

## **Memorial: Nancy Crossed (1959–2003)**

¶1 Nancy Crossed, the cataloging/reference librarian at the American University Washington College of Law Library, passed away suddenly on September 2, 2003, at the age of forty-four. She had been at the library since 1996, serving her position at the library admirably, tackling her duties with relish and flair. She was always looking for ways to broaden her horizons and her knowledge of the profession. Nancy was certainly a jill-of-all-trades who, in addition to her duties in cataloging and reference, had in the past year agreed to take on the task of overseeing the circulation department. In addition to her invaluable contributions to the library, she served the university as a whole as a member of the student hearing panel of the Faculty Senate.

¶2 Nancy graduated from the University of Maryland University College with a bachelor of science in paralegal studies. She received her masters in library science from the Catholic University of America. She finished both of these degrees while working full time. It is a testimony to her drive and determination that all of this was accomplished while being a single mother to her four children. She then worked as a reference librarian at the Prince George's County Memorial Public Library System. She also worked as a paralegal for a brief time.

¶3 Nancy entered the library profession in a roundabout way. She was driving a school bus when she decided to go back to school and finish her bachelor's degree. I remember a story related to me by Pam Gregory of the Prince George's County Law Library. Nancy was there one day doing some research when she happened into Pam's office and asked, "How do I get a job like yours?" Pam sat her down and told her what she needed to do. So Nancy enrolled at the library school of Catholic University of America, while working at the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Several years later, she popped into Pam's office and said, "Guess what, I'm a librarian." The two of them became fast friends thereafter.

¶4 She will be greatly missed not only by the American University community, but by the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., as well. Nancy was very active in the organization, having served as corresponding secretary from 1999 to 2001, and as the president of the Academic SIS in 2001–02. She wrote several articles for *Law Library Lights*.

¶5 Nancy is survived by four children, to whom she was extremely dedicated. She even worked part-time jobs to make certain her family had that little extra income to be able to do fun things. She brought her children with her to the two most recent AALL Annual Meetings in Orlando and Seattle.

¶6 She loved gardening, caving, and blues music. Whenever there was a blues music festival in the Mid-Atlantic region, you could be sure that she would be there. But her first love was her boat. There is not enough time to chronicle all her escapades. Needless to say, she took endless ribbing from her friends about her

series of misadventures with the boat. She laughed it off and maintained her determination despite a list of mishaps that included capsizing, running out of fuel, and dogs jumping overboard.

¶7 Nancy had an engaging personality with a wonderful sense of humor. She was easy to work with and eager to learn everything she could about a subject. She was confident enough in herself to admit when she did not know something. Those who met Nancy knew immediately what a warm person she was.—*Michael J. Petit*<sup>1</sup>

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