

Gloucester City News Obituaries

January 2024

To see the obituaries in context on the newspaper page and to see any photos included, please ask to see the back issues, which may be in paper or microfilm format.

Gregory Woodhouse (Jan. 4th)

Gregory S. “Woody” Woodhouse, 76, of Gloucester City passed away on December 28, 2023.

Born in Camden, he was the son of the late John J. and Melina (nee Shahinian) Dodge. Woody is survived by his beloved wife of 13 years, Seena, of Philadelphia; his loving children, Greg Woodhouse, Kelly Hughes (Dan) and Tara Lyons (Bill); and cherished grandchildren, Camryn, Hayden, Declan and Brooklynn.

Woody honored his country by serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He later worked at the Philadelphia Naval Yard and Fort Dix as a fork lift operator. He was a member of the VFW Post #3620 and the American Legion Post #135 in Gloucester City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Tunnel to Towers, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306, or t2t.org/donate.

His Memorial Celebration will be on Saturday, Jan. 6, in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, where friends may visit from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Followed by U.S. Army Military Honors.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com.

Marie Murphy (Jan. 4th)

Marie T. Murphy (nee Conroy), 87, surrounded by her loving family at home, passed peacefully on December 28, 2023.

A lifelong resident of Gloucester City, Marie was the loving and devoted wife of 51 years to the late George R. Murphy Jr. Loving mother of Patrick (Theresa) Murphy, Kathleen (Dan) McDevitt, Maureen Murphy McIntyre, Michael (Suzanne) Murphy, Colleen (Raymond) Leyrer, Sean (Linda) Murphy and Meghan (Brian) Kearns. Predeceased by her sons, Dennis Murphy (surviving Angela), Michael James Murphy and twin sons, John and Joseph Murphy.

Loving Mom-Mom of 30 grandchildren and cherished “Grammy” to 35 great-grandchildren. Beloved sister of James (Anna) Conroy and Terri (Mike) Schmincke. Predeceased by her sisters, Patricia Snarr (surviving Bill) and Eleanor Horan (late Richard). Also survived by her sister-in-law, Regina (Ralph) Saquella, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Marie was born at home on Bergen Street in Gloucester City to the late James and Anna Conroy. She was a 1954 graduate of Gloucester Catholic High School, where she met the love of her life George. She later returned in 1983 to fulfill the position of Administrative Assistant of Student Services for 13 years and grew to become a trusted mentor and advisor for the teaching staff and countless students. Marie was a lifelong, faithful parishioner of St. Mary's Church and past secretary of St. Mary's School PTA.

Marie will best be remembered for her thoughtfulness, caring ways, understanding nature, compassion, and always hosting the perfect parties, holiday celebrations, and family milestones surrounded by those she loved.

Relatives and friends are invited to her viewing on Friday, Jan. 5, from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 426 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, where her Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12 noon. Interment will follow in New St. Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Gloucester Catholic High School Alumni Association, 333 Ridgeway St, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, Attn: Patrick Murphy or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org/donate. Please write in memo, Marie T. Murphy.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City.

Robert B. DeFord Sr. (Jan. 4th)

"Our beloved father" Robert B. DeFord Sr. (lovingly known as Gus), 84, of Mount Ephraim passed away peacefully on December 20, 2023.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Alvin, and his mother, Hannah (nee Dundrea). He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Grace DeFord (nee DiMartinis). He was born in Camden on Aug. 25, 1939. Bob was a Camden City Firefighter for close to 30 years and his profession reflected more of what he was rather than what he did. He was selfless to friends and family. He was a proud member of the Mt. Ephraim Rotary Club, serving numerous positions as president and treasurer. Bob also was a proud and dedicated member of the Rolling Badges motorcycle club, participating in many charitable activities and rides.

He first met Grace when they were teenagers and spent the next 63 years dedicated to his family. He leaves behind his children Robert B. DeFord Jr. (Susan McMenamin DeFord), Anthony DeFord (Arlene Greene DeFord), Deborah Tomasiak (Ward Tomasiak) and Diana Bravyak (Jim Bravyak). He also leaves behind grandchildren Bobby, Michael, Nicholas, Nevada, Kiersten, Alaina and Gabriella, and is predeceased by grandson Anthony DeFord Jr. He is also survived by first cousin Robert Schaefer, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends attended his viewing in St. Rosa Lima Church, Haddon Heights, where his Funeral Mass was celebrated. Entombment was at Calvary Mausoleum, Cherry Hill.

The family asks that donations to Alex's Lemonade Stand be made in lieu of flowers or other gifts. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Healey Funeral Home, Haddon Heights.

Angelo DiLorenzo (Jan. 11th)

Born on July 15, 1928, Angelo DiLorenzo, 95, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2024.

