

Nancy Beatty Creed

Nancy Beatty Creed died on May 5, 2026, in Spokane, Washington. A native of Cheshire, Connecticut, she entered Mount Holyoke College as a freshman with the Class of 1965 and graduated in English literature, beginning a life marked by intellect, professional achievement and perseverance.



She married in 1965 and became the loving mother of two daughters, Kathryn and Anna. In what was considered midlife in the 1970s, she undertook the formidable challenge of dental and surgical training, earning her D.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979 and completing an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine from 1979 to 1984, excelling in a demanding specialty in a field with few women practitioners.

She wryly recalled her first time scrubbing in as a resident. In the women's locker room, the only scrubs available were dresses in two sizes—one was too short, the other had a very deep neckline. Realizing the power of first impressions, she asked herself what nickname she could live with. She chose "Legs."

Following her 1985 divorce, she balanced the demands of a rigorous career with being a devoted and inspirational presence in her daughters' lives.

From 1984 to 2000, Nancy maintained a private oral and maxillofacial surgery practice, breaking new ground for women in her field through both skill and leadership. She is remembered for her wry humor, often remarking that her training meant she truly knew how to use a high-speed drill.

From 2000 to 2009, she worked in public health care at PHP Syracuse and the Syracuse Community Health Center and, in 2002, earned an M.S. in healthcare management and policy analysis from the New School University. During these years, she also became a proud cat lady. She retired in 2009 but continued to think, read and stay deeply engaged with the world.

Classmate **Caroline Fuller Sloat** shared that she finds Nancy's professional accomplishments totally inspiring. The fact that she specialized in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and held such important positions is ground breaking for women professionally for the years that Nancy practiced.

A beloved photograph from her Mount Holyoke 50th Reunion book shows Nancy with her two daughters smiling through a giant green caterpillar sculpture at the Seattle Zoo, capturing her playful spirit and joy in motherhood. At the time of this photograph, she lived in Liverpool, New York. In 2016, she relocated to Spokane continuing her life of service as a master gardener starting with programs in upstate New York and continuing in Spokane, and always, as she liked to say, "on the side of the pollinators."

Nancy was predeceased by her daughter, Kathryn. She is survived by her daughter, Anna, and her sisters, Elizabeth Creed and Marion Beausoleil. She will be remembered as a pioneering professional, a devoted mother and a woman whose life continues to inspire.

Photo: provided by Anna Creed, Nancy's daughter.

Sources: Anna Creed, and Nancy Creed's submission to the *Mount Holyoke College Class of 1965 50th Reunion Book*, p. 118.

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