



## Nora Ann Dixon

June 26, 1942 - January 11, 2013

Nora Ann Dixon, one of the world's true angels, has gone home. On January 11, 2013, after a long illness, Nora passed away at her residence in Fort Collins, Colorado. Nora served others for 42 years by working as a licensed and board certified occupational therapist "OT" in Chicago. Nora was widely recognized as one of the very best OTs in Illinois. Her genuinely caring and uplifting spirit touched the hearts of everyone she met, and brought courage and joy to the patients she treated and helped. When she was only 14 years old, Nora decided that being an OT was what she wanted to do. During her career, Nora specialized in treating stroke patients and patients with brain and spinal cord injuries. In 2006, Nora traveled to China, where she gave presentations on "Right Side Brain Dysfunction" to Chinese medical professionals. Nora fully enjoyed everyone she met, and quickly made friends with everyone. Nora's pure, good, and fun spirit quickly captured everyone's heart. For Nora, there were no strangers, only friends she had not met yet. Nora loved people, and her beautiful spirit would always be immediately energized and uplifted by a visit or telephone conversation with a friend. Just being with Nora would lighten your heart and make you smile. Nora was the very best friend anyone could have, and Nora had many best friends. Many times, Nora would give her unwavering and steadfast support to a friend in need, or bring a dear friend up and out of a difficult situation. You could count on Nora. Nora saved, guided and encouraged people. Nora was always there for her friends. Nora was born Nora Ann Flanagan to Richard and Margaret

McCorry Flanagan on June 26, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois. Until the age of 12, Nora lived with her family in a lovely third-floor apartment near Garfield Park on Chicago's west side. While there, Nora attended church and grade school at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, which was nearby. When Nora was 12, her family moved to Arlington Heights, Illinois, a beautiful suburb northwest of Chicago. Growing up in Arlington Heights, she attended high school, and graduated from St. Patrick's Academy in 1960. After high school, Nora attended Mount Mary College, located outside Milwaukee, on full scholarship. She graduated from Mount Mary College in 1964 with a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy. Nora furthered her education by attending Rush University College of Health Sciences in Chicago, where, in 1989, she earned her Master of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy. Her work for her Master of Science Degree included detailed studies in neuroscience and sensory integration. At the graduation ceremony, the presenter said he wished he could give Nora a doctorate degree, because the quality of her research and thesis was at the doctoral level. For her exemplary academic work at Rush University, Nora received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student. She also received a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Student Research from Rush University Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, in 1990. During the first twenty years of her OT career, Nora worked in several hospital settings in Chicago, which included Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, Oak Forest Hospital, University of Illinois Medical Center, and Michael Reese Hospital. Nora also worked for three years at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle. During the last twenty years of her career, Nora worked in home health care in Chicago for Ravenswood Hospital and for Advocate Home Health Care East. Nora greatly enjoyed treating and helping patients, and their families, in their homes. Nora served others in various ways as a volunteer. She applied her OT expertise as a member of the Chicago Heart Association's Cerebral Vascular Disease Committee, and coordinated and moderated a workshop on "Left vs. Right Stroke". She also taught various classes in OT at Mercy Hospital and Rush University in

Chicago. Nora was a long-standing member of the American Occupational Therapy Society and of the Illinois Occupational Therapy Society, where she served as Practice Chair for Continuing Education. In February 2007, Nora retired as an OT. In June 2007, she relocated with her husband, John, to live in Fort Collins, Colorado. While living in Fort Collins, Nora pursued many interests, and met many, many new and wonderful friends. She was active in the League of Women Voters, Master Gardeners, the Democratic Party of Larimer County, and water aerobics class and coffee club. As Events Chair of Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction, Nora helped protect Fort Collins from uranium mining in nearby Weld County by helping to lead the opposition to the mining. In retirement, Nora was also able to take watercolor painting classes, and develop her artistic talents. Nora produced many lovely and masterful watercolor paintings. Nora is survived by her husband of 30 years, John, her sister and brother-in-law,, Catherine and Harold Frantz, her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, David Franck and Elaine Flick, two nephews, James Johnston and Timothy Johnston, and two nieces, Madison Franck and Meaghan Johnston. Yes, one of the world's true angels has gone home. We will miss her ever-present, bright and beautiful "Christmas morning" smile, her unwavering and constant friendship, her fun and playful spirit, her total enjoyment of people and life, and her pure, good heart. We know Nora will always be with us in our hearts and by our sides. We know she will always care and look out for us, because that is what angels do. Visitation for Nora will be held by her family at Bohlender Funeral Home at 121 West Olive Street, Fort Collins, Colorado, on Tuesday, January 15, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Bohlender Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 16, at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be may sent to the Poudre Valley Hospital Foundation at 2315 E. Harmony Road, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80528 for the new Cancer Center.

