

Gloucester City News Obituaries

March 2023

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.

Catherine M. Clark (March 2nd)

Catherine M. Clark (nee Townsley), 80, of Bellmawr passed away on February 20, 2023.

Beloved wife of James Clark for 58 years. Devoted sister of Barbara Pulaski (the late George), Sharon Urbanchuk (the late Donald), Margaret Libertore (Richard), and the late Robert Townsley. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Catherine worked for Dick's Sporting Goods for many years. She enjoyed going down the shore.

Relatives and friends attended her visitation at the Gardner Funeral Home, 126 S. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede, where her Memorial Service was celebrated. Interment was private. Family and friends may share memories at www.GardnerFuneralHome.com.

Josephine McGowan (March 2nd)

Josephine C. McGowan (nee Smith), 85, of Bellmawr passed away on February 21, 2023.

Beloved wife of 61 years to the late John J. McGowan. Devoted mother of Kathleen McGowan-Sluggett (Greg) and the late Eileen Cook and mother-in-law of Sean Cook. Loving grandmother of Kate and Will Sluggett. Dear sister of Elizabeth Mingle (John) and Eileen Campbell (John). Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends attended her viewing at Annunciation BVM Church, Bellmawr, where her Funeral Mass was celebrated. Interment was in Harleigh Cemetery, Camden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Josephine's memory to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden, 1845 Haddon Ave., Camden, NJ 08103 for the benefit of children and families.

Family and friends may share memories at www.GardnerFuneralHome.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Gardner Funeral Home, 126 S. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede.

Barbara Graves (March 9th)

Barbara "Barb" Graves, 86, of Bellmawr, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2023.

Born in Camden, she was the daughter of the late, Robert and Catherine (Jennings) McCaughey.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 63 years, Leon J. Graves; loving children, Kathleen Cornell (Richard) and Jeffrey Graves (Lora); cherished granddaughter, Catherine Cornell (Rohit); and her brother, Robert McCaughey II (Joyce).

Barb retired as a legal secretary for federal judges in USDC Camden Vicinage.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Barb's memory to ebresearchpartnership.org.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Incarnation Church, Mantua. Her private graveside service was held in Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro.

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

Elvamae Davidson (March 9th)

Elvamae Davidson, 93, of Cherry Hill, formerly of Maple Shade, passed away on February 8, 2023.

Elvamae worked for many years as an insurance adjuster in Philadelphia. She is survived by her daughter, Elvamae Schmidt (George); son, Wilhelmus Hoogerwerff; grandsons, Wilhelmus II and Eric Hoogerwerff, Raymond Schmidt (Stefanie), George Schmidt, Brian Schmidt (Maryanna) and Johnathan Schmidt (Nikki).

Elvamae's Graveside Service was celebrated in B.G. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown.

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

Leonard J. Wileczek (March 9th)

Leonard J. Wileczek, 87, surrounded by his loving family, passed away peacefully on February 24, 2023.

Born in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia, he was the 10th of 12 children to the late Andrew and Emily Wileczek. Loving husband of 61 years to the late Rose A. Wileczek (nee Barnes). Loving father of his daughters Kathleen (Dan), Teresa (Joseph), Diane (Jerry) and Arlene (Tony). Cherished grandfather of 15 and great-grandfather of 10. Len was an avid fisherman and loved spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to his visitation on Saturday, March 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, followed by his Funeral Service at 11:30 a.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association online at alz.org. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com.

Margaret Kee (March 9th)

Margaret A. “Peggy” Kee, 86, of Voorhees, formerly of Waterford Works, passed away on February 23, 2023.

Peggy is survived by her son, Jon S. Kee of Waterford Works, and her grandson, Stephan Kee. She will be missed by her caregivers and friends at the Complete Care at Voorhees, where she lived for several years.

Peggy had worked for many years as a hostess with the Franklin Diner in Philadelphia.

Honoring her wish, there was no visitation or viewing. Her burial was held privately.

