

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

### NANCY RAY WATTENBARGER KENNEDY

MARCH 4 1939 – SEPTEMBER 9 2017

KENNEDY, NANCY RAY WATTENBARGER, age 78, of Niota, formerly of Sweetwater, went to be with her loving Savior Saturday, September 9, 2017. She was surrounded by her family, who loved her so much. She was a member of Christ Presbyterian Church and was a retired nurse and a former state employee at the Monroe County Group Home. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Gideons International, Monroe County camp, Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW, a volunteer with the Red Cross, and she participated in the Monroe County Jail ministry, where many lives were changed. Lady Nan was the wife of the former Chief of the Scottish Kennedy Society of N America, Nomon Kennedy. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ben and Nora Evalyn Ray; sister, Betty Abrahamzon; brothers, Frank Ray, Jack Ray. Survivors: husband of 40 years, Nomon R. Kennedy; daughters, Amy (Bobby) Bishop; Becky Wattenbarger; Crissy (Tim) Millsaps; sons, Donny (Leona) Wattenbarger, Tim (Lisa) Wattenbarger; grandchildren; Andy (Whitney) Lawson, Adam Lawson, Kasey Wattenbarger, T.J. (Megan) Wattenbarger, Christian (Coty) Lane, Lindsey (Stephen), Clawson, Kayla (Blake) Disspain, Madison Millsaps, Devon, Heather, and Araya Wattenbarger; great-grandchildren, Landon, Brystal, Clinton, Caleb, Buck; sister, Jo Ray Peterson; brothers, Jim (Rachel) Ray, Sr., Ben (Kathy) Ray; numerous nieces and nephews and special friends; beloved pet and constant companion, Jackson Ray.

Memorials may be made to:  
Monroe County Gideons  
P.O. Box 821, Sweetwater, TN 37874.

or

The Kennedy Society of N America Scholarship Fund:  
Attention: Amy Carrick, Treasurer  
434 Hudson Rd., PMB 171  
Greer, SC 29650.



**YOUR WARM SMILE AND GENEROUS HUGS WILL BE MISSED. MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.**



## A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA

It seems to have been a summer of weather extremes in many places, while parts of the Caribbean and America have been lashed by hurricanes, here in Scotland we have had almost continuous rain since mid June. The summer season has slipped by, with few opportunities to barbeque, or enjoy the outdoors.

We managed to harvest the hybrid rye in reasonable condition in early July, but the cereal harvest has been a long drawn out affair and now the fields are so waterlogged that we have been unable to plant our winter sown crops so far.

Anne and I attended a marvellous Flower Festival held at the Episcopal Church in Maybole. The parishioners had filled the church and the immediate grounds outside with beautiful displays and luckily the weather was not too bad and everyone was able to enjoy the very colourful show.

The young people of Maybole approached me to see if they could have the use of Maybole Castle to put on evening plays depicting some of the grislier parts of Maybole's past. They called their collection of scenes The Haunted Halls. I was asked to open the event along with our local Provost, Helen Moonie, then I was informed that many of the grislier plays that we were about to see involved true stories about the Kennedy family. We witnessed the roasting of the Abbot of Crossraguel, the poisoning of the 3rd Earl of Cassillis at Dieppe and the imprisonment of the Countess of Cassillis who ran off with Johnny Faa the gypsy king. For all of this and more the youngsters were cleverly made up, We moved through the basements and cellars of the castle in almost total darkness being guided by the narrator of the stories, each one being held in a different vaulted hall. The event was on for two evenings and was completely sold out.

In August the Maybole Community Council along with the Historical Society held the Maybole 500 Exhibition. We were able to loan them some artifacts from the Kennedy Collection amongst which were the necklace given to Jane Kennedy by Mary Queen of Scots and Robert the Bruce's sword. The exhibition which included many interesting pieces and pictures connected to Maybole's past was held in the Town Hall and was well attended by the townsfolk.

We managed to have our annual picnic on Ailsa Craig, for a change we did the crossing in the late afternoon to suit the tides and the weather. The sea was a bit rough but fortunately the jetty on the Craig was sheltered enough for us all to get ashore.

Our guests who had never been before were keen to get to the summit, so they set off while Anne and I had a nice wander around the shoreline looking at the old curling stone workings and the now automated lighthouse. About an hour and a half later our guests descended from the top via the old castle and we all had a nice picnic looking across the Firth of Clyde to the Ayrshire coastline and Girvan. We then sailed round by the gannet colony and threw fish pieces into the sea for them to dive for. By the time we left the Lighthouse on the Craig was flashing and as we approached Girvan Harbour all the lights of the town were twinkling on the water.

