

Gloucester City News Obituaries

March 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.

Otis Smith Jr. (March 7th)

Otis P. Smith Jr., 93, former longtime resident of Gloucester City, passed away in Binghamton, NY, on February 14, 2024.

Otis was born in Gloucester City, where he spent most of his life. He was the last surviving child of Otis P. and Sarah Smith of Gloucester City.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Kathryn Yorks, and his children, Otis, John, David, and Nancy. He is also survived by his six grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and extended family. Otis will be interred at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Gloucester City later this spring.

Wayne DiGirolamo Sr. (March 7th)

Wayne A. DiGirolamo Sr., 69, of Mantua, formerly of Gloucester City, sadly left us on February 27, 2024.

Born in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late Donald L. and Betty (nee Banker) DiGirolamo.

Wayne is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Donna Lee (nee Sinn) DiGirolamo; his loving children, Darleen McGinness (Tony), Beverly Benner (Mike), Dawn Sims (Brian), Wayne DiGirolamo, Jr. (Crystal); 14 cherished grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; and his brother, Leonard DiGirolamo. Wayne was also predeceased by his daughter, Danyel DiGirolamo, and his brother, Ronald DiGirolamo.

Wayne had worked with United National Machine and Tool as a machinist for 25 years. He was a proud lifelong member of the National Rifle Association.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Donna to assist her with expenses.

Funeral services were celebrated in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, where relatives and friends shared heartwarming stories at his viewing. Interment followed in Woodbury Memorial Park, West Deptford.

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

Harryette Schirmer (March 14th)

Harryette D. Schirmer, 86, of Mount Ephraim passed away on January 29, 2024, at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Camden.

Born on August 19, 1937, in East St. Louis, IL, Harryette was a member of Christ Church in Collingswood and Magnolia. She lived in the Belleville area until October 1981, when she moved to the Philadelphia area to work for the Coast Guard as a Senior Supervisory Documentation Officer after her training at the St. Louis office. She worked for the government for nearly 40. She retired from the Coast Guard position in October of 1995 and remained in the Philadelphia area.

Harryette loved to travel extensively, especially in Europe to Italy, England, Germany and Scandinavia, and London was her favorite city. She also traveled in Russia, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and throughout the United States. She enjoyed theater and attended many performances in Philadelphia and New York City. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry F. and Ethel (nee Wilson) Schirmer, and her sister, June Schirmer.

She is survived by cousins and dear friends (some from first grade) who were her family, and many godchildren. She is also survived by special friends Rose Giranda of Philadelphia and Patricia Keown of Audubon and her Godchild Ashley Britton of Runnemede.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or American Diabetes Association.

Friends and relatives attended her Memorial Service in Christ Church, Magnolia. Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery, Fairview Heights, IL.

James Spencer Jr. (March 14th)

James D. Spencer Jr., 48, of Gloucester City, surrounded by his loving family, passed away on February 29, 2024.

Loving husband of Karen Spencer. Beloved father of Megan Spencer (Vidal Sr.), Sierra Hill, James D. Spencer III and Dominic Spencer. Cherished son of James D. Spencer, Sr. and Lucetta "Sue" Spencer. Loving brother of Lynda M. Spencer. Cherished grandfather of Vidal Jr. and Ivan. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. James is predeceased by his grandparents, James L. and Jane L. Spencer, as well as William J. Zee. He is survived by his grandmother, Lucetta Zee.

Jim was the owner and operator of Spencer's Pools, a business he recently started. He enjoyed all things outdoors, including camping, fishing and skiing. Jim had a passion for music and enjoyed playing the guitar, piano and drums. Relatives and friends attended to his viewing in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, where his Funeral Services were celebrated. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation in Jim's memory to Dreamality Inc. at www.dreamality.org.
Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com.

Rosemary Farlow (March 14th)

Rosemary Flower (nee Boulden), 66, of Gloucester City passed away peacefully at her home on March 6, 2024.

Born in Camden, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Pauline (nee Tortorelli) Boulden.

Rosemary is survived by her loving sons, Bobby Farlow and Peter Farlow (Donna); cherished grandchildren Peter, Colton, Keegan and Desmin; nieces, Pauline, Leona, Brittny and Kaitlyn Boulden; nephew George Boulden Jr.; and her brothers, Albert Boulden (Denise) and George Boulden. Rosemary was also predeceased by her sister, Kathy Boulden, and nephew Jason Boulden.

