



Helen M. Stokes

July 11, 1934 - January 24, 2022

Obituary & Funeral Livestream Information

A Magnolia tree graced the yard at 206 North Green Street. It was a Lincolnvillle landmark, the birthplace of the Elliott Children, Margaret, Jean, Raymond, Helen and Barbara Anne. We were all born on Carroll Street in Portsmouth, Va. The middle child of the family, As a baby, we were told, she was easy to manage and very well disciplined. We were also told that when she was a baby, colorful pictures fascinated her, which is probably the beginning of her interest in art. She grew up to be a very shy and calm young lady.

She started school in 1940's and attended elementary, junior and senior high school in the Portsmouth Public Schools. In high school, she was a member of the DO Club (Diversified Occupation), Newspaper Staff and Pep Club. As a senior at I. C. Norcom High School, Helen participated in all of the events leading up to graduation. For a short period of time, she found satisfaction in becoming a cheerleader. When there was a request for the senior class song, she created the words and entitled it "Departure," sung in the tune of time "It's a Sin," a popular hit song of the time. An average student, high school was the time she learned the fundamentals of academics and life, the period she develop social skills The experience became stressful at times, but she stepped out of her comfort zone, managed it, and met lasting friends.

Upon Graduating in June of '52, she attended Norfolk Division of Va. State College for a semester, but she soon found an opportunity to attend a nursing school. Becoming a member of the Nursing profession was her desire. At the age of 18, and left Portsmouth and went to live in the Big Apple, New York. She completed a term at the Central School for Practical Nurses and later graduated with honors as a Laboratory Technician from the Mandl School for Medical Assistants. Her first job in her profession was at the Bellevue Medical Center in the polio division. She retired in 1995 as a Laboratory Technician at the New Jersey Blood Center and, as a volunteer, was known as the "Foster Grandparent" for The Day Care Council of New Brunswick, NJ.

In 1959, she met and married Eugene Stokes (Deceased). From that union, they became parents of an only son Jerry (Deceased). Helen obtained a new family when she was adopted as a surrogate mother and mother – in-law to Charmaine and Melvin Weldon of New Jersey. Her new family also includes step-grandchildren, Janae and Melvin, Jr., whom she referred to as "Lil Mel" even after he became an adult.

Before confined by her illness, Helen was very active and well – known in her church, First Baptist of Lincoln Gardens. She devotedly served as a member of the Women's Ministry which included the Women's Auxiliary, Senior Fellowship, Pastor's Aide Circle, Volunteer for the Harvest of Hope Family Services Network, Inc, the Book Club of Blanche, and the Scholarship Committee working very diligently to raise money by encouraging others to attend each year. She was very proud to admit that she sold the most tickets to the fashion show scholarship event, which even attracted the cookie man "Famous Amos" to attend.

Sis. Stokes was very talented and creative. She was a seamstress and an accomplished artist; she once attended an art class to become even better in

that skill. She once displayed her art creations at an art show and even sold three of them. She was not an avid football fan, as many of the family members are, but she would sit all day to watch a basketball game, her favorite sport. She loved to shop to grab the deals, especially on Black Friday.

Her love for family and friends borders on reverence; she enjoys just being around them, especially on holidays. An excellent cook, she often arranged backyard and in-house parties for her friends, who raved about her pork barbecue and rum cake. There was no end to the heroic sacrifices she made for family. She was there to comfort, offer healthful, as well as financial support to her siblings and others she loved. She could also be a disciplinarian! When her son Jerry and goddaughter Tracye were kids and acted up in play at the dinner table, she would threaten to take the skin off of their fried chicken.

Helen was the kind of sister everyone should have: Heroic: There was no end to her bravery and sacrifices when family members or friends needed her to be strong; kindhearted, generous and Loving: As the rest of us, Helen suffered the knocks and blows of life, and like the rest of us, she survived.

On Monday, January 24, 2022, Helen Marie Stokes departed this life. While absent in flesh, her joyous spirit lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memories her only surviving sibling Barbara Flowers Washington, DC), Nieces: Jean Clark(Colorado) Vernadette (Manassas, VA; Patricia (Frank) Fredericksburg, VA; Francine (Lowell) Georgia, Tracye (Goddaughter) Washington, DC; and loving Adopted family Weldon: Charmaine, Melvin, Mel, Jr.Janae, and Melva. (New Jersey). (Sisters Margaret and Jean and Brother Raymond preceded her in transition.)