On the 9th of September I had the honour of opening the Scottish Beekeepers Convention. This was held in Ayr and coincided with the centenary of the Ayr and District Beekeepers Association. In 1917, the 3rd Marquess of Ailsa was the first President of the Ayr and District Beekeepers Association; he went on to be their Honorary President until his death in 1938.

Kitty had a few days off work and came home by train. It was lovely to see her but all too soon she was heading back to London. Archie hopes to manage a long weekend at home in mid October. Anne and I are going to London in December to attend a friend's birthday dinner so we will spend a bit of time with both Kitty and Archie when we are down, and soon after that we will all be together at Morrision for the festive season.

In the meantime I wish you all the best and hope that the weather improves for us all!

Ailsa





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

This has been a very wet summer here in New England. As I write this, a hurricane, hopefully soon to be a tropical storm is just off the coast of Rhode Island. Parts of Florida have been heavily damaged, as has coastal Texas. The Caribbean Islands may take years to rebuild. I have been on standby with my Federal response team for about a month, not sure if I am going to deploy, or when. My thoughts and prayers are with all the Kennedy Society members that are suffering damage from these storms.

On the west coast, we did not set up tents at games due to temperatures exceeding 110 degrees. Wildland fires are burning and homes being destroyed. Again, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

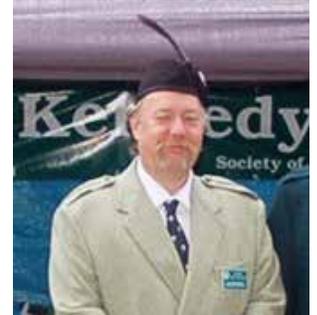
We are still looking for the 2018 AGM location, but it will be announced as soon as we can. Michigan, Ohio and New York all have Games that we are looking at.

This year Dave and Amy Carrick spent some time visiting games in Canada. We are going to be looking at getting our tents set up in Canada once again. If there is any interest in supporting this, please let the Carrick's or myself know.

I will be setting up at the Scotland CT Games in a few weeks. These are the last in New England and usually a fun time is had by all. We will be camping there for the weekend and hope for good weather.

I will be putting my tent kit away for a few months, but my kilt is always ready to travel. Don't forget about your local Burns Dinners in January/February. There are the southern US games where I hope to make an appearance at one or two myself. Traveling to support the Kennedy tents is important for all of us.

The Charleston SC games just announced that they are changing dates next year to November. The weather should be much cooler than the past years. More will be announced soon and we should support not only the Games, but the Kennedy Tents there. For the New Englanders, There are some great games for next year – New Hampshire, Old Orchard Beach Maine, and Rhode Island, just to mention a few.



Please remember – time is running out to pick up some of the Challenge Coins we are selling, with Culzean on the 2016 and Cassillis for 2017. The proceeds assist us in the Scholarships. They are available online, at the Kennedy Tents or contact me for direct purchases. Great Christmas and Birthday gifts!

There are still games coming up for 2017– please try to attend one and visit the Kennedy tents. The games are:

- Scotland County Games, Laurinburg NC, Oct 7
- Stone Mountain, GA, Oct 20-22
- Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games, Richmond VA, Oct 28-29
- Moab Scottish games, Nov 4-5, Moab, Utah
- Feis Chlobhair I Highland Games & Scots Irish Festival Clover SC 29710 Nov 11
- Mt. Dora Scottish Games, Mt. Dora, FL, Nov 17-18 where the Kennedys are the Honored Clan.

Please support these games and the Kennedys.

I hope you all enjoy the fall and be safe.

Leo Kennedy

## REMEMBERING NANCY KENNEDY MARCH 4 1939 – SEPTEMBER 9 2017

Nancy was always ready for something new. I remember her jumping in with us for our “dance review”. I will miss her.

Sue Kennedy





## THOUGHTS FROM THE HONOR FLIGHT SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2015



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph A. Kennedy – 95 years old  
As told to Michael Kennedy – his son

The Honor Flight is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring America's military veterans for all their sacrifices and service to their country. The Honor Flight brings America's military veterans to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. (quoted from the Honor Flight website)

My dad, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph A. Kennedy, is a WW2 veteran who remained stateside as a flight instructor after graduating from the Army Air Corps pilot training in March 1944. He has often mentioned that he and his fellow pilot graduates who were designated to become flight instructors were disappointed that they couldn't go overseas to fly and fight America's foes, but he and they knew their duty and they did so willingly, with professionalism and high motivation for turning out successful and well-trained pilots.