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ Dear John, I am so sad to hear of Nora's death. She was an amazing woman and I will look forward to giving you a big hug! You are in my thoughts.

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**Christy Dittmar** - January 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Nora's passing. I had the privilege of working with her at her last job before she retired. I learned so much from her amazing clinical skills as well as her huge heart she opened to each patient she worked with. She was also a wonderful friend whose compassion and optimism for life was infectious. I am so amazed I had her in my life and am so sad that she is now gone. John, you are deeply in my thoughts. She frequently talked of you as the 'love of her life' and she would glow. There are no words sufficient at a time like this. Only know that she made a huge mark in her life for many people.

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**Alice Martin** - January 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Johnny, I'm sorry to see Nora leave us and she will be missed. Nora was a very kind hearted person. Someone who was very easy to share thoughts with and feel a kinship. It's rare to meet someone as educated as Nora and yet remain so friendly and uncomplicated. You two were lucky to have each other and you'll see her again later. Until then, it's comforting to know that now she is at a better place than you and I can even imagine. She'll be preparing for the day that you'll be with her again. Michael Knill

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**Michael Knill** - January 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Dear John and Family, I just came back from the service for Nora and wanted to say thank you for sharing so many deep feelings and wonderful stories about Nora. It was a lovely tribute. She always seemed to make things fun and I will miss her huge spirit. I will always remember how much fun she had digging into her bag of goodies hats, necklaces, head attire, for all of us CARD volunteers, as she made sure everyone had something special /fun to wear at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. A sweet lady passed from this earth too soon. You are all in my thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort, now and always.

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**Aileen S. Hanson** - January 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ John, I was saddened to hear about Nora's death. Nora and I became friends through her relentless environmental work. I work as the Sustainability Coordinator for the City so our paths crossed at many events. I loved your description of her as an angel passing. It is so true. She had a kind and generous soul and the world was a better place because she was in it. I just lost my grandmother - who was my angel so I couldn't bear to be at another funeral service but my thoughts are with you and your family.

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**Rosemarie Russo** - January 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ It is an honor to have known Nora. What a lovely person. Our thoughts and prayers go out to John and family. Trudy and Glen

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**Trudy Haines & Glen Colton** - January 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Thoughts and prayers are with You.

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**Donna Wright** - January 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ *What a great lady! I wish we would have met sooner. Peace to you Nora, and your family.*

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**Donna** - January 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ *Dear John, Cathy and Hal, I am so sorry for the loss of your dear Nora. I felt like we all knew her because of Cathy's love and devotion to her sister. All families should look to the model of caring this family showed each other. We all wish we could be there to help hold you up. Love, Heather*

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**Heather Marsalis** - January 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *My sincere sympathy. Nora was an outstanding individual who will be missed by many.*

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**Bonnie Wallace** - January 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *JOHN : VERY SORRY. WE WILL MISS NORA DEARLY. LOVE ALWAYS, JIM AMD DIONA MCCORRY.*

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**JAMES/DIONA MCCORRY** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *After reading Nora's obituary, I can appreciate even more what she contributed to the world. She was so much fun to get to know in her retirement years. She loved Fort Collins, the mountains and being close to family members. She certainly will be missed. She was a joy!*

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**Bonnie Blazek** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PV

“ Nora, you have fought the good fight and brightened the lives of everyone you encountered in your personal and professional life. I have so many fond memories of our HS days at SPA and am so honored to have been able to sit next to you at our 50th reunion. You are now at peace and John and your family will find consolation knowing your forever smile will be shining down on them and your memory will live forever in their hearts. Pray for us my friend, until we meet again.

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**Penny Vesely-Sweeney** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Cathy, your sharing of Nora, helped me get to know her. I know how you treasured your sister. She truly was a rare gem. My heart tells me she felt the exact same way about you. When you come home, all of us will hold you in our arms until Nora takes you into hers. Take care, my precious friend. With love to you, John and Hal.

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**Betty Bogart** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I am so happy to have known Nora and to have had the opportunity to reconnect at our High School Reunion. It has been a bittersweet three years and I know that I speak for so many of us that knowing and being with Nora was a wonderful experience.

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**Mary Jeanne Monhardt** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful person. And yes, she was and still is an angel. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Marv and Ruby

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**Kowalke's** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WU

“ We are so saddened by Nora's passing. Glad to hear that she went peacefully at least. We wish we could be there with you...Please know you are all in our prayers.

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**Wanda, Gary, and Jeff Urbahn** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Dear John, Cathy and Hal, you are in our thoughts and prayers. We feel truly blessed to have had Nora in our lives. Love You, Dick and Nancy

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**Richard and Nancy Flanagan** - January 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I loved Nora's smile and cheerful outlook on things. So thankful to get to know her this past year or so. Wishing you peace and comfort as I know you will miss her very much.

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**Liz westers** - January 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM