



Mrs. Theresa Cole

December 29, 1933 - February 15, 2014

The Journey:

Early Life

Theresa Turney Cole was born to Elnora and Pete Turney in Birmingham, Alabama on December 29, 1933. At age five, she lost her mother Elnora to cancer. She was raised by her loving sisters Pauline and Virginia May and her doting aunt Maude as Pete struggled to make ends meet. Theresa was educated in public and private schools in Birmingham. She became Catholic while attending Immaculata High School. She remained a devout Catholic all her life. Growing up in Birmingham, Theresa was athletic (some might remember her as Alabama Red when she played basketball), and always active. She showed signs of the fun loving, yet deeply caring adult that she would later become and her friends and family loved her spirit.

Education and Career

While earning an undergraduate degree in physical education from Miles College, Theresa was popular and excelled at athletics and dance. She was elected "Miss Senior of Miles College" by her peers. It was an exciting time for Theresa. She met her future husband on campus. She married Charles James Cole II in October of 1959 in South Carolina. While Charles served in the United States Army, Theresa earned a masters degree in Dance and Physical Education at Columbia University. For a time, Charles and Theresa

made New York City their home. They remained married until Charles' death in 1992.

In 1964 the couple moved to Detroit where Theresa taught at St. Francis, Mumford High School, DJ Healy, and the Wayne County Youth Home. She grew especially fond of the students who enrolled in her dance program at Mumford which was greatly acclaimed. While teaching and raising a family, Theresa earned another masters degree, this time in Special Education, from Wayne State University.

Her Legacy

Theresa lived her life as a Catholic and spent most of her time helping others. She helped her students, her family, strangers, enemies and whoever needed help. She helped without reservation and without judging. She helped people who needed a place to stay, a car, a ride, money, food, clothes or just advice. She truly embodied what it means to be a Christian.

Theresa was outgoing, opinionated, outspoken, liked to be where the action was and had a celebration whenever possible. She had a good heart and loved people. She would make room even if there was no room. She had a special gift of speaking the truth and a good instinct about people. Theresa definitely said what was on her mind and did not hold anything back (no pacifiers available for anyone). She was a take charge/take over person. She was bossy and got things accomplished. She usually had something to say and if there was a dull moment she could be counted on to liven up the situation. If she said she was going to do something, you could rely on her to do just as she promised. If you told her you were going to do something, she would hold you accountable for following through.

She also had a mother's instinct that brought out strength and greatness in others. She was a favorite among her students in the public schools and was

known to go the extra mile whenever she saw a young person in trouble. She adored her own children, as well as her nieces and nephews and spent countless hours entertaining them and teaching them new things. When her grandchildren came along, she was there at every turn, cheering them on and providing the kind of love only she could give.

Previous Events

Family Hour

Saturday, Mar. 8. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

Saturday, Mar. 8. 3:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Theresa Cole*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *She was ALWAYS kind & welcoming to me anytime she saw me. I was always more than willing to do anything she asked of me. I gave respect, & learned from her wisdom & knowledge about life, men, & relationships. Things that she would say to me, I listened, & it always worked out well for me in my life. She said things straight, with no beat in' around the bush. I liked her and I also loved her. She never made me feel like I was just an associate, she made me feel like family whenever I was around her. For myself, my mother, & my brother, our family mourns Ms. Coles passing. We sadly give our deepest condolences to Stacey and her two daughters & to Chuckie & his wife and family.*

Lovingly & Respectfully,

*Ecora I. Foshee
& my whole family*

Ecora Louise Foshee - March 07, 2014 at 10:05 PM



“ *To the family of Theresa Cole, I know Our God will be with all of you during this time. Theresa was my friend, she was as close as a sister. I will always cherish her memory. If you need me please call me. Sincerely, Alice Edwards*

Joyce B. Pearson - March 07, 2014 at 08:20 PM

DW

“ our condolences to Aunt Pauline ,Lisa, Stacy, Chucky & all the family from Dwight, Augusta & family.

Dwight V. Woods - March 07, 2014 at 04:00 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mrs. Theresa Cole.



March 07, 2014 at 03:53 PM

MN

“ To the Theresa Cole Family -
Sharing with you in spirit, in sorrow, in memories, and in the prayerful knowledge that Theresa is in a better place. Sent with Love.

Cousin, Mary Summers Northington and Family

Mary Northington - March 06, 2014 at 06:48 PM

AE

“ My condolences on the loss of your mother; the sadness cannot be measured by losing such a loved one. Be strong and know that's God's will.

Ashraf EISheikh - February 28, 2014 at 03:37 PM

TM

“ My God be with your family during this time of sorrow.

Tamara Matthews - February 27, 2014 at 08:20 PM