



Cornelia Margaret Howard

January 30, 1939 - January 21, 2026

Cornelia Masse Howard, lovingly known as Connie, passed away on January 21 at the age of 86, having resided in Cadence Assisted Living in Mooresville for four years.

Born on January 30, 1939, in Belmont, Massachusetts, Connie was a graduate of Tufts University, an accomplishment that reflected her thoughtful nature and lifelong love of learning. She devoted more than 50 years to her career as a dental hygienist, including work at Duke Hospital, where her skill, compassion and calming presence touched the lives of countless patients and colleagues.

Connie also had a lifelong passion for dogs and the dog-show world. She became involved in showing dogs in the late 1960s, breeding and showing Labrador Retrievers and Flat-coated retrievers under her Curlee Hill Kennels. Beginning in 1988, she was licensed to judge the Sporting group, Australian Shepherds, Junior Showmanship and Best in Show, sharing her expertise across the United States, including Westminster, and Canada. She served as President and Show Chair of the Durham Kennel Club for many years, leaving a lasting mark on the dog-show community she loved so dearly.

Those who knew Connie will remember her for her kindness, positive attitude, intelligence, and steady presence. She had a gift for making others feel comfortable and cared for, offering warmth and support in everyday life.

Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Alexander Howard; her son Thomas Howard; her goddaughter, Mary Jo McKuen; and her parents,

Margaret and Arthur Masse.

She is survived by her sons, Robert Howard and his wife Gale, of Mooresville, North Carolina, and Michael Howard and his wife Leigh, of Aurora, North Carolina; and by her two grandchildren, Katie Stockton and her husband Josh, of Mooresville and Kyle Howard and his wife Kaylee, of Castle Hayne, North Carolina.

A service celebrating Connie's life will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14, at 4:00 p.m. at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home in Mooresville, NC, a fitting day to honor a life shaped by love, care and quiet devotion. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

FEB 14. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Celebration of Life

FEB 14. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Chapel
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

FF

“ Frick family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum* for the family of *Cornelia Margaret Howard*.



Frick family - February 13 at 05:06 PM

FF

“ Frick family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Cornelia Margaret Howard*.

Frick family - February 13 at 05:06 PM

AJ

“ 3 files added to the album *RDLRC*



Ann Jenkins - January 28 at 08:31 AM

DK

“ *Dan & Stephanie Keeting* purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of *Cornelia Margaret Howard*.



Dan & Stephanie Keeting - January 27 at 09:00 AM

RH

“ I knew Connie through Durham Kennel Club. When I started showing dogs in 1981 she welcomed me into the club and helped me get started in the sport I still love today. She will be missed greatly by her “dog” family and by the members of Durham Kennel Club.

Becky Harrison

Rebecca (Becky Harrison) - January 26 at 09:44 PM