



Dinah Fayne Benveniste Cohen

March 25, 1953 - March 23, 2018

Of Burke, VA, passed away March 23, 2018 after a short, yet brave battle against cancer. She is the loving wife of 36 years to Michael P. Cohen; sister-in-law of Judy and John Oros and Barry Cohen. Dinah devoted her personal and professional life to helping people with disabilities. She also enjoyed traveling the world with her husband. A graveside service will be held at King David Memorial Garden, 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042 on Wednesday, March 28 at 10AM. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Ct., Springfield, VA 22152. The family will observe shiva at the family residence following the funeral.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dinah Fayne Benveniste Cohen*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ *Dinah was a Champion for persons with disabilities and well respected in the DoD and Federal Govt community for her expertise. We will miss her.*

April 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Micheal, I am Joyce Wilson Lillis, and I used to live across the street from Dinah and her family on Westcott Street in Syracuse New York. I have so many memories of her parents, brother, Sam and sister Emma. Her dad used to drive us to high school every morning. He was so kind, as was Dinah. I was so sorry to learn of her passing. May her spirit be beside you and guide you until you meet with her once again.*

Heart - April 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Dinah for several years on the CAP program. She was a force and an inspiration. I was just starting my career in IT, and had never met anyone quite like her. I still tell stories about working with her program and how much I learned from her. Everyone worked just a little harder because it was for Dinah. I am so sorry to hear of her passing, but please know she is thought of fondly by me and many of my colleagues. Her zeal and passion touched many many lives.

March 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Michael: You and your family have my deepest sympathy and prayers. I met Dinah once and she was so nice. She is at peace now.

March 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dinah will truly be missed by the EEO community. My sincere condolences to the family.

March 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Marie Waters
I only meant Dinah once, I worked with Mike. Mike you're in my prayers and have my deepest sympathies.

Candle of Memories - March 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HE

“ *Dinah was a wonderful person. She had her own style (original). Top shelve and delivered powerful and impactful information. She was well respected by all who met her. A true trailblazer. She will be missed! Rest in Paradise Dinah.*

Heart - March 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *I found about her demise yesterday afternoon by reading the Washington Post Metro section and recognized her name very clearly. She was the one who was in charge of the CAP Program at the Pentagon many years ago. I was one of her clients requesting the communication assistive equipment while being employed for the United States Department of the Navy. I did realize one of the commentators mentioned Ms. Dinah as the trailblazer of the DOD entity. May Yahweh comfort her surviving members of her family in Yeshua's Name.*

March 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FN

“ *My deepest sympathies. I've admired you for many years and can still remember the first time I heard you present during a disability conference. Dinah was truly an inspiration for many in the disability community. May her legacy live on....*

Forget Me Nots - March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mike, I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn about Dinah's passing. Upon meeting Dinah who was your girlfriend at the time, I was immediately drawn in by her humor and positive spirit. I was captivated by her can-do approach to challenges and passion to seek solutions with employers to help individuals with disabilities. I loved to hear her inspiring stories about her work and travels. I lived vicariously through her stories about your trips. She will be missed, but memories and her boundless energy will ensure she is in our hearts forever. My deepest sympathy. Wendy Aaronson

March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dinah's selfless service is such an inspiration. She made such a difference in sharing knowledge and advocating rights for persons with disabilities. My sincere condolences to her family. Rev. Angela Love

March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dinah's heartfelt dedication, enthusiasm, and positive nature will long be remembered. Michael, I am truly sorry.

March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Dinah's passing. We worked together at the Naval Research Lab. She was a delight to work with and so competent. She was a master at using humor to win folks over. My deepest condolences. Marge Luck

March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael, please know our hearts and prayers are with you. Dinah and I go way back, probably middle school! I was so sad to read this in the Washington Post, this morning. In the early years after we found out we were all living in the D.C. area, it was fun to get together. Life, work and family made the contact we had less and less over the years, but I certainly thought of my old friend often. From school friends, homeroom buddies, USY friends, I was reminded of so many good times we shared over the years. She certainly made a difference in so many lives, I am so blessed to have had her as a friend, and sad we hadn't seen one another in such a long time. Let us know if there is anything you need. Hugs from, Judi and Jim Gorney (Altfield)*

March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Michael.—. We are so sad. Dinah and her family were wonderful friends as far back as our high school days. We send our deepest condolences. - Jim and Deborah Stewart*

March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike,
I worked with Dinah at TMA. She was one of the most wonderful people I've ever met. So focused in supporting with disabilities and educating the rest of us. I know that no words can help you at this time but know all of us loved her and will miss her too.
Condolences to you and your families.
Karen Cheatwood*

Forget Me Not - March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mike Cohen, please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of your divine wife and my dear friend, Dinah Cohen. As the “Father” of the DOD Disability Program, in 1983, I hired the incomparable Judy Gilliom as the first DOD-wide Disability Program Manager. Dinah and Judy both were true trailblazers. I successfully got the Office of the Secretary of Defense, for the first time in its history, to provide Judy, a GS-15 employee with a severe disability, free reasonable accommodations, including twin voice activated computers in her nursing home and in her office as well as to provide personal assistants and allow her to work at home under a policy I called “flexiplace.”