Rosemary was affectionately known to all as RoRo, and lived for her family and friends.

Honoring her wishes, there will be no viewing or services at the funeral home. The family is planning a memorial to be held later.

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

Theresa Gillespie (March 14th)

Theresa A. Gillespie (nee Speich), 66, of Audubon, formerly a longtime, proud resident of Gloucester City, passed away on March 1, 2024.

Born in Camden, NJ, she was the daughter of the late John R. and Mary A. (nee Caffery) Speich.

Terri is survived by her husband, Joel R. Gillespie Sr.; her loving children, Michael Speich, Joel R. Gillespie, Jr., Kacie Gillespie and Amy Caldwell; cherished grandchildren Addison, Chloe, Everly, Emily, Michael and Samuel; great grandson Chase; brothers John Speich, Stephen Speich, Daniel Dando (Kristina) and her sister, Darlene Timmins. Terri was also predeceased by her brother, William Speich.

Terri had worked as a line worker for Crescent Lighting in Barrington, but was most proud of being a stay-at-home mom. She loved spending time with her children and cherished any time she could spend with her grandchildren. She enjoyed cooking, going to the casinos, the Phillies and watching lightning storms.

Funeral services will be celebrated on Saturday, March 16, at 12 noon in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, where relatives and friends are invited to visit from 11 a.m. to noon. There will be no burial at this time.

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

Vincent Harty Sr. (March 14th)

Vincent T. Harty Sr., 67, longtime resident of the Oak Valley section of Deptford, passed away on March 2, 2024.

Predeceased by his parents, Patrick F. Harty and Mary Jane Harty (nee Timlin); his brother, Patrick D. Harty; and his nephews, Patrick Harty, Sean Harty and Mark Cunard. Vince is survived by his sons, Joseph Harty (Lyndsay Myers) and Vincent T. Harty Jr. (Patricia Fleckenstein) and their mother, Linda Harty; his grandchildren, Mason Harty, Chase Harty, Travis Anninos and Julianna Harty; siblings Jane Harty-Callen (Paul), Timothy Harty, Lori

Harty-Budniak (Bill), Winnie Harty-Cunard and Judy Harty-Janofsky (Rich). Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vince was a graduate of Deptford High School Class of 1974 and a longtime dedicated coach and volunteer in Oak Valley Athletic Association. Vince enjoyed playing softball for the Southwood Bar with his two brothers and three brothers-in-law, and played football for many years for the Oak Valley Hawks and Vikings. He was an avid bowler and member of the Oak Valley men's bowling league.

Vince was a skilled woodworker and enjoyed making leprechauns and other Irish themed gifts for his family and friends.

Relatives and friends attended his visitation in St. Margaret Church, Woodbury, where his Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation in Vince's memory to The American Stroke Association online at www.stroke.org.

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

Ann F. Smith (March 21st)

Ann Frances Smith (nee Fredhoff), 77, who was born in Gloucester City on Feb. 11. 1947, passed away of March 2, 2024.

Ann lived in Gloucester City, Bellmawr and Vero Beach, FL. She is survived by the love of her life, best friend and husband James "Smitty" Smith. They were blessed with a 62-year loving relationship.

Ann was the most awesome aunt to William (Wendy) Fredhoff, Paul (Karen) Fredhoff and Robin (Jamie) McKelvey. She was great aunt to 10 nephews and one niece and great-great aunt to five. She is also survived by many friends. Awaiting her in heaven is her mother Irene Magnussen, her beloved mother-in-law Florence Smith and her brothers William (Doc) Fredhoff and Raymond Fredhoff. She will also be greeted by all of her precious pups who crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Annie was a generous soul and compassionate animal lover who lit up every room she entered. She will always be remembered for her famous "Annie goodbyes."

Relatives and friends attended her viewing in the Gardner Funeral Home, 126 S. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede, where her Funeral Service was celebrated. Many wore Hawaiian shirts in honor of Ann's colorful personality and wardrobe.

Consider a donation in Ann's name to the Vero Beach Humane Society P.O. Box 644, Vero Beach, FL 32961.

Frederic K. Leaf (March 21st)

Frederic Knight Leaf, 95, a longtime Westville resident and police officer, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2024.

Fred was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was raised in Westville and was a revered sergeant in the Westville Police Department with 17 years of service. Fred also served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps in China, Guam and the Korean War, whose combat service was with the First Marine Division.