Married to the late Rosalie (nee Livecchi), Angelo is survived by his children Maryanne DiLorenzo, Rosemarie Cohen (Sam), and Angelo DiLorenzo (Dawn); his beloved grandchildren Nicole Kerns (Jay), the late Brian Gregal, Theresa Schoppy (Nick), Angelo DiLorenzo (Rachelle), Nicholas DiLorenzo (Morgan), Rosalie Cohen (Kareem), and Sam Cohen.

Angelo was adored by his great grandchildren Frank, Madelyn, Camryn, Benjamin, Dalton and a baby girl on the way. He is also survived by his twin brothers, and best friends, Anthony and Frank DiLorenzo, and many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends attended his viewing in St. Rose of Lima Church, Haddon Heights, where his Funeral Mass was celebrated. Interment took place privately for his family. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Healey Funeral Home, Haddon Heights.

Charles H. Spencer Jr. (Jan. 11th)

Surrounded by his loving family Charles Harry Spencer Jr. of Bellmawr, formerly of Gloucester City, was put at peace on December 31, 2003.

Affectionately known as “Chalie,” he was born on March 20, 1964, to the late Ann E. Spencer (nee Carr) and the late Charles H. Spencer Sr. Chalie grew up in Gloucester City and was 1982 graduate of Gloucester City High School.

In 1990 Chalie met Doreen Spencer (nee Barbano) while shopping for cars. Chalie and Doreen went on to have two loving children, Kristina and Jessica Spencer. In 2015 Chalie retired and could be found spending his time watching every Dallas Cowboys game in his recliner with his three dogs Puff, Dallas, and Bailey. Chalie also loved tending to the lawn and pool, cooking, attending Jessica’s cheer competitions and decorating for the holidays.

Chalie is survived by his wife, Doreen, of 34 years and his children, Kristina and Jessica. He is also survived by his siblings, nephews, and niece, Lea Anne, Alesia (Steve), Paul, Kate and Ethan.

Cremation and Funeral services will be held privately. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Chalie to the American Cancer Society. Please write Charles H. Spencer in the memo.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City.

Elizabeth St. John (Jan. 11th)

Elizabeth “Betty” St. John, 86, of Gloucester City passed away peacefully at home on January 1, 2024.

Born in Philadelphia, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Mary (nee Byrnes) Olsen.

Betty is survived by her loving daughters Elizabeth St John (William Cox) and Dona Ogborn (Joseph); cherished grandchildren Robert St. John (Allison), Michael, Karyn, Kevin, Stephen and Emily, Matthew; great grandchildren Quinn and Robert; her sister Teresa Cooper; niece Mary Leonardo and nephew Joseph Cooper. Betty was also predeceased by her beloved husband, Kevin St John; son, Kevin St John; brother, Joseph Olsen and her sister Virginia Cannan.

Betty was a homemaker who enjoyed her time with family and friends.

Honoring her wishes, there will be no viewing or services. Burial will be private.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City.

Karen Ferraro (Jan. 11th)

Karen Ferraro, 75, of Marlton passed away on December 19, 2023.

Born in Jersey City, she was the daughter of the late Salvatore and Patricia (nee Roydanca) Ferraro.

Karen is survived by her brothers, Salvatore and Michael Ferraro, her housemates and the loving staff and caregivers of Quality Management Associates who cared for her for 20 years at her home on Elmwood Drive. Everyone who knew her was immediately charmed by her. She was a legend at QMA.

Even though she did not communicate by speaking, Karen would smile, giggle, and bat her eyes at her staff, friends, and perfect strangers – especially to get what she wanted. Karen spent a great deal of her life at the Woodbridge Developmental Center and we are honored to have been able to give Karen the opportunity to live her best life in the community.

Thanks to Chimene, Kia, and the amazing staff at Elmwood who supported Karen through her recent hospital stay. Their tremendous advocacy allowed Karen to return to her happy place (her home), where she was able to enjoy her remaining days.

Her viewing and Funeral Services were celebrated in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City. Burial was in Lakeview Memorial Park Cinnaminson.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com.

Sheila T. McPeak (Jan. 11th)

May 27, 1926- Dec. 30, 2024

Sheila T. McPeak, 97, of Gloucester City and Longport, passed away on December 30, 2023, at home surrounded by her loving family.

She was predeceased by her loving husband, Neil, her parents Cornelius and Catherine Ward, and her siblings Manus Ward, Catherine Ford (John), Mary Mulligan (Edward), Patrick Ward (Betty) and Margaret McKernan (Jack).

