

## Mary Fitzsimmons, 79, Devoted to Her Family, Students, Church and Pets

Mary Fitzsimmons, 79, passed away peacefully at her home in Westfield, N.J., on Friday, May 24, 2019. Mary was born in Newark and is the daughter of the late John and Nora Conway. She grew up surrounded by many close cousins, aunts, uncles and friends in Belleville, N.J., and attended St. Peter's Grammar School before graduating from Queen of Peace High School in North Arlington.



Mary Fitzsimmons

Mary was happily married to Bernard Fitzsimmons for 55 years. They lived in Westfield for 50 years, where they raised their four children, Mary Claire, Patricia, Sara and Bernie. She was a dedicated and loving mother who took great joy being part of their lives. Mary also loved her role as "Grammie," and adored her grandchildren, Michayla, Michael and Keara, often taking them on adventures they will forever cherish.

With a Master's degree from Seton Hall University, Mary was an English as a Second Language teacher in the Elizabeth Public

School system for 30 years and also at Union County College. Mary loved her students and was dedicated to their success.

Mary made friends everywhere she went and was a longtime member of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, where she was an active prayer group member. A lifelong learner, she loved to read and travel and gave her Irish setters, Molly and Nonie, the best life any dog could ever imagine.

She will be dearly missed in our hearts. Visitation was at Dooley Colonial Funeral Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield, on Wednesday, May 29, from 4 to 8 p.m. The funeral will be from the funeral home today, Thursday, May 30, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Peter's Cemetery in Belleville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [www.saveoursetters.org](http://www.saveoursetters.org) and [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org).

May 30, 2019

## Obituaries

### Charles R. Morrison, Sr., Family Man, Civic Leader, Longtime Westfield Resident

Mr. Charles Randolph Morrison, Sr., 98, quietly passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at his Florida home, surrounded by family.

Mr. Morrison was born on October 26, 1920 in North Carolina, and was raised in Flint, Michigan.

A member of "The Greatest Generation," Mr. Morrison grew up on a small farm in Michigan during the Great Depression. During World War II he enlisted in the United States Army, where he ultimately rose to Chief Warrant Officer, becoming one of the few Black officers in a segregated United States Armed Forces.

In 1963, he marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during "The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom."

Professionally, Mr. Morrison's career in New Jersey included influential positions at Esso and, later, at Union Carbide. At Union Carbide, he served as a laboratory technician conducting research before making a career change to Human Resources. As an Employee Resources Lead — during a time when the term "diversity and inclusion" didn't exist — his exemplary actions helped open doors for other Blacks towards employment.

Mr. Morrison attended North Carolina Central University. He married Shirley Bryant, his wife of nearly 70 years, in 1949. Anyone who has spent time around the two of them knows that they were truly life partners. Together, they had five children, all of whom are impres-



Charles R. Morrison, Sr.

sive in their unique ways, having had achievements in business, education and medicine.

In Westfield, Mr. Morrison and his young family joined the congregation of Saint Luke's AME Zion Church, where he served as the chair of the Trustee Board and superintendent of Sunday School. He also served on the Westfield Local Assistance Board.

Mr. Morrison was remarkable for his civic-mindedness and leadership. When the Town of Westfield, in the late sixties, wanted to turn the large field behind North Scotch Plains Avenue into a municipal equipment storage and dump yard, Mr. Morrison mobilized the local community. Once rallied, the civic group ultimately persuaded the town government to instead transform the field into what is today The Westfield Memorial Pool Complex.

Additionally, Mr. Morrison led diversified marches for civil rights in Westfield, for some of which he partnered with Westfield's Temple Emanu-El members. Further, Mr. Morrison was a leader of concerned citizens that resulted in the Westfield Board of Education being among the first communities in Union County to close schools in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

During this earlier, civic action period, the mayor of Westfield sent Mr. Morrison a telegram asking for him to cease his disruptive activity in Westfield. Decades later, as Mr. Morrison and his wife were preparing to move to Florida, the new mayor sent Mr. Morrison a telegram thanking him for his historical and pivotal work in the Westfield community.

Mr. Morrison is survived by his wife, Shirley; their children, Charles Jr., Jacquelynne (Thaddeus), James, Gregory (Karen) and Adrienne; as well as by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial celebration of Mr. Morrison's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be sent to Mount Hermon AME Church, 17800 NW 25th Avenue, Miami Gardens, FL 33056.

May 30, 2019

### Winifred Cordasco, Formerly of Westfield

It is with profound sadness that the family of Winifred B. Cordasco, 94, announces her passing on Friday, May 24, 2019, one month to the day of the passing of her son, Gregory J. Cordasco, on April 24, 2019.

Win passed from a long, heart-wrenching battle with Parkinson's disease. She died peacefully at home with loved ones by her side.

