

A woman with short hair, wearing a plaid shirt and jeans, stands with her back to the camera in a grassy field. She is holding a wide-brimmed hat. In the background, there is a large, rocky hill or cliff face, partially covered with green pine trees. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

An artist and jewelry maker extraordinaire, Nancy's jewelry has been sold in many galleries over the years, and is treasured and collected by many. Each unique piece having a spirit unto itself. Also a devoted wildlife photographer, her many beautiful photos are available for viewing in perpetuity on her Instagram and Facebook page. Her work has been sold in many galleries in the Black Hills. She was a member of both Art Forms in Hill City, SD and Art Expressions in Custer for many years.

Perhaps best remembered by her friends was her talent for listening. Nancy was a good friend to many and considered by more than a few, as their "best" friend. She was the person many called for a sympathetic ear, a cup of coffee, to serve on a committee, plan an event or a fun outing. Never forgetting a birthday, always sending thoughtful cards she will be missed by so many friends and family.

Nancy was very grateful for her two brothers and families': Stephen F. Barker (Michelle) nephews Jonathan and Jeremy. Brother James Barker Spring (Jane) nephews Willow, Woodson (Nathalia), niece Frederica (Dean), grand- nieces & nephews, and all her pretty horses, beloved dogs and cats.

Remembering

Nancy Barker

August 8th 1952

January 5th 2025

Arrangements have been placed in the care of
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home

Reflections

Nature lover, Artist, Cowgirl, Activist, and self-described “Hiker-chick”, Nancy Barker, went on the ultimate solo adventure, after a short illness, on January 5, 2025, leaving this earthly realm and crossing into the great unknown. Always a fearless traveler she was equally, comfortable in the New Mexico backcountry, scouting on horseback for pottery thieves, as climbing the high points in the Black Hills of South Dakota, roaming the Bighorn region of Wyoming or hiking, off trail, in search of beautiful wildflowers to capture with her camera. Undeterred in recent years, by breaking an arm, on 2 different occasions, she continued hiking solo or with friends in her beloved Black Hills until a few weeks before her death.

Nancy was born on August 8, 1952 in Burlington Iowa to Margaret Leopold Barker and Everett Ellison Barker. Nancy always had a keen interest in all things western and knew she would not remain in Iowa but would head west! She grew up with all the 1950's westerns on television and in books and had a keen interest in Annie Oakley and admired Annie very much! Nancy had her first horse at age 8, Chico, an enormous Pinto and retired circus horse who knew every trick in the book. She gained much confidence on Chico. The family moved to Dallas Texas in 1964. There, Nancy became an accomplished rider and loved the weekend rodeos and playdays with her horse Penny. She won many trophies and ribbons. Barrels and Western Pleasure were her two favorite events. Throughout the years Nancy enjoyed owning, riding, and training many horses.

Nancy spent some of her early adult years visiting areas of the country in her Volkswagen van, eventually settling for a time in Colorado Springs, Co, Lead, SD, and Tucson AZ, before making her way to Santa Fe, NM on Rowe Mesa, where she spent 10 years. There, she partnered in accomplishing a lifelong goal in the building of an off-grid, adobe home, raising horses and riding through the wild country of the Pecos Wilderness.

Nancy made her way to the Black Hills in 1993 and it was here that she began working with the Crisis Team in Fall River County. From 1994 - 2001. She was an advocate for women of domestic violence and sexual assault. She provided emergency advocacy and transportation, along with support in court, for numerous women and children. She was a lifelong proponent for women's rights and healthcare.

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Celebrating the Life of

Nancy Barker

August 8, 1952 - January 5, 2025

Prelude

“The Great Remembrance (for Nancy)” Performed & written by Steve Martain & The Steep Canyon Rangers

“Wildflowers” Performed by: Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt,

written by Dolly Parton

Greetings, Welcome & Thank you—Jackie Gericke

Special Music

“Prairie in the Sky” Performed & written by Mary McCaslin

“Ballad of a Runaway Horse” Performed by Emmylou Harris, written by

Leonard Cohen

Toast to Nancy

Elixir of Pink Roses, Rosemary, Rose Quartz & Raspberries in Sparkling Apple Cider

Tributes, Thoughts & Memories

At this time are all welcome to share

Family, Chosen Family, and Friends

Closing –Jackie Gericke

Music

“Don’t Fence Me in” Performed by Wille Nelson, written by Cole Porter

“Happy Trails” Performed by Roy Rogers, written by Dale Evans

Please Join us for refreshments after the celebration