



Eugenia Hughes Hancock

November 28, 1920 - March 20, 2020

Eugenia (Genie) Hughes Hancock, age 99, died peacefully at home in Shepherdstown WV on March 20, 2020. She leaves her daughter Anne Hancock Teresa of Shepherdstown WV, her grandson Benjamin Teresa his wife Erica Sims and great-granddaughter Eleanor of Richmond VA, and granddaughters Hannah and Sarah Hancock Rubinsky of Nyack NY. She is predeceased by her husband Frank T. Hancock of Bluefield, daughter Rev. Dr. Eugenia Lee Hancock of Nyack NY, son-in-law Dr. Joseph G. Teresa of Shepherdstown WV, and her brother Major General John (Jack) Hughes. Born to James Omar Hughes and Mittie Scarborough Hughes in Marshall TX, she was raised in Fort Worth and graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton with a Bachelor of Music degree. She met and married Frank Hancock in 1944 in Fort Worth where he was stationed during WWII. After he shipped overseas Genie worked in New York City as a runway model, a singer with the Robert Shaw Chorale, a soloist at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and a volunteer with the USO, checking the military postings every day on the pier for when his ship would come home. After the war they moved to Lewisburg WV and then to Bluefield where she lived for 60 years.

A talented and enthusiastic voice and choral teacher, Genie worked as Choral Director at Graham High School in Bluefield VA, a Voice Instructor at Bluefield College, and a vocal coach and choir director for individuals and her church, First Presbyterian Church of Bluefield. After retiring from teaching she became a realtor and manager of the Commercial Department of Citizens Real Estate

in Bluefield.

Genie served in many organizations in the Bluefield area but her heart belonged to the Community Concert Association (now Blue Mountain Performing Arts) which she helped establish in 1955 and shepherded for more than 30 years as either president or vice-president. She was distinguished as the first woman president of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, the president of Main Street America, and co-founder of the Chamber of Commerce's annual Reading Bee. She was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Bluefield Rotary Club, received the Distinguished Citizens Award from the American Legion, and the Athena International Leadership Award for Outstanding Women. Genie was the first woman to be installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of West Virginia and served as both an Elder and a Trustee of First Presbyterian Church where she taught an adult Sunday school class for over twenty years.

Genie's boundless curiosity of mind nurtured family, friends and every cat she ever met with her joyful embrace of life, food, faith, music and exquisite gardens. Her life long love affair with all people and the whole natural world continued after she relocated to Shepherdstown to live out her generous life with her daughter Anne and their many loving friends.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield WV; the Community Foundation of the Virginias - Hancock Scholarship Fund; or the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Eugenia (Genie) Hughes Hancock.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV

Tribute Wall



“ *Eugenia Hughes Hancock*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *We have only recently learned of Genie's passing and though I never met her, I miss very much another passing connection to my beloved mother, June Hughes Butler, her close cousin who remained in Texas her entire life. They shared many lengthy letters for many years and I remember reading some of them with her as a child. They were very close in age and always seemed to have so much to share. West Virginia was a far away and magical place to me in those days before instant communication. My family in Austin and my brother Kelly and sister Helen send our love to our cousins in West Virginia and share your respect and appreciation for the many contributions she made in her long life to her family and community.*

Our sincerest sorrow for your loss of a lovely human being.

Diana Butler Gribble

Diana Gribble - April 20, 2020 at 05:54 PM



*So sorry, I just found out of Genies passing.
I loved her she was my neighbor.
I still have a begonia plant she gave me over 20 years ago. Wonderful and a beautiful lady.*

Gerri Broyles - May 25, 2022 at 01:51 AM

SB

“ The Word "indefatigable" has her picture next to it in Websters. Poise, beauty, brains and persistence. It's been my great benefit to have known her,..

Steve Barto - March 31, 2020 at 08:44 AM

NR

“ The Heavenly choir just got a new voice. What a beautiful lady, inside and out. When I started real estate, Genie was one of the first to mentor me and get me involved in our community. Prayers and love for her grandchildren and family.
Nancy Roten

Nancy Roten - March 24, 2020 at 12:24 PM

AM

“ I remember Eugenia as a preeminent leader in our larger Buefield community - always acting with grace, dignity and determination. When she took a personal interest in a project, the likelihood of ultimate success took a major step forward. Art Mead

Art Mead - March 23, 2020 at 02:40 PM

JC

“ Dear Anne, Sending love and prayers to you and your family at this sad time. Your Mom was certainly a gentle giant, accomplishing so much. Your friend, Jane Thacker Costa

Jane Thacker Costa - March 23, 2020 at 10:05 AM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Martha Hancock - March 22, 2020 at 07:40 PM

MH

Genie was a classy lady who was also very fun! I'm so glad to have been able to see her in these last few years.

Martha Hancock - March 22, 2020 at 07:38 PM

MC

“ *I always admired Genie as a true “lady.” She carried herself with such poise and beauty. She was always kind to me, a local musician, and always took time to speak to me and have conversation when I was young and didn't know anything. I respected and admired her.*

Marty Chaffins - March 22, 2020 at 06:40 PM

WL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



William Leckie - March 22, 2020 at 01:14 PM

CM

“ Genie was the most beautiful person I've know, not just h er physical beauty, but a true inner beauty. I love talking to her at any time over the many years since I met her, when I was teenager. When I think of a life well lived, I will always remember our friend, Genie.



Cindy Romano McGraw - March 21, 2020 at 04:15 PM

FC

No words can describe the sadness I felt when I could no longer look out my kitchen and know that Genie was there. She chose us for neighbors when she sold us our home and continued to make us a part of her family for over 30 years. She was one of the most intelligent, gracious and thoughtful people I have been blessed to know and share my life with. The love she left behind is as ever present as the flowers she cared for and nurtured. I loved her dearly

Frances Colley - March 21, 2020 at 09:09 PM



“ Genie was such a great friend and neighbor. We had such a great time talking about books, music, all of the history she lived through, current events and she shared her years of insights. Gardening was a favorite sharing activity between us. She was gracious and kind even when the deterioration of her eyesight made life difficult. Through Genie we met Ann, Ben, Erica, and Elinor. I struggle to convey how much I cared for Genie and how kind she was to my family. It is a great loss.

Debra Enigk - March 20, 2020 at 11:03 PM

MC

“ Heaven is a better place today, she was a lovely lady.

mary cartwright - March 20, 2020 at 02:57 PM