My dad took the Honor Flight in September 2015, and he was very pleased with his experiences during the three days of the Flight. He really enjoyed the celebrations and good wishes that the Honor Flight staff expressed for him and his fellow vets.

During the flight to Baltimore from Denver, there was mail call where letters from elementary age children were delivered to the all the vets. The letters congratulated the vets and the children expressed their appreciation for the vets who "saved the world." Dad and the others really appreciated those letters.

A television news crew consisting of a reporter and videographer from a Denver station, KUSA (9News), accompanied this particular Honor Flight. Dad said that during the veterans' excursions to the various memorials and monuments in Washington D.C. in the daytime, the news crew spent a lot of time with him, talking to him about his experiences and recording his comments and reactions. The news crew later said they were very impressed with him and were pleased to be a part of his experience on the Honor Flight.

Dad enjoyed the memorials and monuments that the group visited. He thought the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Memorial were very impressive. He liked the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial a lot because FDR was his favorite president. Many of FDR's quotes were inscribed on the monument. Dad was amazed at how many names were on the Vietnam Memorial. He thought the Air Force Memorial was impressive, with its two arches reaching up toward the sky. The group also visited the Navy Yard and the Navy Museum. Dad enjoyed the Navy Museum because, although he was in the Army Air Corps during WW2 and later when it was renamed the Air Force, he always had an affinity for the Navy and naval history. During the tour of all the memorials, perhaps the most memorable and moving memorial for dad was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a very moving ceremony with the laying of the wreath, the lone soldier marching with his rifle and attached bayonet, marching back and forth with his heels clicking upon each

[continued](#) ►





## THOUGHTS FROM THE HONOR FLIGHT

(continued)

turn, and the bugler playing Taps. Dad was sure that all the veterans were impressed with the ceremony. The ceremony compelled dad to remember the time of WW2 and he felt sorrow and compassion for all those who lost their lives in that war and all wars. He thought about his contribution during WW2 and felt good that he graduated all of his trainees who went through his pilot training, 25 men total, which was five training classes with five men per class, because he knew he taught them well and he believed that his training helped to save their lives in combat.

Dad was glad that he got the chance to talk with several of the other vets throughout the Honor Flight. He remembered talking to vets who manned machine guns, tank guys, and B-29 pilots. He talked about his experiences flying and flight instructing in the P-40

Warhawk, America's first single-engine, single-seat wartime fighter. He related to them that he practiced tactics and techniques, and then taught his students what he knew. He at one point talked with one of the female Guardians and found out that her son used to be an F-16 pilot. He shared with her that he and his fellow flight instructors used to put on air shows and demonstrations during WW2 and one of the maneuvers performed was the bomb burst, something her son undoubtedly did in the modern F-16, but dad did it before her son was born. She seemed to enjoy that comment! They all had a great time telling their stories, and dad became known as "the P-40 guy" to the other vets.



During the Honor Flight activities, dad remembered that he and some of his friends from his 1940 high school graduating class were standing in the street in his hometown in Massachusetts when the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor came over the radio. He and his friends, just like so many other young men from all over the United States, were anxious to contribute to the war effort in any way they could. He remembered how strongly committed, with single-minded focus, everyone seemed to be to defeat America's enemies

during the war. He also remembered seeing photos of soldiers from enemy countries and remembered thinking that they were just as committed to their countries' war aims as he and his friends were to the American war effort.

All in all, dad thought this entire Honor Flight trip was excellent and it was a happy time for everybody. The attention lavished

on him and his fellow vets on the trip was second to none and much appreciated. He and the other vets felt so appreciated, honored and thankful for the efforts of the Honor Flight staff and he will remember this special experience forever.

Thanks for the opportunity to share dad's thoughts and feelings for his Honor Flight.

Best Regards,  
Michael Kennedy  
Grateful son of WW2 veteran  
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph A. Kennedy



## KENNEDYS IN CANADA

While on vacation, Dave, Amy, and Megan Carrick attended two Highland games – the Glengarry games in Maxville, Ontario (8/5), and the Montreal games in Quebec (8/6).

