



## Eileen "Moo" Hanex

December 21, 2018

Eileen "Moo" Hanex had a silent heart attack suddenly while in great spirits on December 20th with no pain. When her "chest felt funny" she and her companion, Elizabeth, decided to call 911 and Moo walked to the ambulance in her mink coat in typical diva fashion! She was joking and laughing with the doctors in the ER waiting for tests, still wearing her mink, and asked Elizabeth to go back to her apt and bring her "the good mashed potatoes and make sure they're hot!" Elizabeth brought the mashed potatoes to the ER and Moo enjoyed several bites then closed her eyes and was gone. She passed away in hospice the next morning, December 21st with her daughter Taylor and grand dog, Destiny Cauliflower, by her side.

Moo's residence, Arbor Terrace of Teaneck, featured Moo and her dog Heaven in their December 2018 monthly Community News. She was thrilled when she saw the published article and had a ball dancing at the Holiday Party a few days before she died. Moo was unforgettable and a blessing to all who knew her!

She requested no funeral services. A "Moo Party" will be held in 2019, in Manhattan, NY, to celebrate her wonderfulness.

She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Jean Diamondson, and nephews David and Michael Diamondson. She predeceased her two siblings, Marianne E. Bell and Charles R. Diamondson.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Eileen Hanex can be made to the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, 1 E. Mt. Vernon Place Baltimore, MD 21202.

Below is the article about Moo published by Arbor Terrace Community News in December a few weeks before she passed away:

Eileen "Moo" Hanex was born and raised in Washington D.C. alongside her 2 siblings, until she moved to Virginia with her family at the age of 25. She studied at Dunbarton

College of the Holy Cross until she decided she wanted to take a test to work for the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover, who certainly lived up to his reputation of not only running a tight ship, but being a tyrant! Eileen loved to sing and play the piano. She took lessons for many years and put them to a good use during WWII where she entertained at many social gatherings. She also played the lead in the Philadelphia Story for an FBI theater production in which she was the Katherine Hepburn look alike.

She met her husband John, a tall dark handsome Nebraska boy when he was stationed in Washington D.C. They had one daughter, Taylor, who is her pride and joy. When Taylor was a baby, she started calling Eileen "Moo" and so was born the name by which all have come to know her. Taylor attended Peabody Institute in Baltimore to pursue a master's degree in music. She is a doting daughter who you will see frequently visiting Moo with her dog, Destiny Cauliflower.

After her beloved husband passed suddenly, leaving Moo a young widow, she decided to move to Nebraska to be near John's family. She lived there for a few years until she decided to move to Florida, then to Connecticut and finally New Jersey to be closer to her daughter.

Moo is most proud of the volunteer work she dedicated many years of her life to. She was a registered Hospice Volunteer as well as being a registered "Friendly Visitor" with many churches, whose job entailed visiting people who were lonely or just needed companionship. She received many commendations over the years for her volunteer work.

It gives Moo great joy that her little companion, Heaven, a registered therapy dog, has also brought joy to many of our residents. She is happy to share her. Heaven has become an honorary resident known to Arbor Terrace residents, staff members and visitors alike and Moo wouldn't have it any other way. Her goal is to start a program to visit those residents who may be under the weather or in need of some friendly company. She would love to sit and talk with them for a short while and get to know them. She says it is her calling in life to help people, "it's what she does!"

# Comments

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“ I met Moo when I was still at Peabody where I was studying piano. Taylor was my roommate during this time. We have remained lifelong friends since those days. I had the opportunity to go with Taylor when she went to visit her mother in Virginia and later in Florida. (My brother and I even stopped to see her in Nebraska but that's another story :o)

Moo was like a second mother to me and yes, she was a big one for believing in your ability to accomplish anything you set out to do. I even got the honorary nickname of "Joo" (instead of Julie). It stuck.

So there are 2 stories from that time that were particularly funny and have stayed with us to this day. Every time I visited Moo or spoke with her on the phone, I knew one of these stories would come up and we would be in stitches all over again!