Fred spent two decades in Northeastern Pennsylvania where he was the Regional Director of Security for Acme Markets. Fred was a one-of-a-kind, known for his sharp wit, charm, and charisma. To know him was to love him. He had many friends and admirers.

He had an insatiable thirst for knowledge, was a voracious reader who treasured his books, loved old movies, "big band" music, the Marine Corps, and above all, his family.

He is survived by his four children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents, Charles and Mary, his sister, Emily, and his wife Theresa.

Lottie E. Kranz (March 21st)

Lottie E. Kranz (nee Meyer), of Runnemede passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024, at the age of 101.

Lottie lived on Center Avenue in Runnemede for over 60 years and was a longtime member of the Trinity Lutheran Church. She was also a member of Friendly Circle and the Runnemede Seniors Club.

Always an avid reader, Lottie was well known at the Runnemede Public Library for her frequent visits to borrow books. A big fan of the Philadelphia Phillies, she loved going to see them play, especially if it was Dollar Dog Night. At the age of 97, she began writing poetry and even recited one of her poems from memory at her 100th birthday party.

Lottie was the beloved wife of the late Herbert Kranz. She is survived by her two children Donna (George) Dern and Herb Kranz, her two grandchildren Kari Dern (Dr. Steve Cassady) and Scott Dern (Lacey Colby), and proud Oma (great grandmother) of Shane Dern.

Relatives and friends attended her visitation at Trinity Lutheran Church, Runnemede. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Gardner Funeral Home, 126 S. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede.

Shawn Cahill (March 21st)

Following a courageous battle, Shawn Cahill, 58, passed peacefully on March 12, 2024 at Samaritan Hospice in Voorhees.

A resident of Bellmawr and formerly of Gloucester City, Shawn was the loving husband of 15 years to the late Mariann Cahill (nee Schreffler). He is the cherished son of Florence Cahill (nee Hanlon) and the late Edward Cahill. Loving brother of Kelly Ann Cahill Giesen and loving uncle of Michael Giesen. Shawn is also survived by many loving friends. Shawn loved his dogs, Zekers and the late Ava.

Shawn grew up in Bellmawr and was a graduate of Triton High School Class of 1983. A talented musician and lover of music, Shawn played in many bands over the years. He enjoyed concerts, live local music and also started an original project Realm of Spirit and founded Jailbreak the Band amongst numerous cover projects and open jams. Shawn enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, hanging with friends and has been known to enjoy cheese steaks, pizza and an occasional Johnzarotti.

Relatives and friends are invited to his visitation with family and celebration of his life on Saturday, March 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Elizabeth's Ballroom, 419 Highland Blvd., Gloucester City. Off street parking is available off of Klemm Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Shawn's memory to Samaritan Gift Processing Center, PO Box 71425, Philadelphia, PA 19176-1425. Donations can also be made online at www.samaritannj.org.

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

Michael McCool (March 28th)

Michael P. McCool, 74, of Mount Ephraim passed away on March 15, 2024.

He was the beloved husband of 50 years to Elaine McCool (nee Palazzese). Dear father of Mike (Beth) McCool and Melissa (Richard) Ciullo. Loving grandfather to Michael, Grace, Natalie, Abigail and Luca.

Born and raised in the Fairview section of Camden, Mike was a graduate of Camden High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in education from Glassboro State College before teaching for 38 years in the Evesham Township school district. Mike enjoyed Disney World, his dogs, summers at the shore, skiing and cycling.

Relatives and friends attended his visitation in the Foster-Warne Funeral Home, Collingswood, where his Prayer Service was celebrated. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mike's memory to the Animal Welfare Association, 509 Centennial Blvd., Voorhees, NJ 08043, www.awanj.org.

William Scott (March 28th)

William Scott, 56, of Bellmawr passed away on March 3, 2024.

The loving and devoted companion of Karen Hickman, he was the beloved son of the late Hal Scott and Elaine Scott (nee Hopkins). William is the dear brother of John Franklin and Karen Franklin, the cherished nephew of Yvonne “Bunny” Hignutt and John “Junior” Hopkins Jr. and the devoted uncle to many nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all his friends.

William worked for many years as a commercial painter with R & C Paint Contractors in Sewell. He was a big Phillies sports fans and enjoyed watching all the local teams.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend William’s visitation on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City. His burial will be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Voorhees Animal Orphanage, 419 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043. Write in memo: William Scott

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