*****Funeral Livestream Via Zoom*****

Thursday, February 3, 2022,
12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81924544699?pwd=TXpCRIFINU9nUENlbFBrUIJhR2N5UT09>

Password: 408821

Meeting ID: 819 2454 4699

Password: 408821

Or Telephone:

Dial:

USA 602 333 2017

USA 8882045987 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 349894

Find local AT&T Numbers: <https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/glbAccess?process=1&accessNumber=8882045987&accessCode=349894>

Cemetery Details

Van Liew Cemetery

585 Georges Road
North Brunswick, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Service
201 Sandford St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(732) 545-7312
<https://www.andersonfuneralservice.net>

Funeral Service

FEB 3. 12:00 PM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Service
201 Sandford St.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(732) 545-7312
<https://www.andersonfuneralservice.net>

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen M. Stokes*

September 22, 2022 at 02:41 PM



“ *Mrs. Stokes a neighbor for many many years. She gave me my first babysitting job with Jerry. Always a listening ear and a great friend of the Cato family. I have very very fond memories of you. May you RIP.*

Denese Cato-Scott - February 18, 2022 at 07:47 AM



“ *Aunt Helen always remember how you & Aunt Barbara, Aunt Margaret always helping (Mom) with us kids. I love you Aunt Helen, give my love to our family in heaven. -Francine*

Francine Mason - February 03, 2022 at 10:26 AM



A great neighbor a great family friend. You trusted me to babysit your baby Jerry. You were always there to offer advice and kindness. A very special lady Ms. Helen Stokes.

Denese Cato

Denese Scott - February 04, 2022 at 09:02 AM

FL

“ Dear Helen,
I will always remember the many gatherings at your home. My favorite is when you took my granddaughter into your pool. At first she was so scared. Then she became so excited you had to keep her from the deep side of the pool. I love you and you will always have a special memory in my heart. RIP.
Faye Lewis

Faye Lewis - February 03, 2022 at 10:07 AM

JD

“ Aunt Helen,

Remembering how special your fruit cakes were, saturated with rum!! I always looked forward to the Holidays to experience that first slice. May you rest in peace, you will always be in our Hearts.

Always,
Linda, Niya, Eric

john darby - February 03, 2022 at 09:39 AM

VD

“ Helen was my dear friend, and I will truly miss her. Helen and I met 40+ years ago at a picnic at the home of Booker and Mickey Dixon where we became like sisters and then family. We traveled together, took bus trips together, and I always looked forward to spending time with her at the First Baptist Church Scholarship luncheons. Not only will I miss Helen as my sister-friend, but I will miss her delicious pina coladas and rum cake.

My deepest condolences to the family.

Victoria Darby - February 02, 2022 at 08:35 PM

JD

“ Aunt Helen is who she was to me ! One of my mothers best friends. We always had a good time at Aunt Helens! She had the best recipe for frozen peanut coladas!Yum. And there was her rum cake at Christmas! Playing with Jerry and all of his dinosaurs. She hosted my bridal shower round the pool and saw to it that the top layer of my wedding cake was put in her freezer. Vernon and I will always be grateful,

She will be missed but never forgotten

With caring thoughts and prayers

Joanie DarbyHinson

Joanie Darby-Hinson - February 02, 2022 at 08:11 PM

AW

“ Helen left many of us with fond memories. When you were with her you always got a laugh or chuckle about something. Vicky Darby and I were Helen's faithful regulars at her table at the Pines for the Scholarship Luncheon. She always gave her entire table thank you gifts for attending, which I thought was such a nice thing to do. I will miss her, her gentle voice and the visits Vicky and I would have at her home around the pool.

My deepest condolences to the family. I will keep you in my prayers.

Anna White - February 02, 2022 at 06:10 PM

MA

“ *Maureen E. Archibald*
Maureen.e.archibald@gmail.com

To the family of Mrs. Helen Stokes February 3, 2022

I am joining with family and friends in celebration of the life of Mrs. Helen Stokes.

I came to know Mrs. Stokes as a faithful volunteer of Harvest of Hope Family Services, Inc. Mrs. Stokes was always punctual in attendance for the volunteer committee meetings and was always in support of the Agency's events and activities. She was relentless in her service to the Agency: childcare, hosting our many special events or promotion of events to generate funding for items outside of the State's contract. Mrs. Stokes was a faithful volunteer.

Mrs. Stokes was equally committed to the scholarship committee, often soliciting our support for upcoming scholarship events at the end of our volunteer committee meetings. Who could say no to such dedication?

In the words of former member of the House of Representative, Shirley Chisholm: "Service is the rent we pay for living". Helen has paid her rent, nothing in arrears. I have no doubt that she is now resting in peace in the arms of angels.

Thanks for your service Ms. Helen!

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen E. Archibald
Former Executive Director
Harvest of Hope Family Services, Inc.

Maureen Archibald - February 02, 2022 at 01:56 PM



“ 5.5" EBN Kneeling & Praying Angel was purchased for the family of Helen M. Stokes.



February 01, 2022 at 05:34 PM