Loving mother of Neil McPeak (Barbara), Sheila Colalillo (Alex), Joseph McPeak, Kate Kearney (Steve) and Grace Woods (Ronald). Also survived by grandchildren Neil McPeak (Kara), John Kunkle (Vedra), Lauren Przestrzelski (Nathan), Matthew McPeak (Kelly), Catherine Clark (Kevin), Kara McPeak, Sarah Skinner (Zachary), Mark Coalillo, Austin Kearney, Christine Colalillo, Daniel Woods, Ronald Woods (Gabrielle), Thomas Woods and Megan Woods, seven great grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews.

Born in Bayonne, Sheila lived her early years in Ireland with her grandparents from the ages 3 to 7. Back in the United States the family was industrious, owning a grocery store, gas station and restaurant in Vineland and eventually the well-known Shamrock Cafe in Wildwood, where they lived and worked for decades.

As a witness to the depression and WWII, Sheila would tell real life history lessons of the depression and knowledge of the German U Boats just off the coast at the shore. Sheila attended Wildwood High School for two years and graduated from Camden Catholic when her parents moved to Gloucester City. She attended St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, MD. There she was the captain of the basketball team, an avid tennis player and she made lifelong friends. She continued her post graduate education earning credits from Rowan, Temple and Villanova.

In April 1956, Sheila married Neil at St. Mary's Church in Gloucester City, where they raised their five children – all attending St. Mary's grammar school and Gloucester Catholic High School. Sheila was an elementary school teacher for Gloucester City for 26 years, and taught in Camden City for four years when she started her career in education. A lifelong athlete, one of Sheila's favorite joys in life was to go to the beach. She loved the ocean and continued to body surf the waves with her grandchildren well into her 80s. Always finding ways to exercise her body as well as her mind, she introduced many to the power of meditation and reflection before it was popular. As her children settled into their lives, Sheila quickly took on the role of grandmother. She thoroughly enjoyed watching her family grow and with the birth of each baby tried to find time to share with all. She was the proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Above all else, her faith and her family were always most important to Sheila.

Relatives and friends attended Sheila's Visitation in St. Mary's Church, Gloucester City, where her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment was with her late husband in New Saint Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr. Family requests memorial donations in lieu of flowers to Saint Mary's Church, 426 Monmouth Street, Gloucester City, NJ 08030. Write in memo: Sheila McPeak.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City.

James William Hines (Jan. 18th)
(1955-2024)

Loving husband, father and grandfather James “Jim” Hines, 68, of Mays Landing and formerly of Westville, passed away on January 6, 2024, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Jim is survived by his wife Norma (Fulton); sons Charles (Tammy) Zimmerman and Sonny Camposano; daughters Amanda (Brian) Borowski and Marissa Hines; brother Stephen (Pat) Hines, Brigadier General (Retired); sisters Kathy Hines and Rosanne (Tom) Wierzbicki; grandchildren Caroline, Natalie, and Charles Zimmerman, Elaina Hines and Ava Martinez; many nieces and nephews; and his dog, Pepper. He was preceded in death by his parents Mary “Marie” (Davey) and James A. Hines.

Jim was born in Philadelphia, attended St. Anne’s School in Westville and graduated from Gloucester Catholic High School in 1974. Prior to his graduation, Jim had already established himself as an in-demand professional musician, playing regularly throughout the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1981 and attended the Armed Forces School of Music, where he graduated at the top of his class as an electric bassist. He traveled the world with the US Naval Band, including stints abroad in Asia and Australia, before returning to the Armed Forces School of Music as an instructor.

Jim left the Navy in 1989 and ultimately retired from military service as a member of the 63rd Army National Guard Band in 2003. He remained a highly respected and accomplished musician throughout the region since returning to southern New Jersey over three decades ago.

As a civilian, Jim worked as a computer network engineer serving various government contracts for over 25 years. Jim most enjoyed spending time with his family. He was generous with his time and attention. He took great joy from family gatherings, fishing trips and long dog walks with his grandchildren.

Jim was known for his kind nature with all animals, both wild and domestic. He was affectionately known as “The Dog Whisperer.” Jim was also active in the Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey, serving at the state level as the Most Worthy Grand Patron at the time of his passing.

His faith in God and his compassion for all living things, humans and animals alike, were hallmarks of his personality. Jim will be sorely missed by all who know him. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Relatives and friends attended his Visitation will be held at the Church of the Holy Family, Sewell, where his Funeral Mass was celebrated. Interment was private.

Kathleen M. Hyk (Jan. 18th)

Kathleen M. Hyk, 78, of Gloucester City, passed peacefully on January 5, 2024.

Born in Woodbury, she was the daughter of the late, Theodore and Mary (nee Karpiak) Hyk. Kathleen is survived by her sister, Jean M. Power; nephews=, Theodore J. Power (Margaret), Matthew J. Power (Tara) and Dennis J. Power (Grace) and her dear friends Linda Hooper and Janine Buzby.

