

A Celebration Of Life For

Costello Foushee Mahan

Sunrise
July 6, 1931

"Cos"

Sunset
October 30, 2013

Service

Thursday, November 7, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.

METROPOLITAN A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

597 Bergen Avenue • Jersey City, New Jersey

Rev. Nathaniel B. LeGay, Jr. - Officiating

Obituary

Gloria Costello (“Cos”) Foushee, 82, was born on July 6, 1931, in Greensboro, North Carolina, the only child of Amos and Jeannette (Brown) Foushee. God called her home to rest on October 30, 2013, following a prolonged illness.

The Foushee Family joined the historical African American Great Migration and traveled north in search of better employment opportunities. They settled in the Lafayette section of Jersey City where Cos graduated from Lincoln High School in 1949. She was an active drum majorette and Double Dutch champion in her youth. Her extroverted personality made her a popular student. She graduated from the Drake Business School (Journal Square) and was employed by Jersey City Medical Center in the Admissions Office, where she was promoted to Supervisor. In a lateral career path, Dr. Kenneth (Ken) Mahan of Beckley, West Virginia, selected Jersey City Medical Center for his medical residency. Here, their paths crossed and the rest ... is history. They married on July 4, 1953. In later years, she assisted her husband Ken, now a retired surgeon, and functioned as the office manager in his surgical practice in Jersey City (Bergen Avenue).

Ken and Cos continued to reside in Jersey City, in the Greenville section, and raised their five children. Cos became a stay-at-home mother and was active in many civic organizations in Jersey City and north Jersey, serving on the boards of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hudson County Medical Society, NAACP, and Planned Parenthood as well as joining Jack and Jill of America. She was well known in Jersey City. She was also elected president of her children’s Parent-Teacher Association at the Bergen School (Bergen Avenue). Some of the children also attended Jersey Academy (Kennedy Blvd.). The couple appreciated the value of a good education for their children. For many summers, the children attended day camp at the Jewish Community Center (Bergen Avenue).

The Foushee family attended Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church (Virginia Ave. and currently Bergen Avenue), instilling a religious foundation in Cos. This continues to be the Mahan family’s home church. Dr. Martin Luther King spoke at Metropolitan Church one week before his assassination. It was a family honor to attend his speech. Cos also attended Dr. King’s March on Washington in 1963, joining one of the buses leaving from Jersey City.

Cos was always proud of her “Jersey City roots.” She cultivated and nurtured many lifelong friendships. Many relationships endured following the family’s move to Loch Arbour (Monmouth County) in 1970. She moved to the Jersey Shore in spite of being fearful of the ocean and swimming. Her “shore experience” consisted of sitting on the shaded front porch, enjoying the ocean breezes, and greeting the beach-goers as they passed by. She often read her newspapers, The Jersey Journal (which she purchased at a shore pharmacy) and Asbury Park Press, on the front porch. She took a daily break from the porch to watch her favorite soap opera, The Young and the Restless.

Cos’ civic interests continued in Loch Arbour, where she served on the Ladies of Loch Arbour Board, Monmouth Park Charity Ball Committee, and Girl Scouts Council of Monmouth County. She also found time to enroll at Brookdale Community College as a social work major. In 2011, Cos and the Monmouth Park Charity Ball Committee members were honored with a Proclamation issued by the State of New Jersey, Senate and General Assembly legislators.

Socially, Cos was known as “the life of the party.” She was active in NJ Girl Friends, Inc. (44 years) and two local Bridge clubs. The couple hosted an annual after-party for Ken’s Nor-Jer-Men holiday gala and hosted Independence Day parties to celebrate their wedding anniversary and the holiday. Cos was a terrific cook, developed a penchant for oil painting, had a “green thumb,” loved her cats, and collected crab memorabilia in recognition of her Zodiac sign of Cancer, the Crab. The couple traveled extensively, visiting countries in South and Central America, Asia, and Europe as well as within the USA and Canada. They frequently traveled with all or some of their children, wishing to expose them to lifestyles beyond New Jersey. They also traveled with other couples and travel companions. Many had Jersey City roots. She loved the ambiance of Atlantic City and attending horse races at Monmouth Park. Her gold jewelry was legendary, with many people, including strangers, admiring her collection. She wore her jewels proudly and in general, enjoyed the finer things in life.

This year, Cos and Ken celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary at Manor by the Sea Nursing Home, Ocean Grove, New Jersey. They were surrounded by local family and friends. It was a joyous occasion filled with love and celebration.

Cos was the “glue” of her family. She is survived by her loving husband, Ken; five devoted children and their spouses: Dr. Juneau Mahan Gary (Dr. Melvin Gary), a psychologist and counselor; Barbara Mahan Green, a former health care administrator; Dr. Janet Mahan Williams (Michael Williams), a physician in Ocean Township; Kenneth (“KK”) Mahan, Jr. (Bridgette Mahan), a former bank executive; and Joel Mahan, a radio newscaster and educator; three grandchildren, Erika Green, Kristen Mahan, and Brendan Mahan; one step-grandson, JT Gary; two great-grandsons, Cameron and Christian Green; one cousin/“brother,” Donald Lipscomb; three “adopted” children, Allison Ross, the late Byrd Walker, and Sharon Harris; two Godchildren, Judith Francis and Vernard Parker and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and many cherished friends. She is pre-deceased by her parents, Amos and Jeannette Foushee.

