



Ardys Elayne Morgan

November 1, 1946 - October 2, 2025

On October 2, 2025, Ardys Nord Morgan, and her Hematology and Palliative care teams at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, lost a three-year standoff with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Her beloved family survives: her daughter, Elizabeth Morgan Lamoreux (Jon), and granddaughter, Avery, of Culver, Indiana; her son, Matthew Morgan, of Portland, Oregon; and her partner of nearly twenty years, Stephen Quandt, of Florence, Wisconsin, and his children, David and Carol.

Ardys, raised in Indiana, was the second of five children of Janet (Eide) Nord and Arthur Nord. Though her parents did not prioritize education for women, the day after high school graduation, she enrolled in Indiana University, self-funded her education, and graduated in three years. Her lifelong professional passion was working to increase student achievement outcomes for all children through public education.

While raising her children, she continued to pursue her education, earning her M.S. Ed.S. and Ed.D. in Curriculum and School Administration. She worked as a classroom teacher, Curriculum Director, Assistant School Superintendent, School Superintendent, and served on the faculty at IUSB. Additionally, she was a national education specialist for a technology company and eventually owned her education consulting service for the last 12 years of her professional life.

As a consultant, she worked tirelessly to bring services to Special Education students and quality pre-k to rural districts. She worked with school districts ranging from New York City to tiny villages on the Alaskan tundra, utilizing data to enhance student-teacher interactions and ultimately improve student achievement. Additionally, she attended Laura Bush's First Ladies Luncheon as a guest of Gwen and Tim Walz, whom she befriended while working in the schools of Mankato, Minnesota.

After retirement, she moved to rural northern Wisconsin/the Upper Peninsula with her partner, Steve. Her never-ending curiosity set her on a journey to understand the history and culture of the people of the UP. While living in Wisconsin, she completed an extensive personal family history as a gift to her children and siblings: Judith Nord Wilbur of Sacramento, California; Arthur Nord, Jr. of Portland, Oregon; Susan Nord Collier of Rock Hill, South Carolina; and Scott Nord of Holly, Michigan (who preceded in death). Going back more than 400 years, it became an in-depth expedition into the history of Western Europe and the expansion of American settlement. She sought to understand why people who came before her left home to make the arduous journey to America.

As her caregivers at Mayo would attest, her passion for history and political science stayed with her until the end. She engaged the young people who cared for her in conversations about their responsibility to vote. Steve and her children are certain that Ardys will be long remembered at Mayo as the patient who never stopped teaching, learning, and listening to the stories of those around her. She also had a passion for knitting, and those lucky enough to be gifted a "Doctor Knits" original will feel her love for them whenever they wear her art. She was forever thankful that Steve had entered her life and for the adventures they shared together.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donating to the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) to help continue Ardys's passion for education by empowering individuals to achieve their potential and strengthen the social, democratic, and cultural health of the U.S.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Condolences to the family of Ardys Nord Morgan may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LL

“ *Mrs Morgan was my 6th grade teacher at Muessel School (1973). She was a no nonsense teacher and had high expectations regarding her students. She commanded respect, therefore we all did our best because it mattered. She was an EXCELLENT educator. She will be remembered by many in the highest regard. Godspeed.*

Leslie Horner Christian

Leslie Ludwick - November 13, 2025 at 12:36 AM

IS

“ *I was a classmate of Ardys at Clay High School. We conversed once or twice. She made a very good impression on me. I knew she would be a success in life! I am sorry for the family's loss. I said a prayer for her.*

Illes Szabo. Class of 1965

Illes Szabo - October 29, 2025 at 05:50 PM

WW

“ I was fortunate enough to have Ms. Morgan as a teacher at Swanson Elementary School when I was in the sixth grade, which I think would have been the 1977-1978 school year. She was tough on us, but it was because she demanded excellence from everyone. Some students bristled at her rigidity, but looking back I understand why she set standards high and didn't tolerate nonsense. Today I can say without a doubt that Ms. Morgan was one of the best teachers I ever had. I'm saddened to hear about her death, but I hope Ms. Morgan's family can find some solace in the fact that she left a huge impact on many students. I'm sure she could count many doctors, lawyers, engineers, and good people among her former students--including this one, who went to law school and ended up working as a judicial officer in St. Joseph County, Indiana. I wish I had made some effort to locate Ms. Morgan to let her know that she helped me turn out all right. My condolences go to her family.

William Wilson - October 23, 2025 at 10:14 AM

AN

“ Ardys was our neighbour. She was a positive force for change and learning.
Her influence lives on.

anna - October 23, 2025 at 06:19 AM

TD

“ So sorry for your loss.
I believe she taught 6th grade at Swanson Highlands elementary in South Bend Indiana in the mid 1970s.

I had the privilege of being a student of hers. What a terrific teacher and wonderful person. God bless

Todd Duley - October 22, 2025 at 07:28 PM

DH

“ I was sorry to hear of your mother’s passing Elizabeth and Matthew. Many times I have thought of her over the years. I think of you kids often. May God keep you in this time with His comforting arms. May His peace rest upon you. I’ve spoken to your dad over the years and he always lets me know how you two are doing. She was a special kind of person and a caring mother.

Debbie Huff - October 22, 2025 at 01:39 PM