

Nicholas Lawrence

1943 - 2021



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June 12, 1943 - April 1, 2021

Lexington, Kentucky - Nicholas E. Lawrence, 77, of Lexington, KY passed away on April 1, 2021 from complications of Parkinson's Disease, which he battled for over sixteen years. Nick was born to Ernest E. and Nervetta Childers Lawrence on June 12, 1943 in Cumberland, Kentucky. He moved with his family to Lexington when he was eight. Nick was a graduate of Millersburg Military Institute and the University of Kentucky. Nick served in the Air Force and was awarded the American Spirit of Honor medal for his display of, "honor, initiative, loyalty and high example to comrades in arms," and went on to serve as a data programming specialist with a unit of the Air Force Systems Command at Lackland AFB. After his service, Nick returned to Lexington where, having always been a sports car enthusiast, he continued to participate in SCCA events and opened The New Sports Car Establishment, Inc. with his brother Jim. He even raced with the International Motor Sports Association.

Nick had a deep appreciation and love of the fine and performing arts. Music, especially, was his life-long passion. He loved to sing and play guitar and upright bass, whether playing and singing in a jam session at home with friends or performing in a musical group or choir. Music was a constant in his life. Cumberland, Kentucky is where Nick would say that he made his "first stage-performance debut," singing at the Methodist Church at age 6. In Lexington he continued singing in church choirs at First Methodist, Church of the Good Shepherd, and Christ Church. At UK, he was a member of the Pegoramsey Quartet and later, he played upright bass with Pat and Barbara

as well as in the Bristol Trio and the Kentucky Trio. He was proud to be a thirty-year member and past president of the Lexington Singers and a founding member of the Sine Nomine singers.

Nick would joke that he had, "a face for radio," but he loved the radio show that he hosted for 24 years, Curtains@8! on WUKY-FM, because it allowed him to connect with the arts community, to serve as a platform for people to share their stories, or craft, as well as to entertain and inform the surrounding community. Over the years, he interviewed local, state, national and international artists and authors. He had a genuine interest in people and the stories they wanted to share, which was evident through his ability to talk to anyone about anything. As a part of the show, he created a program with Kasia Pater for which he was awarded the Americus Poloniae by the Republic of Poland, and for two years he also did a fun weekly segment on a British radio show hosted by Nick Lawrence, the English broadcaster. In 2000 Nick was awarded the Governor's Award in the Arts Media Award for Curtains@8! The mayor of Lexington declared Nick Lawrence Day on January 18, 2013 as a tribute to Nick's work in the arts. When Nick hung up his headphones on January 23, 2017, the mayor declared a second Nick Lawrence Day and that is the day Nick learned that the Lexington Music Awards were presenting him with their Lifetime Achievement Award. Nick also enjoyed emceeing local events and was proud to emcee the Great American Brass Band Festival for 15 years. When he wasn't participating in the arts, Captain Nick could be found sailing with his First Mate, Susie. They frequently enjoyed sailing at Cave Run Lake and also joined friends for sailing trips to the BVI and the Mediterranean.

Nick is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Susan Bennett Lawrence, three daughters, Nancy Lawrence (C. Bradley) Combs, Elizabeth Bennett (Patrick Van Kouwenberg) Lawrence, and Carey Walton Riley, his sister-in-law Patricia Lawrence and his ex-wife Nancy Nickell-Lawrence. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, C. Benjamin Combs; Erin, Nicholas, and Ryan Douty; Jeremiah Van Kouwenberg; and James and Anna Riley; as well as niece Kristen Hodges and nephews Lance and Duncan Sanford. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Nancy Lawrence Stong, brother James Raymond Lawrence, and son-in-law J. Christopher Riley.

Due to COVID-19, there will be no funeral services. Friends wishing to make donations in his name should address them to The Church of the Good Shepherd, [533 East Main Street, 40508](#) or WUKY-FM, [2640 Spurr Road, University of Kentucky, 40511](#).