The Glengarry games are held in a very nice venue and well laid out, including covered grandstands. Almost 50 pipe bands were in attendance and came from all over Canada and the US, including Alberta, British Columbia, Austin and San Diego. The massed bands were incredibly impressive as was the whole array of games and dancers. We marched in the clan parade with Howard Kennedy from Ottawa (he piped for us at the Greenville AGM), and met three other Kennedys while sitting in the grandstands: Janet Kennedy, Elizabeth Kennedy Good, and Ian Kennedy. While cleaning out their late mother's house, they told us that they had found old editions of the Kennedy Society newsletter. It was great to meet them and there is obviously Kennedy opportunity at these games!

The next day, we went to Montreal for the games there. It was a smaller venue and games as it was held on the grounds of a hospital only a stone's throw from the St. Lawrence, but still interesting – especially as you

could get haggis poutine and smoked meat sandwiches (a Montreal delicacy)! The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal had a tent that had information on the Scottish contributions to Montreal, which were considerable. As a matter of fact, the Scots made contributions pretty much everywhere we went, including Quebec City!

Both games were fun to attend. The Glengarry was a two day game with a lot going on, and the Montreal games because you were in Montreal. The distance from Maxville to Montreal is only about an hour, so both are doable. We have been to games in Halifax, Antigonish, Winnipeg, and these: each were quite different but all well worth investigating. Other Kennedys have been to Fergus, and I am sure that they would say the same. Check them out if you have the chance!!!

Dave Carrick  
Director of Tennis  
PTR  
Sportsclub Greenville  
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Glengarry Games



Montreal Games



## KENNEDY SOCIETY HOLDS TENT CONVENER TRAINING HUNTERSVILLE, NC AUGUST 12-13 2017

The Kennedy Society conducted its first formal tent convener training on August 12-13 in Huntersville, NC. In attendance were 16 participants, plus the trainers- Lynn Grant and Sue Kennedy. Trainees traveled from as far away as West Virginia and South Florida.

During the opening session the trainees learned how to register for a tent at an upcoming game, set up a Kennedy tent which included the configuration of the tent, tent decoration, and tent etiquette. Lorraine Van Fossan, District Director of Florida, presented some very original ideas on decorating a Kennedy tent which included an entire notebook of clever ideas which would attract a visitor to one's tent.

The evening session dealt with different techniques of relating to a tent visitor, the method for how to register a new member, and instructions on mailing memberships and monies to the membership chair and the treasurer.

The next morning the trainers continued the training giving a short introductory course on Kennedy history, septs, tartans, castles, or Kennedy 101 as the group liked to call it. We also delved in to the history and organization of the Kennedy Society itself including the Society's beginnings in 1973, organization of the Board of Governors, and present Society's programs such as the scholarship program.

Finally, we explored all the facets of a Highland Game so the conveners would feel comfortable with such aspects as Flowers of the Forest, Kirkin of the Tartan, and Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

The weekend ended with the conveners dividing into groups and answering questions in a race against the clock - a particularly fierce competition!

These 16 tent conveners will be responsible for approximately 10 upcoming games. We wish them well in their new endeavor!

Lynn Grant and Sue Kennedy



Classroom Time



Class Picture



David Phelps explains banner artwork to Colleen Caldwell and Sean Carrick while Trainer, Lynn Grant looks on



Diane Kennedy, Nick Patton and Dan Caldwell put together the parade banner



## 46TH CHARLESTON SCOTTISH GAMES AND HIGHLAND GATHERING SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

The morning started with a heavy coastal mist but as the day wore on, the mist dissipated and gave way to a glorious sunny day in the mid-80's. My son, Brendan, and I set up the majority of the tent the evening before so all we had to accomplish the morning of the games was decorating. I am sure the ease with which we accomplished the decorating was due to the excellent tent convener training that I had recently attended in Huntersville NC several weeks earlier. Kudos to Sue and Lynn for such great training. I was able to enhance the standard tent kit that David and Amy shipped to me with several of my own items such as a late 19th century Edinburgh Geographical Society map of the Ayrshire area, several books from my library, my ever burgeoning collection of Scottish tea towels as well as full sized flags for both Scotland and Ireland. We were able to complete the tent an hour before the games opened so we enjoyed some Scotch eggs and scones for breakfast.

The morning was fairly quiet with visits from Paul and Ann Key as well as my buddy Neely, Curtis Kennedy (relative of David Kennedy of Kennedy rifle fame) as well as David and Amy Carrick who came down from Greenville to help me, the newbie convener. We had around ten visitors throughout the day and we received a new member, Mary Ruth Starr from Mt. Pleasant SC. Mary, her husband and I toasted Lord David and the Kennedy Clan with some Ailsa Bay Scotch and I even shared some with the conveners for the Camerons and Donnachaidhs. David, Brendan and I marched in the Tartan Parade around lunch time. This may have been a first in recent Kennedy history in that only "Men of Carrick" marched. Overall, a great time was had by all.

