

# MEMORIALS

*We have prepared this memorial page to remember our colleagues in Social Work in West Virginia. Each year at the opening of the annual Spring Conference we say the names of social workers and colleagues who have passed since the previous year's conference was held.*

*If you know of names that should be added to this memorial, please contact us.*

## *We remember...*

JANET ARMSTEAD  
HELEN ADELIA SLAUGHTER BASHAM  
CATHERINE HENKEL CARTER  
NELLE RATRIE CHILTON  
LAUREN RENEE COLE  
RENAE CHARLENE CUTLIP-LIVESAY  
JOHN C. FIORE  
MELINDA KAY GABE  
LOIS OPHA (DUNBAR) GEORGE  
TERRI LYNN HAMRICK  
MACKENZIE LEIGH HEINER

SARA JANE HORNBECK  
CHRISTOPHER "CHIP" KUNHAVIJIT  
Dr. BARRY LOCKE  
HELEN CHESTINE LYNCH LEONARD  
JULIUS ALFONZIA MCLEOD  
SARA JANE VIERS MONROE  
TROLETA STEWART MOODY  
THOMAS ROBERT MORGAN  
DORIS MARILYN (TUCKER) NICHOLAS  
WILLIAM "BILL" DOUGLAS O'DELL  
LARRY E. PAXTON

CHERYL PEAL  
CAROL FARMER QUESENBERRY  
TAMIKA LEE PUGH ROSS  
SONYA ELAINE SIMPSON  
LAWRENCE "ROCKY" TAYLOR  
PAULA JEAN TAYLOR  
TOSHA DANIELLE THOMAS  
STEVEN ALAN THOMPSON  
RHONDA JEFFERY THORN



JANET ARMSTEAD, 70, of Charleston passed away July 11, 2021, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Janet was employed by WV DHHR for 18 years



**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.



**JOAN ROSE CASTO**, formerly of South Charleston, died October 15, 2020. After a career as a reading specialist she obtained her Social Work certification and joined the WV DHHR Kanawha County Office until her retirement. She spent her final years in Florida. The family asks that those who wish to honor her donate to their local hospice organization.



**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.

**JOHN P. CLAUDE** died June 8, 2018, in Wilmington, North Carolina at the age of 87. He was born November 30, 1930, in Belgium of Swiss parents, He, his mother, and siblings were refugees in Switzerland during World War II. As an adult John visited the USA where he met his future wife, Huldah, and later became a U.S. citizen. The family lived in Switzerland, were relief workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and lived in the USA. John was originally an electrician and later went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in clinical social work. Later, John served as Associate Professor/Clinical Social Worker at the Charleston Division of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry in West Virginia. John's upbringing contributed to his capacity for service to others. The expression of his joy was tangible, including when he was helping others experience their own joy. He lived life with passion, exuberance, gentleness, and humility.

**LAUREN RENEE COLE**, 26, of Morgantown, passed away July 9, 2020, after an eight-year battle with addiction. Lauren graduated from WVU with a degree in Social Work and was working towards her master's in social work. She worked as a social worker for Valley Mental Health. She had the biggest heart and never met a stranger she couldn't bond with. Her empathetic nature helped many people. She put the needs of others ahead of her own.



**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.

**MELINDA KAY GABE**, 61, of White Sulphur Springs, died Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at West Virginia Hospitals, Inc. in Morgantown. Born October 17, 1957, at Marlinton, she was was a licensed clinical social worker and attended Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Hillsboro.



**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.

**KAREN JEAN GLAZIER**, 63, of Malden, WV was wished farewell at her home on the 28th of January 2018 Karen was a humble, kind, intelligent women who served quietly at the forefront of care of older people in WV for nearly four decades. Born in Harrisburg, PA, she attended West Virginia Wesleyan and the WVU School of Social Work at West Virginia University, graduating from with honors. Karen also held a Certificate from the Theology School at the University of the South in Swanee, TN. In 2012, she was honored as the West Virginia Social Worker of the Year by NASW WV Chapter. Karen led the development of the first senior discount program in WV while a graduate student at WVU. She founded Good Living Assisted Living in 1981. The Good Living concept thrives to this day and is nationally known as "Green House Project." Her love of community social work was enriched through work with the Cabin Creek Health Systems. She was a guiding force in the startup of KVVP (Kanawha Valley Village People) a support and social organization for people choosing to age in their own homes.



**TERRI LYNN HAMRICK**, 51, passed away Aug. 10, 2020 after a courageous fight with brain cancer. She was a WV licensed social worker for many years, working at Cammack Children's Center in Huntington. She enjoyed attending and presenting at the Spring Conference. She later worked for AIDS Community Alliance in Harrisburg, PA and Survivors, Inc. in Gettysburg, PA prior to moving into her last position as CEO of Safe Space in Stuart, FL



**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.



**SARA JANE HORNBECK**, born December 12, 1949, died November 5, 2020 at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston. She was a graduate of West Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree and took great pride in giving help and care to others for many years, mostly working at St. Francis Hospital in Charleston, WV. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.hardingfamilygroup.com](http://www.hardingfamilygroup.com)



**CHRISTOPHER "CHIP" KUNHAVIJIT**, 46, of Charleston, passed away Sunday, August 15, 2021, at his home. Chip was born in Charleston on July 9, 1975. He was a graduate of West Virginia State University with a degree in Sociology. He was a CPS and APS worker and an avid music lover.



