

Nancy Marie McKay obituary



It is with great sadness that we share the unexpected passing of Nancy Marie McKay of Springfield, Virginia, on September 12, 2023. Nancy worked for and with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for more than 40 years as a civil service employee in USAID/Washington; as a Foreign Service Officer in Africa and Washington; and as a coach on contract to HCTM.



Nancy was born to the late Joseph Calvert and Selma McKay in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Nancy began her federal career as a secretary, and she worked to get her bachelor's degree in business administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. so that she was able to advance to senior levels of the Agency. Although she worked on a wide range of development activities, the focus of her career was development activities in Africa, particularly food aid and private sector development. After she retired in 2002, she worked for over a decade to bring in new staff to USAID and to mentor this new staff, particularly Presidential Management Fellows and new Foreign Service Officers.

Nancy met Donald Joseph Buschbaum in 1978. He was the love of her life and they were married in January 1980. Donald died in May 1992. Nancy is survived by her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

Nancy was a cherished friend and colleague to many in the USAID community and beyond. She generously shared her friendship, wisdom and time with all who knew her. As a consummate development diplomat, Nancy worked with purpose to improve the lives of tens of thousands in partner countries, particularly in Africa, where she was posted for many years. She will be greatly missed by the USAID community - active and retired - along with her family and other friends.

A celebration of life will be held on October 1, 2023, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Olde Breton Inn located at 21890 Society Hill Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650. All of Nancy's friends and former colleagues are welcome to attend.

Condolences also may be expressed directly to the family by mail at: Gail Underwood, PO BOX 101, Callaway, MD 20620. Donations in Nancy's memory may be made to the Smithsonian Institution, Plan International, or another organization involved in international development or the environment.