After the games, Brendan and I met up with a college friend of mine at the after games party at My Father's Mustache and enjoyed an evening of British food, beer and darts. We were serenaded by The American Rogues throughout the evening.

Next year's games are being pushed back to the first weekend in November to allow for cooler fall temperatures. Tammy and I will see all my Kennedy kin at the Stone Mountain Games in late October and I will be convening a Kennedy tent at the 21st Feis Chlobhair Highland Games and Scots-Irish Festival in Clover SC on Saturday November 11th near my home in Fort Mill.

Alba gu brath! (Scotland Forever!)  
Sean Carrick  
Tent Convener



Sean Carrick, convener



New member, Mary Ruth Starr



Brendan and Sean Carrick



## LIFETIME MEMBERS TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION PINS

The Kennedy Society is pleased to be able to recognize Lifetime members with a new Lifetime pin.

A Lifetime pin is first mentioned in the Spring 2011 Kennedy Gazette, shortly after Lifetime Memberships were introduced. This Lifetime pin has recently become a reality and will be sent out to all Lifetime members over the next few weeks. Some Lifetime members have been waiting for their pin for not quite a lifetime, but for a good many years! Over the past seven years, 46 members have chosen Lifetime memberships with the Kennedy Society.

Welcome to our newest Lifetime Members:

- Nathan Kennedy of Ithaca, NY
- Barbara Kennedy of Greensburg, PA
- Kenneth D. Kennedy, Jr. of Raleigh, NC
- Kenneth D. Kennedy, III of Raleigh, NC
- Michael Wesley Kennedy of Raleigh, NC
- Michael E. Kennedy of Annapolis, MD

Thank you! Lifetime Members not only make a long-term commitment to the Kennedy Society but they give an additional financial boost, as well.

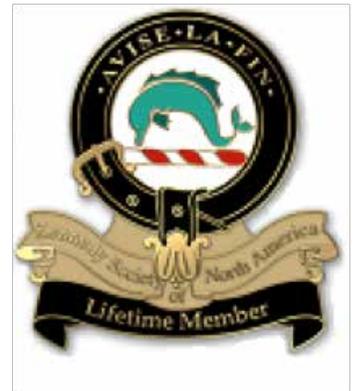
- All **membership dues** help the Society to fulfill the purpose of promoting charitable, educational, national sporting, social, fraternal, and historical activities and interest in the Scots and Scots-Irish and their

descendants who emigrated to North America, especially those affiliated with the Kennedy family

- **Lifetime membership**, for anyone who chooses to pay a one-time fee of \$400.00 (if he or she is under 60 years of age) or \$300.00 (if he or she is over 60 years of age). The fee satisfies the annual Kennedy Society dues for the rest of the member's life. Lifetime membership payments are placed in a Kennedy Society endowment savings account, the annual earnings from which will be used each year for annual expenses of the Society. (from By-Laws of the KSNA, Oct 2012).

Over the next few weeks I will be mailing the pins to all Lifetime members. If you have a Lifetime membership and have moved in the past six years, please send me your current address as soon as possible. And as always, contact me if you have any questions.

Colleen Kennedy Caldwell  
Membership Chair



## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AWARD FOR AYRSHIRE'S CASSILLIS ESTATE

David Johnstone Chairman of Scottish Land and Estates presents the WES (Wildlife Estates Scotland) award to the Marquess of Ailsa, Cassillis Estate, July 12 2017.

Cassillis Estate in Ayrshire is one of eight Scottish farms and estates to have been awarded this prestigious international accreditation to recognize their ongoing work in wildlife management and conservation. The award of Wildlife Estates Scotland (WES) accreditation was made at the Scottish Game Fair, held at Scone Palace, and takes the total amount of accredited land over the one million acre mark. WES is a national version of the EU Wildlife Estates (WE) initiative and is endorsed by the European Commission's Directorate-General Environment, whose objective is to protect, preserve and improve the environment for present and future generations. The

recently accredited estates have all have undergone a rigorous independent assessment of their game, wildlife and habitat management, as well as their social and economic contribution to rural life. The total number of accredited farms and estates across Scotland now stands at 52, with best practice management covering just over 1.2 million acres. Scottish Land & Estates Chairman, David Johnstone, said: "Wildlife Estates Scotland accreditation is a rigorous process that asks estates and farms to meet the finest standards across wildlife and conservation management and it is pleasing that another eight estates and farms have met this benchmark."