**HELEN CHESTINE LYNCH LEONARD**, 91, of Dunbar, WV, died 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.



**DR. BARRY LANE LOCKE** 74, of Shinnston, passed away on Thursday March 1, 2018. He was born October 8, 1943, in Fairmont. Barry graduated with a BS degree from Fairmont State College, a graduate degree from VCU University VA, and a Doctorate from WVU. He Retired from WVU School of Social Work after 37 years, having served the school as BSW program chair, assistant chair, Interim Dean and director of the program, but he enjoyed teaching in the classroom the most. He was presented a lifetime achievement award by the National Rural Social Work Caucus and enjoyed attending the annual institutes held around the country. He also held several Caucus positions, including President. Barry was also President of the West Virginia Chapter of NASW and the WV Human Services Association and served on the boards of the Family Service Association of Harrison and Marion Counties, and In touch and Concerned information and referral program. He received a certificate of sincere appreciation from WVU Extension Service Visiting Committee and was named A Distinguished West Virginian by Gov. Joseph Manchin.



*"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.

**THOMAS ROBERT MORGAN**, 38, of Huntington, passed away Thursday, November 14, 2019, at his residence. Thomas was born on August 13, 1981, in Boston, Mass. He is survived by two brothers and a sister, three nieces, and several friends and family. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.regerfh.com](http://www.regerfh.com).



**DORIS MARILYN (TUCKER) NICHOLAS** died unexpectedly on January 8, 2021. Doris' professional life was split between Bermuda and WV. She was director of social work services at Ruby Mem. Hospital for many years, but most recently on faculty at the WVU School of Social Work, where she shaped the careers and cultural awareness of countless social workers. A dedicated intelligent and astute social worker, Doris was an active member of NASW WV, having served on the Board of Directors and in other leadership capacities. She was also a past president of the WV Society for Social Work Leaders in Health Care. Donations in her memory to the WVU School of Social Work Scholarship Fund at <https://give.wvu.edu/ecas-SocialWork> will benefit the Doris Nicholas Scholarship Fund.



**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.



**LARRY E. PAXTON**, 66, of Clendenin passed away June 23, 2021. A vehicle accident in 1973 left him paralyzed, but Larry completed rehab at WV State Rehabilitation Center in Institute to reclaim his independence. He went on to graduate from WV State College with a degree in Social Work. Larry was the Executive Director of the Appalachian Center for Independent Living and spent his entire career serving others with disabilities and fighting for equal rights and fair treatment.

**CHERYL PEAL** of Cross Lanes passed away January 15, 2020. She retired from the WV State Supreme Court of Appeals as a Kanawha County Juvenile Probation Officer with over 30 years of service. She was member of the WV Probation Officers Association and a Licensed Social Worker.

**CAROL FARMER QUESENBERRY**, 57, of Bluefield, WV, lost her battle with cancer early on Thursday morning, May 16, 2019. She started her career in social work at Southern Highlands and spent the last several years at ResCare in Princeton, WV. Carol spent a lifetime making sure that everyone she met knew how much they mattered to her.



**TAMIKA LEE PUGH ROSS**, 39, died December 10, 2020. Tamika was employed by Family Care as a Community Resource Specialist under a Provisional Social Work License. She attended Fisk University and completed her degree in psychology at West Virginia State University. "Mika", as she was known by friends and family, was a shining light to all who knew her. Online condolences can be sent to the family at [www.casdorphanandcurry.com](http://www.casdorphanandcurry.com)

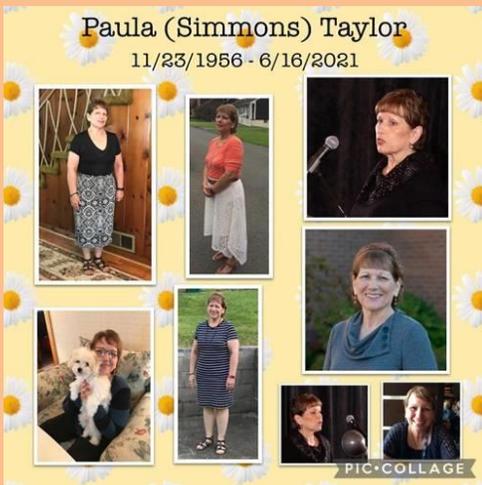
**JOHN DAVID SMITH**, 61 of Athens, died October 21, 2017 at his home after a brief battle with cancer. John David received his Bachelor of Social Work in 1976 from Concord College and went on to obtain a Master's of Social Work from WVU in 1981, Master of Arts in Psychology from WV College of Graduate Studies in 1988, Juris Doctor from the University of Toledo, College of Law in 1991 and an LL.M. in Health and Administrative Law from DePaul University, School of Law in 1998. John David returned to Athens, WV to become an Associate Professor and Director of the Social Work Program at Concord College. In 2001 he was named Chair of the Division of Social Sciences, and Professor and Director of the Social Work Program until 2005. In 2006 he was appointed as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. In 2009 he served as Interim Vice President and Academic Dean. In 2010 John David was appointed as Vice President and Academic Dean until 2011 at which time he served as Professor and Chair of the Social Work Department, MSW Program Director, Director of Legal Studies and Pre-Law, Primary Investigator Public Service