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

Nancy Pierce (March 9th)

Along the road, Nancy A. Pierce (nee Hennessy) walked alongside Him. His arm around her and His eyes upon the trail. Her path was humble, generous, gentle, and loving. Nancy faced each day with the heart of a lion spreading cheer in her garden, her home, and her church.

On Thursday, February 23, 2022, after 79 years, heaven lit her way from her home in Gloucester City. Nancy’s soul became unburdened and rose like incense, singing the anthem of the angels and her last goodbye.

Nancy started her days, during the WWII war effort, west of the Appalachians in Louisville, KY. She found her little patch of heaven in and had been a long-time Gloucester neighbor. Her face and her kindness were a perennial part of the Brooklawn Diner, where she waitressed for many years.

Nancy was a dedicated and active parishioner of the Catholic Community of St. Mary in Gloucester City. She volunteered her time as part of the praesidium in the Legion of Mary and with the lunch program, among others. Nancy is the widow of her late husband; James E. Pierce. She is survived by her children, James “Casey” and his wife Rose, Keith, Melanie, and Gary and his wife Christine Pierce. Mrs. Pierce is the proud “Memom” of Ryan, Kira, Sara, Joshua, Colin, Finnegan, and Margaret Ann.

Nancy was born into a large Irish-Catholic family. She was one of 10 children and will be sadly missed by countless nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Relatives, friends, neighbors, and parishioners gathered with the Pierce family in the Etherington & Creran Funeral Homes, Gloucester City. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Mary’s Church, Gloucester City. The time-honored tradition of witnessing love’s reunion was held privately at New St. Mary’s Cemetery, Bellmawr.

Rita Duckinfield (March 9th)

Rita Duckinfield (nee McElroy), 77, of Gloucester City passed away on February 21, 2023.

She is predeceased by her husband, Harry J. Duckinfield, Sr. Survived by her sons, John Markovski and Harry J. Duckinfield Jr. Predeceased by her brother, James McElroy.

Rita was born in Paterson to the late James and Katherine McElroy. A former resident of Woodlynne, Rita worked as a school aide for the Woodlynne School District for many years.

At Rita's request, services were held privately.

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

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

Thomas J. Durkin (March 9th)

Tom passed away peacefully in his sleep on February 28, 2023, at the age of 72. He lived in Mystic Island, and was formerly of Somerdale and Gloucester City.

Loving and devoted husband for 50 years to Denise "Denny" C. Durkin (nee Costa). Cherished father of Pam Durkin, Jennifer Aiken (Andy), Lauren DeLucas (Dennis) and the late David S. Durkin. Fun and Caring Pop-Pop of Shawn, Emily, Barrett, Darwin, Griffin and Ireland. Beloved brother of Rev. James Durkin, John Durkin (Terry), Marge Thomas (Joe) and Joe Durkin (Joan). Admired brother-in-law of Dr. Richard Costa (Maria) and also survived by many dear nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

He was born in Camden to the late James A. and Margaret E. Durkin (nee Klostermann). Tom was a graduate of Gloucester Catholic High School Class of 1968, where he was a member of the 1967 undefeated football team. He served six years in the 177th NJ Air National Guard out of Egg Harbor Township.

Tom had a successful 33-year career as a hardworking and dedicated employee for Bell Atlantic/Verizon before retiring in 2003. After retiring, he continued to stay busy and show his trademark compassion by working part-time for the McCann-Healey Funeral Home family for almost 20 years.

Tom was such a selfless, kind and giving person and never hesitated to lend a helping hand or provide a laugh or an ear to listen. He lived life fully. Among his many interests, Tom's favorite was spending time with his beautiful wife and family and all their adventures through the years. Camping, beach trips, Disney vacations, cruises, visiting Ireland.