## RHODE ISLAND SCOTTISH HIGHLAND FESTIVAL JUNE 10, 2017

At the 2017 Rhode Island Games, and our AGM, there were two standout Kennedy members, Josh Cummings and Jake Baker, who competed in the athletic events. They are cousins who live in nearby Connecticut and their families are active in the New England Games, supporting the Kennedy Society. Their Grandfather, Tom Kennedy, rides his Harley to the AGMs from Nebraska.



Josh was competing in only his second Scottish Games and Jake only his first one! Throughout the day, they competed in the events wearing kilts and sporting our Kennedy T Shirts. Upon completion, Josh won 2nd placed for the day and Jake placed 3rd. Not bad at all for upcoming Kennedy members that support us and compete proudly wearing Kennedy items! Congratulations to both of them for their hard work.



Connecticut Kennedys



Josh Cummings



Jake Baker

## REMEMBERING NANCY KENNEDY

MARCH 4 1939 – SEPTEMBER 9 2017

Of course Nancy's warm smile, and generous hugs. She was a staple at the tent, scooting around in her little cart with the sign "Montgomery by Birth and Kennedy by the Grace of God!" In later years she had her wee doggie perched on her lap, dressed in his Kennedy coat.

But a particular fond memory was of the Kennedy gathering held at Nomon and Nan's RV after the games at Stone Mountain. They laid out a delicious picnic supper, and we were grateful for the gracious hospitality after a long day at the field.

Nan, we will miss you, but as Frank Kennedy said, we know you're up there partying with LC now!

Ann and Paul Key





## 59TH ANNUAL LIGONIER HIGHLAND GAMES SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

This was my very first time to host a Kennedy tent. In August, I attended the Tent Convener Training in NC to prepare for this day.

The morning started out hazy due to the proximity of the Loyalhanna Creek running through Idlewild Park located in the beautiful Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania. When it warmed up we were glad that the Clan Tents were so well-shaded by the trees. It was the perfect weather for game day.

26 years ago, I attended the Ligonier Highland Games with my husband, Dan, when we lived near there. Then Chief Don Canaday and his wife, Berniece, who was the membership secretary at that time, signed us up for the Kennedy Society. All these years later I have come full-circle—hosting my own Kennedy tent and I am the membership person for the Kennedy Society!

My grown sons, John and Danny, along with my sister-in-law helped at the tent. There were only us three Kennedys in the Parade of Clans this year but it had been about 5 years since the Kennedys were represented at these games. With the addition of our new KSNA member Jennifer Szymanski and her family who signed up at our tent, we expect to double the number of Kennedys in next year's parade.

The day went very quickly with friends and non-Kennedy family visiting the tent along with countless children searching for passport stamps. I just managed to have a brief visit with members Ann and Paul Key at their Heelan' Hound tent near the Scottish-Breed Dog exhibit before the closing ceremony.

Many thanks to Deputy Chief Lynn Grant for loaning me her tent kit. Now I have a year to prepare my own kit.

Colleen Caldwell



New member, Jennifer Szymanski and family pose with Colleen Caldwell

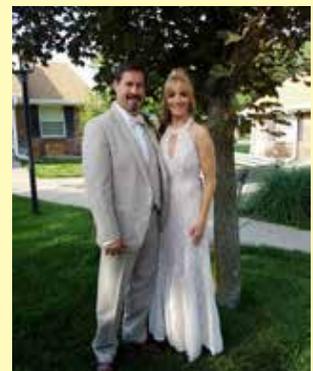


John and Danny Caldwell

## WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS! RANDY AND KIM PETERSON

Former Rocky Mountain Chieftain, Randy Peterson, and his new bride, Kim, were married Saturday, July 15 at the Harmony Methodist Church in Mankato Kansas. They are living in Concordia, Colorado.

We send our congratulation and best wishes to the happy couple!





## FLORIDA KNSA TENT CONVENERS HUNKER DOWN AS MOTHER NATURE'S UNLEASHES HER FURY

There is no force on earth that compares to the sheer power of Mother Nature. From her destructive hurricanes to swift wildfires and raging volcanoes to the darkest tornadoes, there is nothing that can match the planet's most formidable force. Such is the case, as seen in the catastrophic damage left in the wake of Hurricane's Harvey, Irma and Maria. Three major back-to-back hurricanes that made landfall in U.S. territory in just a thirty day span.

