



## Susan Wandell Tufts-Stefanac

June 13, 1936 - January 28, 2019

Susan Wandell Tufts- Stefanac: 1936- 2019

Susan Tufts-Stefanac of Memphis began her life in Buffalo, New York. She attended Holy Angels Academy and D'Yourville College in Buffalo, receiving a Bachelor in Science in nursing. Her nursing career led to a career in the U.S. Navy as she was commissioned in 1958 as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. Ms. Tufts-Stefanac continued her career until 1998 after her service as Director of Nursing/Instructor at the Arlington Development Center in Arlington, TN.; Le Bonheur Children's' Hospital in Surgery/OR/ER; and at the Veterans' Medical Center as a staff nurse in the spinal cord injury center. Additionally, she wrote and published a work called, "Management Supervision in the Public Service".

Beyond helping and bring joy to others, her passions included, reading, gourmet cooking, classical music, and regaling anyone who would listen with stories of her adventures traveling the world. From Brussels and Ireland to Thailand and the far East she had memories and even recipes always at the ready that made one feel as if they had been there themselves. Noted by those that knew her as the most well-read person, they ever met, she always had a quote, a reference or fascinating story readily available.

Susan's 82 years were always grounded on the principles of God, Country and Family. A member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, she was a fixture at mass for both her beautiful voice as well as her ever present classy hat. Her love of country began early in life as her father was a 44-year Navy Veteran. She carried on the military tradition as a Navy Nurse serving in Washington D.C., Guam, Camp Pendleton, California and at NAS Millington in Memphis. During her service she earned a National Defense Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. At the time of her retirement in 1969, she held the rank of Lieutenant, NC. Her two favorite days each year were always, October 13th and November 10th; Birthdays of the Navy and Marine Corps respectively. She always believed that her wide experience has given her a broader appreciation of mankind and has brought her closer to her faith and to God.

Though she never had children of her own, to anyone that asked, she had the largest family in the country. "Cousin Sue", Aunt Sue", "The Matriarch" just to name a few of her monikers- she was a mother-figure, a mentor, adviser, friend and even a humility coach to 100's of people who were blessed to have her in their life. Putting others first was always her mantra.

She is preceded in death by her Father Norton Wandell, CBM USN (Ret), her mother Rae Roussie Wandell, Husband Ralph W. Tufts, Capt USMC (Ret) and Husband John Stefanac. She is survived by her cousins, The Rev James Trimble and LtCol Kevin Trimble, USMC Ret.

A Memorial Service followed by a reception will be held at St. Peter Catholic Church on Friday February 1, 2019 at 1:30 PM.

As per her wishes, her ashes will be committed to the Sea with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials in her honor to St. Peter Catholic Church.

# Events

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**FEB**   **Memorial Service**                      01:30PM

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St. Peter Catholic Church

190 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38103

**FEB**   **Reception**                                      02:30PM

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St. Peter Catholic Church

190 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38103

# Comments

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“ Sue was a lovely person, with a huge personality. She enjoyed wearing her hats, and one knew when she was present at Mass. When she was singing, one knew she was in the house. She is now in a bigger choir.

**steve meyers** - January 31 at 10:10 AM