Many years of Durkin family gatherings, watching his children play sports, golfing, gardening, fishing/crabbing, kayaking, mowing lawns, hiking, playing games, dancing, being in nature and spending time with so many wonderful neighbors, GCHS, VZ and Great Bay Paddler friends. A cancer survivor, a passionate Phillies and Eagles fan, an avid outdoor enthusiast, a loyal friend to many, strong in faith, a family man whose love, dedication and patience has been revered by so many. Tom's impact was far-reaching and he will be missed beyond measure.

Having known each other since being young teenagers, Tom and Denny's love story is full of laughter, fun, respect, adoration and a legacy of connection and family. Rarely apart, they loved being together and spent their days enjoying each other's company and planning their next adventure. A true gentleman, he always opened the door for his bride, held her tight and was the best listener, hugger, hand holder and back massager. Going forward, let's all hold the door for others, offer a hand, give back, look up at the stars, gaze at the water, laugh hard and love deeply.

Relatives and friends attended his first viewing in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, and a second viewing in St. Mary's Church, Gloucester City, where his Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment followed in New St. Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider donating to the American Red Cross online at www.redcross.org/donate/ or give blood or platelets, as Tom would regularly do.

Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com under the obituary of Thomas J. Durkin.

Howard Theckston Jr. (March 16th)

Howard J. Theckston Jr., 90, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on February 28, 2023.

Born and raised in Gloucester City, Howard graduated from St. Mary's Grammar School and Gloucester Catholic High School before serving in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War.

After his honorable discharge, he married Margaret Taylor and relocated to Downingtown, PA, where they raised their two children. Howard enjoyed many hobbies including fishing, golfing, darts and shooting pool. He is lovingly survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret; his son Howard J. III (Fara); his daughter, Tracy Risse (Rich); his five grandchildren, Taylor Coyle (Jim), Matthew and Ryan Risse, Amanda and Riley Theckston, and was looking forward to becoming a great-grandfather in May; his sister, Carol Monforte (Lou), along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his two brothers, Norman and Warren Theckston.

Relatives and friends attended his Visitation in St. Mary's Church, Gloucester City, where his Funeral Mass was celebrated. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org).

Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Healey Funeral Home, Haddon Heights.

John Ralph Cuneo (March 16th)

John Ralph Cuneo, 84, of Bellmawr, finally found peace and passed away on March 6, 2023.

John was born and raised in South Philadelphia and was a long-time resident of Bellmawr. He worked as an electric designer and draftsman for Stone and Webster. He is more canonically remembered for his co-ownership of Ricci Brothers hoagies in South Philadelphia, where he was affectionately known as "Ricci John." John was also known for being a musician and talented drummer his entire life.

As a young boy, he began playing the drums with wedding bands and for other venues at the age of 10. He continued to play drums throughout his life, playing on the stage with Frankie Avalon and Bootsie Barnes. His passions included music, being one of the biggest fans of Frank Sinatra, and spending time with his three grandchildren.

John was predeceased by his father, Dominic Cuneo, and his mother Angelina Cuneo (nee Fulginiti). He is survived by his wife, Virginia Cuneo (nee Ibbetson); brother, Gregory (Barbara) Cuneo; sister, Diana Cuneo; loving daughter, Stacey (Eric) Bittmann; and grandchildren, Evan Bittmann, Emma Bittmann, and Christian Bittmann.

John's Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Gloucester City, where relatives and friends went to his viewing before the service. Burial was in Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, PA. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.mccannhealey.com. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St. Gloucester City.

June Mae Mellon (March 16th)

June Mae Mellon (nee Malone) had an insatiable zeal for life. She was energized with a feisty and stubborn charisma that was the life of the party. She was the dancing queen. June shot straight from her hip and was adored for her unwavering ethic, love of her family, and those silly game shows.

On March 1, 2023, our tears not only fell, they crashed around us. Our mother, sister, grandmother, and great-grandmother passed away at Virtua Lourdes Hospital in Camden. One day we will know how lucky we were to have known her love with wonder, not grief.

June was born in Camden and had been a longtime Gloucester City neighbor. She worked as a manager at K-Mart in Brooklawn, was a member of the seniors club, and volunteered her time at the Highland Park Fire Co. #3 Ladies Auxiliary.