Here in the Sunshine State, we Floridians are accustomed to dealing with an annual Atlantic Hurricane Season, and have adopted the attitude of "prepare for the worse, and hope for the best." Some of us are even known to throw pretty memorable "Hurricane Parties" during the height of the storm. However, in the days leading up to Irma's arrival, we discovered that she was poised to hit Florida as a Category 5 Hurricane with sustained winds of up to 185 mph, and possible storm surges ranging from 6-12 feet. Although the path was still uncertain, she was as wide as the state of Texas, and so powerful that it was showing seismic activity on earthquake monitors, and we knew that this was definitely a force to be reckoned with, and that we must brace ourselves for a monstrous storm.

We began boarding up our homes, removing all outdoor furniture that would potentially become dangerous projectiles in hurricane strength winds, and replenishing all emergency supplies such as water, non-perishable food, standby generators, gasoline, batteries, and first-aid kits. By declaring a state of emergency in all 67 Florida counties, Governor Rick Scott quickly ensured that our local governments had ample time, resources and flexibility to get prepared for this dangerous storm and are not hindered, delayed or prevented from taking all necessary actions to keep communities safe. More than 400 emergency shelters were immediately set up, and search and rescue teams were staged throughout the state in preparation to fly out directly after the hurricane passed.

6.5 million Residents (a third of our states population) wisely took heed of the evacuation warnings and a mass exodus had begun. Our two major northbound Interstate Highways instantly became clogged, with travelers having to sit for hours at gas stations. Airports had added additional flights, before suspending all operations upon

55mph winds. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also began coordinating potential disaster efforts, and in a few short days, tens of thousands of federal workers were set up to support preparedness, response, and recovery to Hurricane Irma, including more than 3,200 FEMA staff, and more than 13,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen from 22 states, in rescue, evacuation, security and support operations.



With the magnitude of this Hurricane making international headline news, genuine concerns and well wishes came pouring in (pardon the pun) from friends and family. We were especially moved to learn that we were also in the thoughts and prayers of both Lady Alicia and Lady Rosemary. Before losing power, I was able to establish that all of our newest KNSA conveners for Florida's Highland Games (Susan Kennedy from Jupiter, Keri Sargent from Tampa, and Katy Kennedy in Jacksonville) were hunkering down safely with their families, as (Gwenn Kennedy) generously welcomed friends from Florida to seek refuge in her home in Atlanta, (Irene and David Phelps) gathered all 16 members of their family safely together in their home up in Hinesville, Ga.

Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys on the morning of Sunday, September 10, 2017, with top sustained winds of 130 mph. Even as a Category 4 Hurricane, it was still one of the most devastating tropical storms to ever hit Florida. Irma hammered almost every inch of our state, causing hundreds of deaths, widespread damage, record flooding, knocking out power to over 20 million homes and businesses, and requiring massive rescue operation efforts for hundreds of people and animals. An estimated 25 percent of homes were demolished in the Keys, with an additional 65 percent having extensive damage. An epic 20-inch rainfall had made the St. Johns River overflow, rendering Jacksonville and nearby cities into a virtual swamp. As Irma plowed northward through Florida with her strength dropping down to a tropical storm status, her 65mph winds and battering rain continued to cause widespread damage, power outages, flooding and loss of life throughout the rest of the southeastern U.S.

continued ►



## FLORIDA KSNA TENT CONVENERS HUNKER DOWN...

(continued)

Four days later, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President Pence, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Florida attorney general Pam Bondi and FEMA administrator Brock Long, joined President Trump for a tour to survey the destruction in Florida, and I'm thankful that the POTUS expressed appreciation for first responders and state officials grappling with the destruction from the hurricane, as they all did such an outstanding job.

Although it will be a long recovery process, with an estimated 1.23 million in property damage and hundreds of millions lost in agricultural crops, at least as of Sept. 23rd, all of Florida's electric service has been restored. After

checking back in with all of the new KSNA conveners, including Suzanne and Frank Canada who host the Central Fla. Games, I am happy to report that everyone is safe and accounted for. Although we are having to contend with tons of downed trees and storm debris sitting at our curbsides, broken roads, water and sewer pipes needing repair, and as of late, an onset of dangerous mold growing, a triple increase in mosquitoes, and sinkholes forming as a result of all the flooding, Floridian's are pulling together, as we begin the journey of restoring and rebuilding.