Moo, Taylor and I were invited to a dinner party at her aunt's house in Virginia. There was a couple there, friends of the aunt. I remember looking at the husband and wondering what on earth was he wearing? It was striped but it didn't have any buttons like a man's shirt. In fact, it looked like he had pulled a pillow case over his head. I didn't say anything, of course, but when we left the dinner, we got in the car. Taylor was at the wheel, Moo in the passenger seat and of course petite moi got stuck in the middle on the automatic stick. The 3 of us sat there for a moment when I said "WHAT did HE have on?" It was as if there was a psychic link between us because clearly we were all thinking the same thing and just burst out laughing. To this day, we still laugh about that scene.

The other story that has stuck in memory is when I went with Taylor to visit Moo in Florida. The 3 of us went out to do a bit of shopping. We were in a little dress shop called Beale's. I was admiring this baby blue pullover and tried it on. It looked really nice and Moo insisted on buying it for me. So we took our purchases up to the lady at the counter and Moo handed her the credit card and then signed the receipt. As the saleslady was wrapping up our things she said with great enthusiasm, "Thank you, Mrs. Honga!" I looked at Taylor and said "Honga?!" and we burst out laughing right there in the store. I think Moo was a little embarrassed at our behavior and we quickly left. She soon got in on the joke and we were all laughing right there when I said, Oh, Mrs. Honga and her daughter Taylor Honga, nice to meet you. More laughter. I don't know why it's so funny but it's another story that has stuck to this day. The real kicker is I STILL have that sweater and it still looks nice on :o)

Miss you so much, Moo, "dahlin"

Love, Joo

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Juliet McComas - 18 hours ago



“ She is in my files as Eileen. So kind, gracious, gentle she is. Yet? Eileen (Moo), was the BOSS! In all her seeetness Of course, understand I saw her from a different perspective. That is my job. Eileen had a daughter that loved her unconditionally. Taylor is her name. Eileen gave a lot of thought to the name Taylor. If Eileen needed something done, it was perfectly accomplished and completed. Yep, Moo taught her Taylor with love and values by Moo’s standards. Moo was a natural actress. Dresses like Greta Garbo when attending her social groups. Of course she carried her well groomed doggie with her. Just like Taylor. ( her beloved daughter). Driving Miss Eileen should have been the title of that movie. Miss Daisy fits the name Moo. Oh yes my friends, at 97 years? She still was the BOSS. Heaven of course overruled and carries a piece of Eileen wherever she goes. You will remain in my files Moo. Your messages are loud and clear.

Dee Randis - 23 hours ago

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“ Despite limited occasions in her presence, Ms. Hanex to me (mentally said with a southern lilt) looms large as an impeccably dressed and unforgettably gracious belle. My immediate memory is always an audible one – her glorious “Dahlin.” My sincere condolences, Taylor. May she rest in peace.

Maryanne Schwaller

Maryanne Schwaller - January 17 at 05:28 PM

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“ Eileen Hanex, 'Mother', is one of the most gracious and caring people I have ever known and I know that whoever met her felt the same love and warmth. She radiated compassion and was always generous with her beautiful smile, encouraging words and wonderful laugh. Mother has left this earth but will forever be a beautiful memory for those who where lucky enough to have known her. Rest in Peace, Diane

Diane Halpin - January 16 at 09:29 AM

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“ I have known Eileen almost 20 years. From the time I saw her, she kept reminding me to call her “Moo”. Confusedly, I said to myself, “Does she like cow?” Just wondering all of these years, I accepted myself to call her name “Moo”. I remember when I visited Moo and Taylor in Connecticut, Moo proudly showed me her 70’s black convertible car. I was excited and awesome, then ask her if I could ride her car. Of course, I drove it with Taylor and her dog, Angel. Moo never aged, but was so groovy and breathtaking. I’ve enjoyed being with her and loved her sense of humor. I will sorely miss her. Rest in Peace.

Michele



“ Dear Me,  
Although you have been known by other nick names to many of us who knew and loved you in this life, you will always be “Dear Me” to me and Jim. (And, of course, it was you who christened us Me, too and Me 2-1/2—just one example of your delightful wit!)  
When you left Heritage Village for New Jersey, and we could no longer see our dear friend and neighbor in person, we communicated with each other, sometimes by telephone but mostly by email—and, Dear Me, you did compose some terrific emails! The very last one you sent me, dated November 4, 2018, brought such joy to my heart; and I will treasure it always! In it you thanked me for sending you links to a couple of videos. This is what you wrote:

“Me, too, you have given me so much pleasure with your recent emails — Gene Kelly dancing on skates, marvelous, but I have to tell you that one with Danny Kaye and Louie Armstrong is my favorite of all favorites—I can’t stop watching it—I play it over and over and have sent it all over the place—it really puts the pep back in my feet! Thank you, darlin’, for putting this BIG smile on my face - Me”

The duet Dear Me referred to as her “favorite of all favorites” is an extremely happy and upbeat rendition of the song, “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

If I may say so, dear Taylor, I’d like to believe that at that time your wonderful Mother had a premonition that in the not too distant future she would be happily among those blessed Saints Marching In, with pep back in her feet and a BIG smile on her face.

God Bless Your Soul, Dear Me!

Maureen Fitzgerald and Jim Carter

Maureen Fitzgerald - January 15 at 12:27 AM

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“ Moo was a Grand Olde Dame, rare and precious in so many ways. She loved life, people, good times and beautiful things. When I first met her at Taylor's Manhattan apartment I told her she reminded me of Brooke Russell Astor, beautiful and looking like a million bucks. She was a little skeptical until I dug up some photos of Brooke. Moo loved to laugh and having her in the room at a party was a definite plus. She was, of course, devoted to Taylor and fascinated by all of Taylor's friends and adventures and as an art patron especially for the ballet. We all shared a special night at the Met Opera House when Taylor was honored backstage by the cast for her support.  
Moo always had her eyes open and ready to snag all good looking, tall guys as potential beaus for Taylor. I know I was at least a foot too short but we are good

friends.

I'm so sad she's gone, but she did it in mink with mashed potatoes. What a legacy!

Cherish the memories,

Frank Carucci

Frank Carucci - January 14 at 04:06 PM

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“ I'm very sorry to hear that Moo is not with us anymore..I had beautiful moments sharing my music and piano practicing while Moo was visiting Taylor. She was witty, warm, funny and always encouraging for people to follow their dreams. My condolences Taylor! Love always, Marina Arsenijevic

Marina Arsenijevic - January 14 at 03:16 PM

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“ We just learned of "Mom's" passing. So hard to believe that we won't be blessed with her cheery disposition any more. I will always remember her - bright and lively, gracing Taylor's wonderful gatherings at 15K in The Sheffield! It's truly the end of an era - she will be missed!

Arthur Warady - January 14 at 01:59 PM

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“ I remember asking Eileen why she never re-married. Without hesitation she answered me in her wonderful Southern accent, "because I never met another man who could hold a candle to him, Martha." I enjoyed our conversations. Now I wish to light a candle in Eileen's honor. Martha Theodos



Martha Theodos - January 14 at 01:46 PM

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“ Mrs. Hanex always called me "Mike i poo" on the phone, which I found so endearing. I recall the last time I spoke to "Moo" on the telephone, she was wishing me great success in life and happy travels. She was always upbeat with me, and enjoyed our both being Catholic. I'll light a candle for "Moo" at the Christmas Eve Mass at the Vatican this coming December for her, and her wonderfully long life. We Catholics pray to St. Joseph for a "Happy Death." I hope when my time comes, I will pass as

she did.

**Michael Hill** - January 14 at 11:48 AM

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“ My greatest memory of "Moo" will be her monthly email request for me to send her account info. She never missed a beat! Moo was hilarious to chat with on the phone and I laughed every time she complimented my voice. She will be sorely missed by a great number of people. It was a pleasure knowing her and we are grateful she is in a better place.

Danny and Danielle

**Danny** - January 14 at 10:04 AM