At home, play dates with her grandbabies were a priority. She was an avid bingo player, who always found something to get into with the "Three Musketeers" and oh, those Wildwood days. She made every day amazing. June's heart was filled with her family. She is the widow of her late husband, Joseph W. Mellon, Jr. and leaves her children Linda and her husband Bill Irvin, Joanne Londino McDonald, Joseph W. III and his wife Tammy, and Denise and her husband Charles Clair to cherish her memory.

Mrs. Mellon is the proud grandmother of Chrissy (Zach), Beth (Kevin), Vincent (Taylor), Tina, Eileen (Andrew), Kathy (Nick), Kristen (Keith), Gabrielle (Danny), Code James, Zoeanne, Sarah, Charles (Carly), Chelsea (Steve) and Billy. She was the doting "GiGi" to Deena (Kyle), Samantha, Sloane, Jax, Bria, Maya, Raegan, Hayden, James Joseph, Elijah and C.J., Makayla, and Seana. June was predeceased by her siblings Jackie Malone, Etta Hart, and her son-in-law Francis McGlinchey.

She is also survived and sadly missed by her brother Norman Malone, her brother-in-law James Mellon, sister-in-law Nancy Cahill, her daughter-in-law Christine Mellon, and will be kindly remembered by John McDonald and Richard Mercedes, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Relatives, friends, and neighbors gathered with the Mellon family to share heartfelt stories of Christmases past and those lazy days on the beach at the Etherington & Creran Creran Funeral Homes, 700 Powell St., Gloucester City, where her Remembrance Ceremony was celebrated by Pastor Debra Conner. The graveside tribute was in Locustwood Memorial Park, Cherry Hill.

As an expression of sympathy and in lieu of flowers, a gift of gratitude can be given to Virtua Health Philanthropy www.givetovirtua.org P.O. Box 70260 Philadelphia, PA 19176.

Melissa M. Browne (March 23rd)

Melissa M. Browne, 31, passed away suddenly on March 12, 2023.

Born in Camden, she was the daughter of David L. Browne and the late Patricia A. Lokaj. She is survived by her loving daughter, Rayanna P. Conway, and her sister, Megan A. Browne.

Melissa enjoyed her time at the shore, loved spending time with her daughter and family. She had worked as an operations coordinator for Pacific Trellis in Gloucester City.

Relatives and friends attended her visitation in the McCann-Healey Funeral Home, 851 Monmouth St., Gloucester City, where her Funeral Service was celebrated. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to: <https://gofund.me/685dec9c> in memory of Melissa M. Browne for the care of her daughter, Rayanna P. Conway.

Condolences and memories can be shared at www.mccannealey.com.

Stephen Tyszka (March 23rd)

Stephen B. Tyszka, 91, of Cape Coral, FL, formerly of Mount Ephraim, passed away peacefully on February 5, 2023.

He was born in Philadelphia on August 11, 1931, and was the proud son to Rose (Michalczewski) and Stephen Tyszka. Stephen was predeceased by his beloved wife, Lucy M. Tyszka. He is the dear father of Stephen Tyszka of Audubon, Kathryn Hambleton (Scott) of Lebanon, PA, and Patricia Carbone (Anthony) of Audubon. He is the loving grandfather to Stephen, Sara, Emily, Zak, Alex, Nina, Andrew, Chelsea, Timothy, Mariel and Anthony, and the great-grandfather to Noah, Lucy, Hazel and, so shortly after his passing, baby Josephine. He is also, survived by brother Stanley Tyszka.

Steve served his country proudly during the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army. He worked as a salesman in the electronics industry before retiring to Cape Coral, where Steve enjoyed many happy years living life to the fullest.

For all family and friends, a Graveside Service will be held in Section O at New St. Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr, on Saturday, March 25, at 11:30 a.m.

Msgr. Harry Jordan (March 30th)

The Rev. Msgr. Harry Jordan, 90, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Gloucester City for eight years, passed away peacefully at the Sacred Heart Residence for Priests on March 25, 2023.