Lorraine VanFossan, Florida District Director

## REMEMBERING NANCY KENNEDY

MARCH 4 1939 – SEPTEMBER 9 2017

Last year I attended the Stone Mountain Highland Games and was so pleased that Nomon and Nancy had made it to them as well. On Sunday, Nancy on her scooter and I had headed over to the food vendors to get our lunch. Nancy had only carried her debit card with her as she was planning to use the ATM there but it turned out to not be working. I was offering to pay for her lunch and she was in turn saying she would just go back to the tent to get cash from Nomon. Right in the midst of our discussion, this young guy (maybe late 20s or early 30s) steps up, smiles and just hands Nancy a \$20.00, saying something like "here have lunch on me". Well Nancy and I are both taken aback at first, but then Nancy is trying to hand him back the \$20 saying that he was sweet but she didn't need it. He just smiles and tells her that's okay. So Nancy is asking him if he will at least be around so she can get him his money back. Nancy is still talking about how she can't believe that happened, that it was a lot of money to just hand out to someone he didn't even know. I'm saying that maybe he was in a generous mood and thought she was too cute on her scooter with her hat and all. Once we get back, Nancy immediately gets the \$20 and heads back. Of course, the guy is no longer there, but Nancy being the wonderful person she was had felt honor-bound to at least make the effort. So we just chalked it up to one of those "random acts of kindness", but you could tell it really made her day.

To me, knowing what a loving and generous person she was, it wasn't a surprise that someone would do such a good deed for Nancy. You see, to me she was always a special person that I was so glad to have in my life. I might not get to see her often or speak with her on the phone regularly but when I did she was such a treasure. She was also my biggest fan, always encouraging me to pursue my photography. I can't even begin to tell you how much that meant to me, especially since my own parents never really did. Lastly, Nancy would always end our phone conversations with "love you girl". So in closing, I say to Nancy, love you girl, you will be sorely missed!

Karen Kennedy



Karen Kennedy with  
Nomon and Nancy



## 42ND NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2017

The 42nd New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival ([www.nhscot.org](http://www.nhscot.org)) took place from September 15–17, 2017. Some early morning rain occurred on Friday, but the weather cleared by the start of the Games, and for all three days, the weather was sunny and warm—in fact, a little TOO warm for mid-September in the White Mountains of New Hampshire! (However, it was better than being rainy and cold...)

Staffing the Kennedy Society tent for our 25th anniversary year (our first year was 1992!) was myself, Northeast Chftain Nina Eppes (far left in the photo below), and my sisters Jackie Davis (far right) and Geneva nì Seobhàn (second from right), with assistance from stalwart member Mary Jo LaFreniere of Hopkinton, MA (second from left).



In the Clan Parade on Saturday, member Bill Maddox of Maine marched along with Nina, Jackie, Geneva, and Mary Jo. Here is a picture of Bill with Nina and Jackie.



Member Bonnie Laurie McCarthy of Ludlow, MA stopped by the tent, and we had an interesting chat about her great grandfather, Wellington Waterloo Kennedy, who was born in Dumfries, Scotland in 1853 and came to the U.S. in 1885, where he founded the W. W. Kennedy & Sons floral concern in New Jersey. According to his 1935 obituary, he patented the Dahlia Elite, “which became one of the best known and most popular of the dahlia family of flowers.” Here is a picture of Bonnie with Nina.



Although the tent had a good number of visitors, we didn’t sign up any new members this year. However, several people indicated interest in joining the Kennedy Society. We did sell all 8 t-shirts that Leo sent us and one challenge coin. All in all, it was a good New Hampshire Highland Games weekend for the Kennedy Society of North America!

Nina Eppes, Tent Convener



### REMEMBERING NANCY KENNEDY MARCH 4 1939 – SEPTEMBER 9 2017

She was a great lady and I hope that those who got to know her realized that. Her laughter will be greatly missed.

Lynn Grant





## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE WILL BE A KENNEDY TENT OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2017

Oct 8: Scotland Connecticut Highland Games  
Scotland, CT

Oct 21-22: Stone Mtn Highland Games  
Stone Mtn., GA

Oct 28-29: Central Virginia Scottish Games  
Richmond, VA

Nov 4-5: Moab Scottish Games  
Moab, Utah

Nov 11; Feis Chlobhair I Highland Games & Scots Irish Festival  
Clover, SC

Nov 17-18: Mt Dora Scottish Games  
Mt Dora, FL

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**DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE:**  
**DECEMBER 2**

Please submit copy and pictures for the fall issue no later than December 2nd.  
Submittals, comments and questions may be sent to:

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