



## Carole Eileen Johnson

April 29, 1939 - October 21, 2015

Carole Eileen Johnson (née Fleming), of Apex, North Carolina, passed away on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the age of 76.

Carole was born the youngest of eight children to parent's Cecil and Rebecca Tate

Fleming on April 29, 1939 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. She was raised to have a passion for life and a flair for the arts as all of the Fleming children were taught to sew and expected to create. As a teen Carole attended Charm School with the acclaimed Ophelia DeVore Modeling Agency and blossomed as a model and dancer in her young adult years.

One day Carole met a woman whom she was determined to make family; the lore says it all started with a picture of Gwelda's son, Norman Johnson. Carole liked, and pocketed the picture of the handsome sailor and while he was home on leave, fate made certain they meet. Carole and Norman fell in love and married July 23, 1960.

In the late 60's Carole took on big city life and began her career as a corporate executive in Manhattan. Her career began with working for the New York Times and Chemical Bank but she blazed her trail, combining her passion for Civic Responsibility and her ridiculously solid work ethic, she

made a name for herself as an up and coming executive at Philip Morris, facilitating tremendous financial support and development for Game Changers like Romare Bearden, Gordon Parks, Arthur Ashe and Arthur Mitchell's Dance Theater of Harlem.

In the late 1970's Carole transitioned to working in the Pharmaceutical Industry, so she could escape the city rat race and work closer to home in New Jersey. Carole shifted her focus to Human Resources and Organizational Development, working for Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, while exhausting her philanthropic efforts towards The Links Incorporated and Jack and Jill of America. Her desire to help others was evident with the grand finale jewel in her career crown the position she held in the late 1990's, as the Vice President of Human Resources for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Carole devoted her life to creating art and spent her life determined to make the world a more beautiful place.

Carole is survived by her husband, Norman Johnson, daughter, Nicole Cush, her granddaughter Kyrie Antoinette, and sons Mark Johnson and Marcqus Johnson. She is preceded in death by her parents, Cecil and Rebecca, her brothers, Walter, Edwin, Cecil, Jack, Robert, Albert, and sister Jean

The Memorial Gathering will take place at Wake Memorial Park, 7002 Green Hope School Rd, Cary on Sunday, October 25th at 12 PM and friends and family are invited to attend a gathering at the home of Donald and Nicole Cush shortly thereafter.

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT **25**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd

Cary, NC 27519

(919) 465-0888

<https://www.wakememorialpark.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ My deepest sympathies to the Johnson family, especially Norman, Niki and Marqus. Carole was a huge part of me and my family's lives. My first memory of Carole was watching her and my mom tap dance at my high school (years before I was even in high school!). I can recall become accustomed to Broadway showtunes, because my mom and Carole frequently rehearsed their dance routines to them! It was because of them that I learned about the musical "The Tap Dance Kid". IN fact when I hear "Tap Tap" from this show, I can't help thinking of Carole. Throughout my 15 years of college and community theatre, Carole attended almost as many of my performances as my own mother did and her support always echoed that of my mom's. I feel like Carole was a 2nd mother to me. Always there after the show with a huge grin on her face and a warm hug to give. Carole gave me my first job. She offered my brother Stephen and I each \$50 to rake leaves around the house, sweep up inside and several other tasks. I was a bit lazy that day and Steve got much more done than I did. As a result Carole paid me less than Steve, and I learned an important lesson that day. When you focus on the task at hand and work hard, you get paid accordingly. I can recall turning to Carole's expertise (on my mom's recommendation) when trying to write my first resume. When I tried selling AmWay products in 2002, Carole was nice enough to listen to my "pitch" and even give feedback on how to improve it. Carole was full of knowledge and wisdom (applied knowledge) and was a fantastic person to have in my company. She will be truly missed.

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**Brad Sims** - November 11, 2015 at 07:57 AM

MK

“*Carole and I became instant friends over 30 years ago, being instantly drawn to one another at a tap dancing class, of all things! Both of us came from professional dance backgrounds, she in the NYC area and my own training in London, England where I had grown up, and we loved all forms of theatre and dance. Once we got to know each other we were off and dancing! No excuse was acceptable to stop us driving into New York to see a show, once or twice, even staying overnight in order to see more than one show in a weekend or go to a cabaret!*

*When Carole moved to North Carolina and put down roots, she would stop everything at the drop of a hat and drive to New Jersey in a heartbeat if there was a show or ballet or concert we wanted to see. She would stay at our house so often that my husband gave her a key and referred to our spare room as "The Carole Johnson suite"!*