Win was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Francis George and Daisy (Burris) Brennan. Her father was a professional baseball player, had a baseball field named after him where the Lauderdale Public Library stands today, and was a Fore Founder of Fort Lauderdale.

At a young age, Win lost both of her parents and relocated to New Jersey to live with her father's relatives. Win lived in Plainfield, Westfield and ended up residing in Bedminster, N.J.

She graduated from University of Automotive Management, Detroit, Mich., and Automotive Finance and Insurance School.

Win was a devoted Catholic and parishioner at St. Brigid and St. Elizabeth in Peapack and Far Hills, N.J.

Win loved life!! She was an incredible and beautiful human being inside and out, with quite the sense of humor. Exquisite is the best word to describe her.

Win was an authority on style and was a scholar honor student.

She worked until she was 88 years old as a Comptroller for Brogan Cadillac and received the Mark of Excellence award numerous times from GM Detroit.

Previously, Win and her husband, Ettore, owned Gregory Chevrolet.

Win loved cooking, entertaining, fine dining, good wine, her Grey Goose dry Martini up with a twist — shaken



Winifred Cordasco

not stirred — and being a grandmother to her three amazing grandchildren.

Win loved taking long walks on the beach, especially in our place in Naples, Fla., which she referred to as her "little piece of paradise," and was an avid reader.

Win was an amazing athlete, as were her twin children, Greg and Eloise. Win was so proud when they were inducted into their High School Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2016.

Win is predeceased by her loving husband, Ettore, of 25 years; her sister, Agnes, by five years, and her beloved son, Greg, by one month.

Win leaves behind her daughter, Eloise (Greg's twin sister); her daughter-in-law, Ingrid; her grandchildren, Samantha, Johanna and Gregory; her nieces, Gail and Claudia; her crazy dog, Teddy, who brought her love and companionship, and her most amazing care companions, Louie and Marlene, who are now like family and loved mother Win liked their own mother and took the best care we could ask for.

Win was simply adored, loved and appreciated by her friends, neighbors, acquaintances and loved ones. Anyone who knew Win, loved her.

Win was an incredible friend and the most beautiful, loving, affectionate person you ever wanted to know.

Her devoted love for her twins, Greg and Eloise, was more than anyone could ever imagine.

Visitation will be held today, Thursday, May 30, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., at the Bailey Funeral Home, 179 Main Street, Peapack, N.J. 07977. A Funeral Mass will take place on Friday, May 31, at 11 a.m., at St. Brigid Church, 129 Main Street, Peapack, N.J. 07977. Entombment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, 145 Mount Airy Road, Basking Ridge.

May 30, 2019

### Julie Murphy Receives Real Estate Agent of the Month Award

WESTFIELD — Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., is pleased to announce that Cranford resident Julie Murphy has earned the Real Estate Agent of the Month Award at the Westfield West office after achieving the highest number of listings/sales for the month of April.

"I am very happy to congratulate Julie on this well-earned recognition," said George Kraus, branch vice president of the Westfield West office. "Julie works tirelessly for her clients and is dedicated to attaining maxi-

mum results."

Ms. Murphy has earned many awards for her sales success, including the Circle of Excellence Award, 2018.

For more information about buying or selling a home, contact Julie Murphy at (908) 415-6781 (cell) or (908) 233-0065 (office). The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is located at 600 North Avenue W, Westfield, N.J. Listings can be viewed online at [ColdwellBankerHomes.com](http://ColdwellBankerHomes.com).

About Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., a leading residential real estate brokerage company, operates approximately 50 offices with approximately 3,700 affiliated agents. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is part of NRT LLC, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company. For more information, visit [ColdwellBankerHomes.com](http://ColdwellBankerHomes.com).

*Paid Bulletin Board  
goleader.com/form/bulletin*

**We'll Help You Get Your Business in the Spotlight!**

Call the Leader/Times:  
**908-232-4407**  
[goleader.com/form/bulletin](http://goleader.com/form/bulletin)

### SAGE Event to Highlight State Parks

SUMMIT — SAGE Eldercare will present a program entitled "Discover New Jersey State Parks" between 1 and 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11. Significant New Jersey history can be learned from its more than two dozen parks, historic battlefields and abandoned forges.

Led by photographer and American history lecturer Kevin Woyce,

this program will include original photography of many state parks, plus vintage maps and images of historic people, places and events.

SAGE ElderCare is located at 290 Broad Street, Summit. Registration is required for this program. Interested persons are asked to call (908) 598-5548 or email [education@sageeldercare.org](mailto:education@sageeldercare.org).

On JUNE 4th VOTE  
FANWOOD  
FIRST  
DEMOCRATS  
VOTE A COLUMN