

NANCY KAIN



Nancy Kain was a great Peace and Justice Activist who helped with the Loveland Observance of the Annual December 31st International Hour For Peace from 2013 - 2016. Our deepest condolences go to her loved ones.

"Peace activism was Nancy's main passion, and she carried that throughout her life, from protesting against the Vietnam War to the Iraq War. . . . She was a spitfire for peace." We will do our best to honor her memory by carrying on her passion and her work to make this world more just and peaceful for all. Contributions to the Hour For Peace in her memory will help fund the 2020 event that will be dedicated to her.

Obituary

By **CARINA JULIG** | cjulig@prairiemountainmedia.com | Loveland Reporter-Herald

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Former Loveland City Council member and longtime community activist Nancy Kain died Wednesday, February 19, at age 81.

Kain served two terms on the City Council in the 1980s, where she was involved in the development of the civic center. In 1986 she unsuccessfully ran for a seat in the Colorado state House of Representatives, her daughter Sharon Cook told the Reporter-Herald.

Cook believes that many of the liberal causes that Kain believed in are now much more accepted in Loveland than they were during her time in city government. "I remember her saying that she felt there was a voice that wasn't being heard in Loveland and she wanted a seat on council so that voice had someone advocating for them," he said. "Even if you always lost to the majority, you were forcing people to discuss those issues and weigh those beliefs."

Kain was a teacher at Conrad Ball Middle School, a counselor at Thompson Valley High School and a Title IX enforcement officer for the Colorado Department of Education at different points in her career. The family joked that she was a workaholic, Cook said, she was always involved in one project or another.

Kain helped create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Loveland Events committee and founded [Peace in the Park](#), a committee that organized an annual festival at Foote Lagoon for six years promoting different causes related to peace. Peace activism was Kain's main passion, and she carried that throughout her life, from protesting against the Vietnam War to the Iraq War.

"She was a spitfire for peace," Cook said.

Retired psychologist Val McCullough met Kain after she taught her daughter at Conrad Ball in the 1970s, and the two worked together on Peace in the Park. She remembered Kain as a fearless advocate for peace and justice issues and a caring wife and mother. "No matter what she worked on, she did it with a certain joy and delight," she said. "She put more into her 81 years than most people could possibly pack into a lifetime."

Kain married Don Cook in 1958 and the couple moved to Loveland in 1972, where Cook helped found Loveland's alternative school Ferguson High School. With Cook's support, on their 25th wedding anniversary Kain stopped going by Nancy Cook and reclaimed her maiden name out of a growing feminist belief that women should have their own identities.

Sharon Cook said she remembers people asking at the time if her parents had gotten divorced, but they celebrated their [60th wedding anniversary](#) in 2018 and were married for 61 years until Kain's death.

Before she met Don Cook, Kain had twin sons from a previous relationship who were immediately adopted at birth. In 2011, they reached out to her through a social worker, and Kain was able to meet them for the first time. She realized her lifelong dream of having all five of her children together at the same time at her 80th birthday party.

Along with her husband, Kain is survived by her brother John Kain, her children Kimberly Cook-Mayer, David Cook, Sharon Cook, John Hendricks and Steve Hendricks and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Kain was also very involved at the Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Loveland, where she was the project manager for the purchase of the church's historic building on Fifth Street in 2015.

"Nancy was a mover and a shaker," said the Rev. Laurel Liefert, the church's pastor. "She was a bridge between the congregation and many community organizations. She was an example of someone who lived out her faith, and was still active and full of ideas right up until the end."

"The world is just not the same without her," Rev. Liefert said. "Certainly Loveland is not."