*Carole and I were both interested in crafts , which included making special gifts for each other. We both sewed our own clothes and Carole often sent me pieces that she had made just for me! ("I just saw this fabric and I knew it would suit you"). We were so blessed with our relationship, which was far more family than friends really. She loved our children and we loved hers. When my son began showing an interest in theatre, Carol would be there, cheering him on, whether it was a musical or Shakespeare, she just loved it all. Carole's attitude was always positive and happy and healthy. She adored her granddaughter and taught her great appreciation of the arts. She played piano, with a special affinity for Gershwin, though almost any music would do. My life was never the same after Carole arrived in it. I am so blessed to have met her and known her and our wonderful friendship has been long and varied. I will miss you buddy. Love you, miss you, but I know you are stirring things up wherever you are.*

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**Melodie Kelmer** - October 28, 2015 at 05:19 PM

SH

“ *Just learned of Carole's passing. She was a friend of a friend but from the moment we met, she treated me like a long, lost friend. Always quick to laugh with a beautiful smile, I will miss this talented woman.*  
*Deepest condolences,*  
*Stephen "AB" Hale*

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**Stephen Hale** - October 28, 2015 at 09:48 AM

KD

“ *Kelli Dodson lit a candle in memory of Carole Eileen Johnson*



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**Kelli Dodson** - October 26, 2015 at 06:19 PM



Katherine  
Nichols

“ Carol was the first real friendship I established when I relocated to North Carolina. From our initial meeting, she was real, to the point, an authentic Lioness! Be clear, her roar was not loud, her stance spoke volumes. There was no second guessing her...it was Carol's way or roads unknown.

*With much love, I celebrate the way she lived, vibrant, generous with insurmountable talent and integrity. One of a kind, whose kindness extended to family, friends, strangers, and children. Did you know, Carol's mantra, "I am never growing up." With an affinity to teach, share her gifts with simplistic instruction, children, young people were magnetized to Carol; who never grew tired of tapping and sewing life's fabrics into the hearts of many.*

*Her Creativity was intoxicating...no challenge or box could contain a Spirit that had no box!*

*I will miss her telling me on numerous occasions, when I grew up I want to be just like you. Often, I ponder how could I be more like her, this phenomenal woman who lived life on her terms from beginning to the very end!*

*We salute an Omnipresent Spirit, "Carol."*

*Katherine*

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**Katherine Nichols** - October 24, 2015 at 01:01 PM

MW

“ Maureen Walsh purchased the Rose Tribute for the family of Carole Eileen Johnson.



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**Maureen Walsh** - October 24, 2015 at 10:28 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Carole Eileen Johnson.*



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October 24, 2015 at 10:14 AM



“ *NORMAN & FAMILY WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY MY CONDOLENCES. KEEPING YOU & YOUR FAMILY IN MY THOUGHTS & PRAYERS. GOD BLESS! LETIA DICKERSON, TOUR 2 CUSTODIAN, RALEIGH P&DC. RALEIGH, NC.*

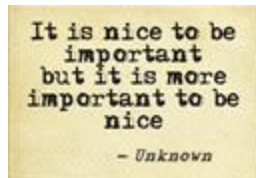


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**LETIA DICKERSON** - October 22, 2015 at 09:35 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Niki Cush** - October 22, 2015 at 10:06 AM

DC

“ *My condolences to the family. I only heard stories of Mrs. Johnson. She was an amazing woman who proved you can achieve anything you set your heart and mind on. Thank you Mrs. Johnson for being such an awesome role model.*  
*Doris Carey & Family*



Doris Carey - October 22, 2015 at 04:37 AM

DC

“ *Doris Carey sent a virtual gift in memory of Carole Eileen Johnson*



Doris Carey - October 22, 2015 at 04:27 AM



“ *Aunt Carole may you rest peace. You inspired me and taught me more during the times we spent together than you could ever know. Forever in my heart. Your Great Niece*  
*Sharise Monique*



Sharise Skeete Holsey - October 21, 2015 at 08:07 PM

Neda Fernandez

“ *My dearest Aunt Carole, I have so many fantastic memories of you that it is nearly impossible to pick my favorite one. I will miss you dearly. However, I am certain I will see you another day. I'll find more words later, but for now I'll say give 'em heck when you get to heaven. Neda*

Neda Fernandez - October 21, 2015 at 06:00 PM



“ You were the greatest mother, the toughest coach and one Bad Ass woman, who taught me how to be me! My heart is so heavy but I know that you are in a better place telling them how to make it nicer! You will forever be in my heart.

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**Niki Cush** - October 21, 2015 at 05:55 PM

EG

OMG, I have no idea, when this happened. May her soul rest in peace, light perpetual shine upon her and all faithful departed. I pray for Mr. Norman Johnson.

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**Elizabeth Gaye** - October 22, 2015 at 12:58 AM

DC

Praying with you and for your family my condolences. Love you friend.

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**Doris Carey** - October 22, 2015 at 04:24 AM