Initiatives, and Director of Appalachian Leadership and Education Fellows, positions he held until his death. He was serving as the Chair of the WV Social Work Education Consortium, and on the boards of Southern WV Community Corrections, Governor's Committee on Community Corrections, Concord University Research Corp., Mercer Co. Drug Court, Appalachian Area Agency on Aging, Concord University Alumni Association. Previous board affiliations include WWV Developmental Disabilities, Hospice of Southern West Virginia, National Network of Social Work Managers, WV National Association of Social Workers and others. Over the course of his career, John David was honored as Social Worker of the Year in 1995, NASW Region I, and Concord University Outstanding Alumnus in 2010 and Alumnus of the Year in 2012. John David also served on the Athens Town Council since 2005.



**SONYA ELAINE SIMPSON**, age 43, of Mount Hope, WV, died unexpectedly of COVID-19 on January 3rd, 2021 at Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley, WV. She was a Licensed Social Worker and received her degree from Glenville State College. Sonya worked for FMRS Health Systems and was a well-respected Social Worker / Waiver Supervisor where she continued her care of others. Stevens and Grass Funeral Home is responsible for the arrangements.

**LAWRENCE "ROCKY" TAYLOR**. 52, passed away April 15, 2020. He served his country in the US Army Reserves during the Iraq War with tours in Iraq and Kuwait. He received his MSW degree from WVU in social work and was employed with WV DHHR as a Child Protective Services Supervisor serving Preston, Taylor and Barbour Counties. His coworkers referred to him as one of the most generous people they knew. He took great pride in helping his clients.



**PAULA JEAN (SIMMONS) TAYLOR** of Fairmont, born November 23, 1956, succumbed to pancreatic cancer on June 16, 2021. Paula served as President of the West Virginia Chapter Board of Directors from 2012 to 2014, and was celebrated as the 2011 West Virginia Social Worker of the Year. More than this, Paula was the epitome of excellence in social work, in child welfare practice, and in participatory citizenship. She lived her professional values and strived to instill them in her many supervisees, students, and colleagues. In short, Paula Taylor was among the best of us, and she will be sorely missed! In addition to her vibrant life of volunteerism to her community and faith, she represented the NASW WV Chapter as a delegate to the 2014 Delegate Assembly and was appointed to serve on national NASW planning committees.

**TOSHA DANIELLE THOMAS**, 27, of Hometown, passed away October 5, 2019. She was a licensed social worker.



**STEVEN ALAN THOMPSON**, 55, of Charleston passed away Monday, May 10, 2021 at his residence. He was born in Fostoria, Ohio to Roy Thompson and Fern Shumate Howerton. Steven was self-employed and was a former Readjustment Therapist at the VA Hospital, Augusta, Maine and was also a former nurse at Pinecrest Hospital, Beckley, WV. He studied Clinical Social Work at MSU and WVU.



**RHONDA JEFFERY THORN**, 62, of Howesville, formerly of Cabin Creek and Madison, passed away on January 22, 2021.

It was her joy to assist people in her career as a social worker. She earned her BSW at WV State College, her MSW at WVU, and was a licensed social worker. Rhonda was also quite a character. As her obituary noted: "Please wear your most colorful clothing (and) your best costume jewelry," and to expect a delay as "it should be assumed Rhonda will be late for her own funeral."

**NANCY STUART TONKIN** passed away November 29, 2017. Nancy had a special gift of bringing people together. She was a graduate of West Virginia University with both a bachelor and master's degree in Social Work and served as a member of the WVU School of Social Work Visiting Committee. Nancy was founder and owner of Tonkin Management Group, a government relations and association management firm in Charleston. She previously served as Vice President of Charles Ryan Associates, and with the WV Hospital Association. A lifelong NASW WV Member and social worker, Nancy served as President of the Children's Home Society Board of Directors and as Board Member Emeritus, as President of the WV Society of Association Executives, and as a charter member and President of the Capitol City Civitan Club. She was instrumental to issues and initiatives to improve the health and well-being of children. She also served on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Charleston and chaired the public policy committee. She received several awards during her career, including the Exemplar Award in Excellence for Social Work Management from NASW WV Chapter, and the WV Rural Health Association Excellence In Rural Health award.