



## Ambassador Nancy Ostrander

October 25, 1925 - February 8, 2024

Ambassador Nancy Ostrander, Passed away February 8, 2024 at her home in Indianapolis at the age of 98. Immediately after graduating from Butler University in 1947, Ambassador Ostrander traveled to Cuba to visit her uncle who managed a coffee plantation on the eastern end of the island. She applied for and was quickly hired at the Consulate as a General Clerk. Ambassador Ostrander continued in clerical positions in Havana and The Hague until she was appointed Vice Consul under the Wriston Program in 1958. Assignments to Antwerp, Mexico City, and Kingston with intermittent assignments in Washington D.C. followed. She held various positions in the Bureau of Personnel, the Visa Office, and the Inspection Corps before being appointed Chief of Mission in Suriname in 1978. Ambassador Ostrander was a member of the 1974 class of the National War College and attended the State Department's Senior Seminar in National and International Affairs from 1980-1981. Upon her return from Suriname, she became Diplomat in Residence at Indiana University/Purdue University in Indianapolis. Ambassador Ostrander then returned to Washington and served for five years as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Populations Affairs until her retirement in 1989.

Ambassador Ostrander received various honor awards over the years. These included three Superior Honor Awards from the Department of State which were for excellence in management of consular and immigration programs in Jamaica, outstanding contribution to the Department's task force on the TWA

Flight 847 hijacking, and for extraordinary leadership in pursuing the goals of the U.S. Government in population related programs. U.S. AID also honored her with an award for distinguished leadership in U.S. International population policy and programs. Other honors and decorations included Butler University's Alumni Achievement Award and the Order of the Palm from the Government of Suriname for outstanding service as Ambassador. In 1980 She received the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Woman of the Year Award. After retirement, Ambassador Ostrander served on the Board of Directors of Family Health International, Raleigh, NC, was active in the Women's Rotary Club of Indianapolis, and served on the Vestry of Indianapolis' Christ Church Cathedral. She was an avid gardener and bird watcher.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 125 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Ambassador Ostrander is survived by numerous loving cousins. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are suggested to Heifer International online at <https://www.heifer.org>, or Best Friends online at <https://support.bestfriends.org> or Community Home Health and Hospice, 9894 E. 121st St., Fishers, IN 46037. Final arrangements and care are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel.

## Cemetery Details

### Crown Hill Cemetery

700 W. 38th St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
(317) 925-3800

## Previous Events

### Memorial Service

MAY 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church Cathedral  
125 Monument Circle  
Indianapolis, IN

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Lisa Williams lit a candle in memory of Ambassador Nancy Ostrander*



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**Lisa Williams** - July 05, 2024 at 10:46 PM

RJ

“ *I'm seeing this just now.*

*Ms Ostrander and my mother were friends at Howe High School, and while mom's family moved to Connersville before her senior year and mom graduated there, they remained friends.*

*Sometime in the late 1980s or early 90s they, along with two or three others, began having mini-reunions a couple times a year.*

*Time takes its toll, and eventually it was Nancy and mom. Mom drove to Irvington several times and when she was no longer able to do it I took her. Finally, a broken hip, permanent placement in a nursing home, and dementia we need the contact except through me. My final contact with Nancy was last July to tell her that mom had passed away.*

*Few of us make it to our nineties, and of those that do, few can say that they have friends they've known since high school. The friends are all together again.*

*Rest in peace Nancy, you were a bright spot in my mother's last good years.*

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**Randy Johnson** - February 24, 2024 at 10:06 AM

LW

*Randy, my mother was also a Howe Hornet, as was my dad. They were friends with Nancy---whom they called Nonny---and her cousin Eva Ruth, and they stayed that way all their lives. I have a picture of Eva on my piano, and souvenirs from a Nelson Eddy concert Nonny and Mom went to as teenagers. Dad died 37 years ago, Mom almost 20. They were Lois Rawlings and Harold Williams. I knew Nancy from my birth, and I admired her. I don't live in Indy, but my neighbors across the street here---now deceased---had been in the State Department and crazily enough had shared an office with Nonny in, I think, British Guyana. Wow.I wonder if your mom was one of my mom's friends. I'll bet she was. Anyway, I'm glad Nonny and your mom had such a solid and long-lasting friendship. It is a gift.*

**Lisa Williams** - July 05, 2024 at 10:45 PM

VJ

*“ It was my pleasure to serve you Nancy. You will always y in my Heart. I will miss you alot. We shared great memories and times together.This was definitely a hard day loosing you. Our Lord has you now in his loving arms.Rip my sweet lady.*



**Vickie J Jackson** - February 10, 2024 at 08:30 AM

SP

*“ Sandy And Duane Plumlee lit a candle in memory of Ambassador Nancy Ostrander*



**sandy and duane plumlee** - February 10, 2024 at 08:14 AM