Kathleen had worked for many years as a blackjack dealer with Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City.

Relatives and friends attended her viewing at St. Mary's Church, Gloucester City, where her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment will be private at a later date in New St. Mary's Cemetery Bellmawr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kathleen's memory to the Trisomy 18 Foundation, trisomy18.org/donate. Please memo, Kathleen M. Hyk.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City.

Lillian Villanova (Jan. 18th)

Lillian M. "Ludge" Villanova (nee Pryzwara), 93, of Gloucester City departed this earth with her family by her side on January 6, 2024. She was a lifelong resident of Gloucester Heights.

Lillian worked as a bookkeeper for Reliable Autobody in Camden, and most recently at Comet Tool & Die in Pitman before retiring.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Lillian loved to bake and cook for her family. She enjoyed entertaining and could find any reason to have a party. Lillian treasured her time spent down the shore with her family, especially at her shore house in Stone Harbor.

Beloved wife of the late Emilio John Villanova. Devoted mother of Denise Burger (David Forand) and Diane Rennles (Gary). Loving grandmother of Christopher Rennles (Harli) and Matthew Rennles (Samantha). Loving great-grandmother of Cory, Cameron, Jaxon, Sawyer, and one on the way. Dear sister of Dorothy MacLennan (the late John).

Lillian was predeceased by her siblings Joseph Pryzwara (Patricia), Adolph Pryzwara (Cecil), Jessie Gryniewicz (Al), Edward Pryzwara (Helen), and her son-in-law Richard Burger.

Relatives and friends attended her viewing at Farnelli Funeral Home, Williamstown. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, Williamstown. Burial was in St. Josephs Cemetery, Chews Landing.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Mary's Church, 426 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, NJ 08030.

Christina Marie Adams (Jan. 25th)

Christina Marie Adams of Runnemede, passed away on January 8, 2024. Beloved wife of the late William Adams.

Devoted mother of William S. Adams Jr. of Runnemede, Robert F. Adams of CT, Richard K. Adams (Elizabeth) of Mt. Laurel, and Cheryl Adams of Cedar Brook. Loving grandmother of Cathleen Adams, Robert Adams, Alicia Sloan, Cherie Sloan, Christine Adams and Richard Adams and the late Colleen Adams. Loving Aunt of Jean (Umstead) Heyer of PA and Frank Umstead of Florida.

Born and raised in Camden, Christina developed a deep love for music, particularly Elvis Presley's timeless tunes. She could often be found singing and dancing, spreading happiness wherever she went.

She possessed a genuine warmth and kindness that extended to all people she encountered. She treated everyone equally, leaving a lasting impression on those fortunate enough to cross her path. Her caring nature and devotion to others made her an incredible person. As an enthusiastic cook, Christina enjoyed hosting Italian Sunday dinners for her family. These family gatherings brought loved ones together and created cherished memories that will be forever treasured.

Christina pursued her studies at Temple University, where she earned her Associate's Degree. She was employed at RCA/GE as an Administrative Assistant. She was a woman who touched the lives of many. Her legacy of love, laughter, and genuine kindness will forever remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know her. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

Relatives and friends attended her visitation in the Gardner Funeral Home, 126 S. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Maria Goretti Church. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery, Cherry Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Christina's memory to the American Diabetes Association, <https://diabetes.org/>.

Robert C. Hallowell (Jan. 25th)

Robert Charles Hallowell, 83, passed away suddenly on January 15, 2024, at his home in Bellmawr. Robert worked for many years at the Board of Education in Audubon.

Robert was the beloved father of Donald Hallowell and the loving grandfather of Elizabeth Loveland. He is also survived by several cousins.

Relatives and friends are invited to Robert's viewing on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Healey Funeral Home, 9 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, where his Funeral Service will take place at 4:30 p.m. Interment will take place privately at a later date.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers donations can be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or online at <http://www.stjude.org>.

Ruth D. Christaldi (Jan. 25th)

Ruth D. Christaldi, 95, of Glendora, formerly of Camden, passed away on January 16, 2024.

Beloved wife of the late Frank Christaldi. Devoted sister of the late Florence L. Reed (William) and Theodore Wiederspahn (Jacquelyn). Loving aunt of Patricia Parker (Hank), George Reed (late Mary Jac), and Gary Wiederspahn (Patti). Also survived by great nieces and nephews.

Ruth was a member of the Glendora Women's Club.

Funeral Services are private at the request of the family. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Ruth's memory to Animal Welfare Association: 509 Centennial Boulevard, Voorhees, NJ 08043, www.awanj.com.
Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Gardner Funeral Home, 126 S. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede.