpectedly in 1976 when traumatic brain injury impacted the family. With no family support services available at the time, Nancy wanted to make a difference for others who would be impacted by traumatic brain injury in the future. To that end, she helped found the Missouri Head Injury Association (now Brain Injury Association of Missouri), was a founding member of the Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council, appointed by then-Governor Mel Carnahan, and served in a volunteer capacity on numerous related state and local boards.

For the remainder of her life, Nancy helped provide services, support, advice and information to individuals and families dealing with brain injury. She also was a staunch advocate for head injury prevention, to include more than a decade of testimony before the Missouri Legislature in favor of retaining motorcycle helmet laws.



## *Nancy's lifetime activities, achievements and honors include:*

- ◆ Former member, Florissant Fine Arts Council.
- ◆ Former chairperson and member, Florissant Disability Awareness Commission, 1987-1995. Instrumental in establishing the city's safety helmet program. Hosted "News You Can Use," a city cable TV production providing educational programming on disabilities, 5+ years;
- ◆ Founding member, Missouri Head Injury Association (now Brain Injury Association of Missouri) 1981-2014; chairperson 1991-94;
- ◆ Founding member, Missouri Head Injury Advisory Council 1985-99; chairperson 1991-94. Cited by Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan for being a 'remarkable influence by a single individual who strives to improve the lives of others.' Cited for exemplary leadership by the council for advancing prevention, rehabilitation and support services for persons with traumatic head injuries and their families, 1996;
- ◆ Former president, member, St. Louis Bi-State Chapter, Missouri Head Injury Association (now BIA-MO);
- ◆ Former member, Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities working group whose efforts changed services eligibility criteria for individuals with traumatic brain injury younger than 22;
- ◆ Former chairperson, 1993-94; member 1991-96, Productive Living Board for St. Louis County Citizens with Developmental Disabilities;
- ◆ Chairperson, The Partnership Council;
- ◆ Member, Advisory Committee for Disability Programs at the St. Louis Community College;
- ◆ Recipient, Martin L. Spivack Recognition Award from the National Head Injury Foundation for outstanding volunteer services to the NHIF/Missouri Association, 1990;
- ◆ Founders Award, St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Head Injury Association for outstanding effort in assisting people with head injuries and their families, 1994;
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award (first awarded), Missouri Head Injury Association 2002;
- ◆ Recognized by the City of Florissant and St. Louis County, each proclaiming a 'Nancy Koenig Day' for her efforts as a developmental disabilities advocate;
- ◆ Media Award, Epilepsy Foundation.

Services: 10:30 a.m., April 7, 2017 McCoy Meetin' House, Park University campus, Parkville, MO. Family visitation, 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Second service:** 11:00 a.m., April 22, Church of the Master, Florissant, MO. Family visitation 9:00-11:00 a.m. Burial: Springdale Cemetery, Clinton, IA. Meyers Funeral Chapel-Northland, Parkville, MO.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Nancy Koenig's name are kindly suggested to: Brain Injury Association of Missouri, 2265 Schuetz Rd., St. Louis, MO, 63146; Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies Inc., One Tunnel Rd., Asheville, NC 28805, or a charity of your choice.