Cos was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, step-grandmother, great-grandmother, and loyal friend. We will miss you, Cos/Mom/Nanny/”Ba-Nana.”

Order of Service

Prelude Carl Washington, Organist

Processional

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings Allison Ross

Old Testament: Psalm 121

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

Solo *"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"* Lillie Fleming

Reflections Kenneth W. Mahan, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Pearly Hayes

Ruby Sampson

Kristen Mahan

Remarks Rev. Dr. George W. Maize, III, (Presiding Elder)

Resolutions and Acknowledgements Lillie Fleming

Obituary To be read silently

Solo *"It Is Well With My Soul"* Lillie Fleming

Eulogy Rev. Nathaniel B. LeGay, Jr.

Benediction

Recessional

***Friends are invited to join the family for a light repast,
at the church, immediately following the service***

Entombment

Woodbridge Memorial Gardens

Woodbridge, New Jersey

Precious



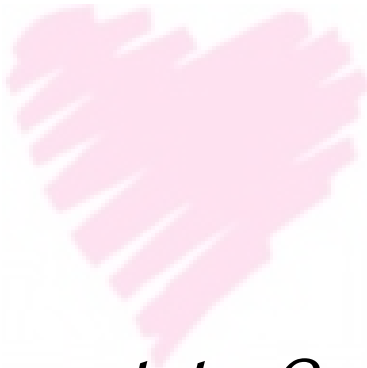
Memories



Precious

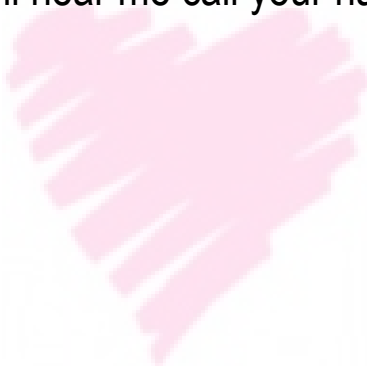


Memories

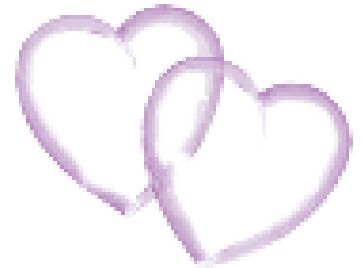


Beyond the Sunset

Should you go first and I remain,
to walk the road alone,
I'll live in memories garden, dear,
with happy days we've known.
In spring I'll wait for roses red,
when faded, the lilacs blue
In early fall when brown leaves fall,
I'll catch a glimpse of you.
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,
tho blindly I may grope,
The memory of your helping hand
will buoy me on with hope.
Should you go first and I remain,
one thing I'll have you do:
Walk slowly down that long long path,
for soon I'll follow you.
I want to know each step you take,
So I may take the same.
For someday down that lonely road,
You'll hear me call your name.



Our Precious Memories of Mom



Juneau's precious memory of Mom is ... your travel companionship on international trips to Costa Rica, Japan, Panama, Spain, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, and Indonesia. In Japan, it took the brain power of both of us to navigate the language, and we still got lost and befuddled. I'd do it again!

Barbara's precious memory of Mom is ... remembering you by my side at the hospital for the birth of your first grandchild, Erika Nicole in 1987. In that beautiful first picture taken of you holding Erika, you were a smiling, happy, and proud "Nana." Thank you for your unconditional love and guidance!

Janet's precious memory of Mom is ... while wading at the edge of a beach at age 5, a wave overtook me. Although you were pregnant, afraid of water, and couldn't swim, you jumped in and pulled me out of the water and saved me!

KK's precious memory of Mom is ... your unwavering, overly enthusiastic, and rambunctious cheering at my youth football and basketball games, in spite of your intense dislike of sports. While it made me uncomfortable because of the attention on me, when I became a parent, I realized that it was your unique expression of love for your oldest son. I truly appreciated it. THANKS MOM!!!

Joel's precious memory of Mom is ... you accompanied me to California to be a contestant on Wheel of Fortune in 1991. After I joked with host, Pat Sajak that I wanted his job (a comment that he did not find funny) and even though I did not win a dime, you gave me something that no amount of money could buy ... you said, "You're a winner in my heart!"

*How do we count the lives she touched, the light she shed
for years?*

*How do we see the difference she made, when were looking
through our tears?*

*How do we know the things that are that never would have
been without her valiant heart that dared to fight and
fight again?*

*How do we know what flowers will bloom from
seeds of yesterday, what songs are sung, what
dreams begun because she passed this way?*

*How do we measure the shining place that time can
never pale in all the hearts that cheered her on and willed her
to prevail?*

*How did her spirit soar beyond the suffering and the tears to live with
one hand clutching hope and the other
on the stars?*

*We may not know what she left behind on the difficult path she trod
but we know this much, her life's brief touch was from the hand of God.*

In Appreciation

*The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and
comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their time of sorrow.
May God bless each of you.*

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
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201-433-1000

