

# MEMORIALS

*Each year at the opening session of the annual Spring Conference we recall the names of social workers and colleagues who have passed away since the previous year's conference. This year the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from doing so. We have prepared this memorial to eleven colleagues, many of whom would have been eager to greet us at the conference. If you know of others to be added to the memorial, please contact us.*

## *We remember...*

HELEN ADELIA SLAUGHTER BASHAM  
CATHERINE HENKEL CARTER  
NELLE RATRIE CHILTON  
RENAE CHARLENE CUTLIP-LIVESAY

JOHN C. FIORE  
LOIS OPHA (DUNBAR) GEORGE  
MACKENZIE LEIGH HEINER  
HELEN CHESTINE LYNCH LEONARD

JULIUS ALFONZIA McLEOD  
SARA JANE VIERS MONROE  
TROLETA STEWART MOODY  
WILLIAM "BILL" DOUGLAS O'DELL



**HELEN ADELIA SLAUGHTER BASHAM**, 1928 – Jan. 4, 2020, mother, social worker, early childhood education specialist, artist. Helen graduated from WVU in 1950 with a bachelor's degree in social work. She lived in West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and New York before returning to Charleston in 1967 where she resumed her social work career, working as a child and family therapist and as an administrator and trainer in Head Start, Family Day Care, Foster Care, and Child Protective Services.



**CATHERINE HENKEL CARTER**, of Charleston, died in her home on April 2, 2020, of undetermined causes. Cat was a devoted mother, licensed social worker, and always ready to open her home to homeless cats and dogs. Uncommonly loving and attuned to the suffering of others, she will be dearly missed.



**NELLE RATRIE CHILTON** died peacefully at home surrounded by family on April 16, 2020. Born in Charleston, W.Va., she earned a master's degree in social work at the University of Michigan and practiced in the field of family counseling for several years. As a social worker turned businesswoman deeply committed to her family and her community, Nelle was always finding ways to make a positive impact in the Kanawha Valley, including of involvement with the Kanawha County Public Library, as a trustee of the University of Charleston and The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, CAMC Health System board of trustees, Sunrise Museum, WV Center for Civic Life, Charleston Renaissance.



**RENAE CHARLENE CUTLIP-LIVESAY** Feb. 18, 1960 - May 18th, 2020, was born in Huntington. She graduated Concord College and WVU, earning her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work in May of 1983. Her 32-year career as a

dedicated Social Worker for the DHHR of WV focused on Child Protection Services, making her way from front line social worker to Supervisor, and finally as statewide Quality Assurance Worker. She also worked for 19 years at the Veterinary Clinic in Pickaway, W.Va., part time, which she dearly loved.



**JOHN C. FIORE**, 88, of South Charleston, died June 5, 2020, at the Cleveland Clinic. John was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., and lived there until his retirement. He earned a bachelor's degree in social work and worked for New York City Social Services. He moved to West Virginia in 2007 and married Pattie Price Fiore. John loved West Virginia and said he felt he had always belonged here. He volunteered at Thomas Memorial Hospital for 12 years.



**LOIS OPHA (DUNBAR) GEORGE** passed on October 27, 2019. She was born February 17, 1928 in Clear Creek, WV. A Department of Health & Human Services Social Worker for 19 years, she loved being an advocate for children and would often fill the trunk of her car with shoes to give to the children she encountered. After retiring, she decided she would care for children of working parents during the day. "Georgie," as she was known, became a "grandmother" for numerous children who continued to stay in contact with her throughout her life.



**MACKENZIE LEIGH HEINER**, 26, of Chillicothe, Ohio, formerly of Huntington, W.Va., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Mackenzie attended Marshall University and earned her BSW degree in social work. She is survived by her parents, Terri and Dutch, and daughter Marleigh France, whom she adored.



**HELEN CHESTINE LYNCH LEONARD**, 91, of Dunbar, WV, passed away Sept. 18, 2019. She received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from West Virginia State College. For 10 years, she worked as a Resident Supervisor for the Kanawha Home for Children in Dunbar.



*"As we think, so we become! Thinking is the foundation for all we say and do."* -- Julius A. McLeod  
**JULIUS ALFONZIA McLEOD** was born in 1936 and passed away July 4, 2020. He graduated from North Carolina Central University with a B.S. in Social Work, and West Virginia University with a Master's in Social Work. Julius worked at Lakin State Hospital in Point Pleasant, where he was known as "Big Mac", moving from being an Aide to Director of Social

Work Services. In 1972 he became a professor of Social Work at West Virginia State College (now University), and later worked for the State of WV Mental Health Dept. as a Social Worker. He retired from St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington as a Psychotherapist.

**SARA JANE VIERS MONROE**, January 05, 1959 - January 20, 2019. Sara Jane Viers Monroe, 60, of Allen Junction, passed away on Sunday, January 20, 2018 at her residence in Mullens. Sara was a longtime employee of Mountain Heart Community Services where she served as Assistant Director for the Child Care Program. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren and was an avid Mountaineer fan.



**TROLETA STEWART MOODY**, 72, passed away on June 3, 2019 at Duke Raleigh Hospital, Raleigh, NC. She served for many years as Chief of Social Work at the Martinsburg WV Veterans Administration Medical Center before her retirement to Danville, VA. She was a lifelong member of NASW and was active in the leadership of the NASW West Virginia Chapter, as well as in the WV Society for Social Work Leaders in Healthcare.



**WILLIAM "BILL" DOUGLAS O'DELL**, 68, of Poca was a graduate Marshall University and worked at the Regional Family Resource Network as Director of the Putnam Wellness Coalition. He dedicated his life to drug and alcohol prevention and was a mentor to many. His impact on youth and the community cannot be measured. He touched many lives at the annual Teen Institute, a leadership program helping young people become leaders around prevention of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other critical daily decisions.