



## Mary Catherine Josey

December 1, 1945 - October 2, 2018

Mary Magdalene Catherine Pankey Josey, a resident of Suffolk, VA, passed into eternal rest on October 2, 2018, in Portsmouth, VA after suffering cardiac arrest in her home September 29. She was 72 years old.

Born in Brooklyn, NY on December 1, 1945 to Pearl Gowins and Lacey Pankey. Mary grew up in Brooklyn surrounded by a large and loving extended family, including her grandparents FJegg and Alice Gowins. She met her future husband and the love of her life, Herb Josey, Sr., in 1959 in Brooklyn and they were married May 5, 1962. They moved to Hempstead, NY in 1964, where they raised ten children: Herb Jr., Andrea, Kevin, Karen, Keith, Angela, Melissa, Lawrence, Gregory and Kevin Butler; and her sister, Christal. In Hempstead, Mary was a loving mother and cherished member of the community who worked in a variety of jobs, most notably as a community organizer in Nassau County, where she helped needy and disenfranchised people get food, shelter and medical care. In 1982, Mary opened and ran a successful daycare business for 12 years. In 1994, she and Herb started a new chapter in their lives and moved to Suffolk, VA. She joined Grove Baptist Church, started a daycare business and became a foster parent, enriching the lives of many children and others who needed her loving care. While at Grove, Mary acquired her Evangelism license through the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Mission School of Evangelism, where she later became an instructor. Mary was an integral part of the Women's Ministry, the SHAMMAH Ministry, and sang in the Mass Choir.

Mary loved bowling and playing Bid Whist - especially teaming up with her cousin, Carol, to beat all comers, especially their husbands; she managed the Futuristic R & B band featuring Herb as lead vocalist. She loved to watch murder mysteries, especially British murder mysteries like Ms. Marple and Midsomer Murders. She also enjoyed cooking shows.

Mary was predeceased by her daughter, Andrea, her mother and father, Pearl and Albert, and her sisters Patricia, Louise and Roslyn.

Mary is survived by her loving husband, Herbert and their children; Herb Jr., (Melanie); Kevin (Lisa); Karen (Jeff); Keith (Susanne); Angela (Terrence); Lawrence (Vickie); Gregory; Kevin B; Sam and Tyree. Mary is also survived by her siblings Olivia, Gisele, Alicia, Patricia, Annette, Marie, Arnice, Deborah, Lacy Jr., Michael Ray and Christal; 28 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; her loving sister in law, Medesa; her cousin, Carol and her husband, Claude; her lifelong best friend Pearl Hightower; and a host of loving family and friends.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Proverbs 31 :30

# Cemetery Details

## Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens

4569 Shoulders Hill Road  
Suffolk, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.  
Chesapeake, VA 23323  
(757) 487-3700  
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com  
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

## Service

OCT 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grove Church  
5910 W Norfolk Rd  
Portsmouth, VA 23703  
(757) 484-4149

# Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Catherine Josey*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - October 04, 2018 at 06:08 PM



*Mrs. Josey use to babysit our son, and I just recently learned of her passing. To her family, we send our deepest condolences to you. Mrs. Josey was truly one of the most generous and loving people I've ever had the pleasure to meet. Thank you for taking such good care of our son, Cole...Peace & blessings!*

*Dawne Brown...*

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**Dawne Vaughan Brown** - December 17, 2018 at 10:56 AM

PC

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Mrs.Mary Josey was a joy to everyone she met. May God hold the family in his loving arms as you go through the grieving process. Love Pam, Aaron & Elnora Jones and family.*

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**Pamela Cooper** - October 08, 2018 at 06:13 PM

JJ

“ Thank you Brother Josey and family for sharing Mrs Josey with us. So beautiful inside and out, wise, loving - a strong woman of faith. "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.." Proverbs 31:29. We gonna miss you Sister Josey! Much Love, Nathaniel & Shirley Jackson

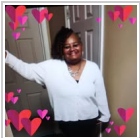


Jack & Shirley J - October 04, 2018 at 11:36 PM

RW

“ Ms josey and Mr josey kept my daughter Jariya when she was only about 6 months old. A military customer of mine referred me to them and I feel in love with them both off the bat. So friendly and warm and loved the children . I've referred numerous of people to them told them about how satisfied I was and how reasonably priced they were! I will never forget her and how God put her in my life when I was in prayer of finding someone to trust to leave my baby with . She also watched my grand Son yousef . They were and extended family that were better than family to me and my family . I love to talk to her and Mr Josie they are the salt of the earth thank God for such genuine good people who really exist here in this day and time! I will for ever be grateful for you all! Thank you for everything Rhonda Hargrove Wiggins

Rhonda Wiggins - October 04, 2018 at 10:01 PM



“ Mrs. Mary Josey you will be sorely missed. You have surely left a lovely memory for me to forever cherish. I honor and respect you. Love sis. McAllister.

Cheryl Mcallister - October 04, 2018 at 06:52 PM



“ 45 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - October 04, 2018 at 12:21 PM



“ Carol Robinson, Maria Keeler, Roxanne Hayden purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mary Catherine Josey.



Carol Robinson, Maria Keeler, Roxanne Hayden - October 04, 2018 at 07:52 AM



“ Mary Josey a woman of honor, wisdom and grace. I will truly miss you. You have left your mark on this earth and in our hearts. The Bailey, and Floyd family



Shirlene Bailey - October 03, 2018 at 05:42 PM