From this ground-breaking experience, came the shared dream, “Let’s have free reasonable accommodations for all DOD employees with disabilities!” Thus, in 1990, I prophetically hired the dynamic Dinah Cohen as the first Director of an enduring achievements--and perhaps the one which gives me the greatest sense of personal and professional pride--the new and innovative DOD Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP)-the largest assistive technology program in the world. For those who may not be familiar, CAP is a centrally funded program that provides free assistive technology services to employees with disabilities at DOD and throughout the government as well as wounded, ill or injured service members.

Due in large part to Dinah’s incredible 23-years of exemplary leadership, to date, over 63,000 individuals with disabilities have received over 154,000 CAP accommodations. And since non-DOD agencies began using CAP services, DOD has provided over \$21 million in assistive technology in 69 partner agencies to support, equip and empower employees with disabilities to be more productive members of an inclusive workforce. Dinah loved CAP and CAP loved Dinah. She was a champion for equality and justice. Dinah remained a cheer leader for CAP’s continued success for the rest of her life. I will miss our periodic lunches. Her loss will be most sorely felt. Mike, although I will be unable to attend the funeral,

*please know you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Let me know if there is anything I can do to help.
Sincerely, Claiborne Haughton*

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike, my heartfelt condolences to you, your family, and Dinah's family. I still remember the very day you met Dinah, including your telling me how happy you were. I have fond memories of attending your wedding in Upstate New York in 1981, including traveling there with our mutual friend, Mike Ralph, I also have fond memories (and photos) of you and Dinah at my own wedding. Mike, may you have wonderful memories for comfort, friends for their support, and smiles to ease your sorrow. Your old friend, David Rubin*

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Michael,
My deepest condolences to you and all of yours and Dinah's family on the passing of your dear wife. Dina had an unbelievable impact on the lives of individuals with a disability - especially in ensuring access and accommodations. She touched so many lives - always with humor and a smile. She has had an unbelievable impact. May her memory continue to provide direction and hope.
With much care,
Eileen Elias*

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Im so very sorry for the passing of yr dear loved one, which Im sure has made it hard on the Family at this time. But may the very comforting message of hope from the Book of Isaiah 26:19 give all of you some comfort in knowing that she will live again and where will she live? Well, to answer that, we need to just read what King David spoke about in Psalm 37:29 in which it reads: The righteous will possess the earth and they will live forever on it. So we see from these two passages that the dead will live and from what King David spoke about, they will live right here on this earth, forever. So if for any reason anyone of you, her Family or friends would like to get to know more about this wonderful hope for the future, then by all means, feel free to visit us at JW.org and there you will find many things that will open yr eyes to so many things that will give you many reasons to be joyful and full of happiness, in knowing what God has in store for all of you.*

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *We miss you Dinah and will never forget you, Emma and Sam. Your loving cousins and like you, Modiano descendants,
Emmy Mordoh-Mekiou
Solomon Albert Mordoh
Lily Mordoh-Recanati*

Candle of Love - March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM

HE

“ Dooolllll! Our favorite nickname for each other. Dinah you will be missed by me and so many others. I have cherished our friendship born at the EEOC in 1987. I so admired how much you did for people with disabilities wherever you worked and especially our military personnel and veterans. You were recognized by the Vice President himself! Your love, laugh and positive energy lifted many. I love and miss you.

Heart - March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dinah, you will be missed, but never forgotten. Your passion (bigger than life itself), will live on through the people's lives you have changed, forever. A legend, never dies.

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh Dinah, "Love and Respect" don't adequately convey how much all of us who have ever known you feel about you. You made us smile and laugh, you taught everyone about life with a disability and, simultaneously, about life, generally. You, my friend, have always been our 'due North', our North Star. You, your reputation, your name will be forever associated with EARN, Viscardi, DoD, and more than anyone, Michael and your family. So very honored to have known you and been taught to be a much better person by you. Love and respect you forever, John

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dinah, your lifelong encouragement to those who have disabilities to follow their dreams and never let deficits keep them from their goals will always be something that I will think about. I know that the way you lived your life and the goals that you believe in we all will keep fighting for. Thank you for all that you have done.

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dinah Fayne Benveniste Cohen

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Cohen family. I worked with Dinah when I was in government and she made a lasting impression on me because of her dedication to public service; especially, in the disability field. May God give you strength in the coming weeks and years. Loretta Herrington

March 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM