

Celebration of Life

Howard

Fitch

Sunrise July 4, 1936
Sunset February 21, 2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Viewing 9:00 a.m.
Service 10:00 a.m.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
106 Sussex Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07103
Reverend Joe A. Carter, Officiating

Obituary

Howard Fitch was born on July 4, 1936 to the late Daniel Columbus Fitch and Wilma Elizabeth Fitch. Howard was a twin to Harold and a brother to Paula.

He was a graduate of Bayonne High School and later received his degree in business from St Peters College in Jersey City. He served in the United States Army, where he was stationed in various places, most notably Germany. After his years of service, he married his long time love, Helen Craddock in 1962.

Howard was a lifetime resident of Bayonne, NJ and was dedicated to a life of public service. His first brush with public service came in 1976 when the city's schools were beginning the process of racial balance. He attended a number of board of education meetings about the educational support team, this committee was charged with engineering the successful racially balanced plan for Bayonne schools. He was selected to join the committee. Since 1976, he logged thousands of volunteer hours of public service. He became an active member in the Bayonne chapter of the NAACP and served as first, vice president for two years and president for three. He was a member of the Bayonne Zoning Board for seventeen years, both as chairman and vice chairman and devoted eight years to the Board of Directors at Bayonne Medical center. Howard's biggest achievement for the city of Bayonne was when he was recruited to be the Chairman of the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority. A committee that was tasked with negotiating the US armies possession of the former military ocean terminal and was responsible for bringing the Royal Caribbean port to Bayonne. A huge accomplishment.

Howard's career shared the same momentum as his community service. He worked in corporate sales for Boeing Computer Services for fifteen years. Because of his extensive knowledge and experience he was given the opportunity to serve on the state level where he became the Deputy Director of Corporate Accounts at the NJ State Lottery. He received many accolades and awards for his dedicated service.

Growing up Howard was a member of Salem Baptist Church in Jersey City. In his later years he became a dedicated member of New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, NJ where he was proud to serve on the Usher Board.

Howard's proudest accomplishment was marrying the love of his life, his wife Helen. They shared 53 years of love, life and laughter with each other (and we all know how much Howard loved to laugh). They were blessed with three wonderful children, Donna Marie, Dawn Michelle and Douglas Morgan. The Fitch Five were inseparable! Howard's last thoughts about his family were at a family breakfast where he looked at them and said, "You know what? We're an A+ family!" Family was so important to Howard, he so loved his little sister Paula and "The Twins" were legendary! Howard was also a member of the Progressives, a social jazz club with members who are lifelong friends with us today. Of the many couple friends the pair had, their relationship with their brother and sister John and Barbara Long was so special that they shared their honeymoon! (now that's close!) The Macks, The Jacksons and The Roberts were their special running buddies! Howard always relied on his sisters-in-law, Gloria and Emily to keep him on the right path!

Howard is survived by: his wife, Helen; his children, Donna Lynn (Lance) Dawn Fitch (Soon, lol), Douglas Fitch (Beth); his sister, Paula Malloy; his in-laws, Barbara and John Long, Emily Fitch, Gloria Scott, Joyce Craddock and Gloria Craddock; his nieces and nephews, Vickey, (Keith) Chrystal, Danny (Zarinah), Vanessa, Danielle, Iesha (Pius), Michael, Uriel, Johnathan, Corey, Corrine, and his special girls, Samiya and Taiye. Howard was blessed with many beautiful children in his life including William, Wesley, Jordan, DeVona, Casey and Hannah.

Order of Service

Hymn of Comfort

Scripture ReadingsDanielle Malloy & Iesha Oculi

Old Testament: Psalm 139:1-14

New Testament: John 5:24, John 3:16

Prayer of Comfort

Musical Selection E. Denise Peoples - Precious Lord

RemarksMartin Mack

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

ObituaryChyrstal Walker

Musical SelectionJohn Long, Dave Watson, Mike Benbow

EulogyRev. Joe A. Carter

Recessional

Interment

Brigadier General William Doyle Memorial Cemetery
350 Province Line Road
Wrightsville, NJ 08562

**“God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble.”
Psalm 46:1**

Pall Bearers

Douglas Fitch

Daniel Fitch

Lance Lynn

Wale Akinwande

Keith Royster

Pius Oculi

Honorary Pall Bearers

John Long

Victor Brown

Martin Mack

Monroe Powell

Gerald Glover

Howard Smith

Greg Roberts

William Jackson

Robert Simmons

Jim McDonald

PRAYER FOR MY HUSBAND

His final wishes were to be able to walk and not fall. Now God is holding him up and he is walking in righteousness. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

With all my love,
Forever and a day
Helen



Acknowledgement

The family of **Howard Fitch** would like to extend love and appreciation for all of the prayers, words of encouragement, kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to our family. These acts have been a blessing to us. A special thanks to the staff at the Bayonne Renal Center. We also would like to thank the host of nurses and doctors for the special care they provided.



The family requests that donations be made in honor of Howard Fitch to the National Kidney Foundation at www.kidney.org

