



## Stella Mae (Cox) Whitley

May 1, 1938 - February 22, 2024

### Stella Whitley Obituary

Stella M. Whitley died peacefully on February 22, 2024.

Stella Mae Cox was born on May 1, 1938, in Winona, West Virginia to Christine Margaret Cox and Grover Cleveland Cox, Sr. She was preceded in death by two brothers Grover Cleveland, Jr. And Anthony Corwin.

Her formative years of growing up were spent with her grandparents Caronia Agee Shepherd and Leonard E. Shepherd, Sr. She was educated in the West Virginia Public School System.

Stella, accepted Christ at an early age. She was baptized in Winona, West Virginia. In 1952, Stella's parents relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. She joined her parents in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from Glenville High School. After graduating from high school, she attended Boston University and Kent State University. While at Kent State University, she met the love of her life James M. Whitley. In 1961 she married James. To this union, one child was born Kent Allen Whitley.

Stella was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker. As a wife, she was devoted to her loving husband for 59 years. He preceded her in death on September 10, 2021. She was also instrumental in helping her husband start

his own architectural firm. As a mother, she was loving, caring and supportive of her son, encouraging him to follow in the architecture field like his father. As a homemaker, she organized the day-to-day operations of the household to make sure all ran smoothly with medical appointments, meetings, school events, and social events.

She loved Broadway, The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom in the summer, and the incredible shows in Las Vegas. Stella was a very sociable person. She enjoyed entertaining her family and friends. Christmas was always a special time for her family with preparing, decorating, party planning, shopping, and selecting a tasty menu. She and her bestie Kaysonia Whitley would rotate the holidays between each home. She enjoyed traveling abroad, as she had done several times. She was an Alumnus member of Western Reserve (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, The Carrousel Inc. Cleveland Chapter, and one of the Chapter Founders of The Northeasterns, Inc. She also volunteered with the Ohio Mental and Behavioral Health Department for over 20 years alongside her mother. Stella will always be remembered for her beautiful smile, her generous heart, and her sweet spirit.

Stella leaves to cherish her memory, her loving son Kent, (Pearl) Grandchildren, August, Zoe, and Amelia. She is also survived by her sister Angela (Dr. Alfred) Glover of Los Angeles, CA. Brother-in-law William Whitley of Twinsburg, OH, Sister- in-laws Gloria Fleming, of Maui HI, and Janice Carlsted of Stockholm, Sweden, 3 nieces, 5 nephews, and a host of cousins, and friends.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Stella Mae (Cox) Whitley, please visit our floral store.

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# Tribute Wall

BR

“ Stella, was a good friend who I had the pleasure of meeting through the late Dr. Don Brittenum. James and Stella were one of Don's and I best friends over the years. We enjoyed so many good times together, dinner, cruises, movies, Broadway plays and more. Not to leave our we were all happy fun-loving people just enjoying all that life had to offer. Like everyone I will miss her dearly, no one made you feel welcome like Stella, and her genuine smile! Sorry, I just learned of her passing today from a call by a friend in South Carolina, Mary Grace. My deeps condolences to the family. "BJ"  
Beverly J. Roach

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**Beverly Jean Roach** - March 23, 2024 at 03:20 PM

SN

“ We are so saddened by the loss of our dear sister-friend! Stella was always such a positive, fun and kind soul. We feel truly blessed to have known her!  
Sylvia Jones & Jakki Nance

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**Sylvia Jones & Jakki Nance** - March 22, 2024 at 08:08 PM

TJ

“ Mrs. Whitley was such an influence in my growing up. We lived on the same street about 4 houses away and I grew up with Kent and the entire Whitley family. Those formative years had Mrs. Whitley babysit me when my mother was working. I've known Mr & Mrs. Whitley all my life, truly great people. I have and will continue to miss them as I carry their teachings and spirit with me for the rest of mine. RIH ....

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**Tony Jones** - March 21, 2024 at 05:02 PM

RS

“ *Stella was a loving cousin, who always had a warm spirit and a beautiful smile. She will truly be missed by all who had the chance to know.*

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**Ronald & Deborah Shepherd** - March 19, 2024 at 05:36 PM

MS

“ *My condolences to the family. Rest well Cousin Stella*

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**Michael Shepherd** - March 19, 2024 at 05:22 PM

LW

“ *Working retail at Randall Park Mall in the 70's, I would often bump into Auntie Kay and Stella at Joseph Horn either shopping or dining at the restaurant. We always had so much fun and Stella's Sunshine smile would always fill my heart with joy. I was blessed with and honored her friendship and all I have to do is think of her when I want to smile. With deepest sympathy...*

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**Leon Williams** - March 03, 2024 at 11:25 PM