Born in Philadelphia to the late Peter and Elsie Jordan, Msgr. Jordan graduated from Lafayette College and Christ the King Seminary. He was ordained into the priesthood, for the Diocese of Camden, on May 27, 1961, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Camden, by the Most Rev. Celestine J. Damiano. Msgr. Jordan served as Parochial Vicar and resided in several parishes throughout the diocese including, St. Teresa, Runnemede, Incarnation, Mantua, St. Joseph's Pro-Cathedral, Camden, St. Anthony of Padua, Hammonton, St. Martin, Hammonton, St. Agnes, Blackwood, Most Holy Redeemer, Westville Grove, Corpus Christi, Carneys Point, Holy Rosary, Queen of Heaven, and Pius X, Cherry Hill.

In 1991 he was appointed Administrator of St. Mary's Church, Rosenhayn, where he served until becoming Pastor of St. Isidore, the Farmer Church, Vineland from 1991-1995. On December 5, 1995, Msgr. Jordan was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Gloucester City where he served until his retirement in 2003.

Msgr. Jordan was appointed Prelate of Honor by Pope St. John Paul II on May 18, 2000. In addition to his parish service, Msgr. Jordan taught at Camden Catholic High School and served as Principal of St. Joseph's High School, Hammonton, and later Gloucester Catholic High School, Gloucester City. Additionally, Msgr. Jordan served as Episcopal Vicar for Health Affairs, and was a member to several committees including the Presbyterial Council, College of Consultors, and the Compensations & Benefits Committee.

He also served as the Director of the House of Charity, Vianney Villa, and the Sacred Heart Residences. Outside of Msgr. Jordan's ministry, he enjoyed history, reading biographies, dining out with friends, and anything baseball related.

In addition to his brother priests, Msgr. Jordan is survived by his cousin George, Edward, Patricia, Carol, and Jeanie Munyan, Barbara Ratzke, Gary Morlock, Linda, and Edward Morlock. Relatives, friends, and clergy attended his viewing on March 28 in St. Mary's Church, where his Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Rev. Dennis J. Sullivan, Bishop of Camden. Interment followed at New St. Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Msgr. Jordan's memory to St. Mary's Church, Gloucester City.

Mary Vaughn (March 30th)

Mary Vaughn (nee LaBance), 90, of Marion, formerly of Bellmawr, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2023.

Mary was born in Oneida, PA, and moved to Camden with her family, where she became a secretary at RCA. Also, for Mary being a homemaker was one of the great pleasures of her life. She was extremely proud of her five children. Mary was a great conversationalist. She loved reading, tennis, and spending time with her family. She is survived by her son, Billy Kossmann (Michelle); her daughters; Patti Gardner (David), Joni Peterson (Larry), Jessie Vaughn; and her daughter-in-law, Jaime Vaughn. She was a loving grandmother to 12

grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Annette DiLeo, and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her loving husband, James Clyde Vaughn; her son, Zachary Scott Vaughn; her brothers, John and Robert; and her sisters, Kathryn Swinehart, Helene Curtin and Eleanor Cherasaro.

Her viewing and Funeral Service were held at Boakes Funeral Home, Mays Landing. Burial of ashes was at Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery, Estell Manor.

Anne C. Booth (March 30th)

Anne C. Booth (nee Dubas), 85, was received into the loving arms of Jesus on March 18, 2023.

Anne was the beloved mother of William, Anne (Joseph) Domico and the late David. Beloved Bopchi to her five grandchildren. Dear sister of Peter Dubas (Ginnie). Also survived by her sisters-in-law, many nieces, and nephews. Merry Christmas! Predeceased by loving husband, William J. Booth Jr.

Family and friends attended her Visitation at both the Smith Funeral Home, Mantua, and the Gateway Christian Church, Woodbury, where her Funeral Service was celebrated. Burial was in Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Operation Blessing, Ukraine Crisis Relief, 977 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, VA 23463.