



## Debra "Deb" Lynn Lavalley

February 28, 1958 - April 23, 2026

Debra Lynn Lavalley 'Deb' of Lakeland Florida passed away surrounded by the love of her family on April 23, 2026.

Born in Glen Burnie Maryland on February 28, 1958 to Carole and Neil Andrews, Debra lived a life defined by compassion, dedication to others, and above all - fun. She built a meaningful career in special education, where she made a lasting impact on the lives of her students and their families through her patience, understanding, and unwavering commitment.

In her personal life, Deb shared 40 years with her husband Rich – her true partner in life. They built their life and their family in Spencer Massachusetts before eventually moving to enjoy the sunshine with their dogs in Lakeland Florida. Debra found joy in cherished passions and hobbies. She loved The Wizard of Oz, often quoting her favorite line, "Some people without brains do an awful lot of talking," a reflection of her sharp wit and sense of humor. She could often be found sewing or knitting, creating gifts for others to cherish for a lifetime. She loved time by the beach whether in Cape Cod or Clearwater.

Debra was preceded in death by her father, Neil Andrews. She is survived by her mother, Carole Andrews; her brother Mark and his wife Joyce, her loving husband Richard of 40 years, her son Shaun and his wife Lauren; her daughter Kerri and her husband Jonathan; and her beloved grandchildren,

Logan, Flynn, Florence, and Senan for which she made memories reading books, crafting, baking, and taking trips to Disney and Peppa Pig Land.

A celebration of Deb's life will be held at a later date by her family. She will be dearly missed and forever remembered.

"I think I'll miss you most of all." – Dorothy, The Wizard of Oz.

Deb took great pride in participating in the annual Jimmy Fund Walk, completing the route for many years in honor of her friend Mary. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Deb to support cancer research and patient care at:

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

P.O. Box 849168

Boston, MA 02284

or via <https://dana-farber.org/gift>

# Tribute Wall



LF

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of this wonderful and caring person. When I was a teacher at David Prouty High. Deb was my classroom aid for two years. She was in two of my “difficult” classes. She was in my class as we watched 9/11 unfold. Deb was patient and incredibly kind to the students and myself. It was an honor to have known her. Rest now, Madame.  
Leo Farrand

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leo Farrand - April 29 at 11:08 AM



“ Where do I begin with my memories of Deb. She was a parent of a very accomplished gymnast, Kerri, who gloried in her successes as a reflection of hard work and dedication to a goal; never vicariously. “It’s all her and her coaches; I just drive.” We were driving to a meet with my wife, Helena, in the front seat and Deb and 3(?) year son in the back. Deb offered it was good luck to raise your arms while going under a bridge, so he did. Dozens of times. “I figured he wouldn’t notice EVERY bridge!”, said she. “I fight to mention, Sean, this is only good in Massachusetts. LOOK! The Massachusetts border! LAST ONE!” Our family snowman needlepoint she crafted and gifted us will stay with us; a reminder of her pleasant and nurturing demeanor. God bless her memory, and our strength to all of her extended families.

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Paul McCarthy - April 28 at 11:20 AM



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**Paul McCarthy** - April 28 at 11:19 AM



“Deb was always smiling, and so easy to talk to, will miss Deb at the pool and miss her walking her pups. RIP. Betty Kasprzak

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**Lizabeth Kasprzak** - April 28 at 01:44 AM



“I first met Deb at our daughter's IEP meeting. She was a kind, caring and compassionate person. I enjoyed seeing her and her husband walking their fur babies on route 9. May she rest in peace.

George, Yvonne and Caroline

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**Yvonne Poske** - April 27 at 01:26 PM

MA

“ *Deb shared a conversation she had with a student. The little girl asked if there was a color darker than black? No honey: black is the darkest color. Well Mrs Lavallee she stated “if there was a color darker than black, I would paint my bathroom that color, and paint the toilet and sink black- to brighten the room”.*

*Absolutely brilliant!*

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**Mark Andrews** - April 25 at 11:46 PM



“ *Deb La was unlike anyone else. Her kindness and understanding were extraordinary. From James' first (and best) teacher at preschool she mentored and followed him through college graduation. Our family can never thank her enough. She was so funny, without effort. I was blessed to have her in my orbit. I'll cherish her beautiful quilting forever.*

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**Deborah Mcnamara** - April 25 at 08:24 PM

RK

“ We have such lovely memories of Deb from her visits to Ireland. Even before we had the chance to meet her, she showed us such thoughtfulness and kindness—always remembering our children at Christmas and Easter with cards, gifts, and even Valentine’s stickers.

*I still have the beautiful handmade gifts she gave us, especially the blanket she made when my daughter Evie was born.*

*Deb always had kind words, laughter, good fun and the biggest hugs whenever we saw her in Ireland.*

*Our heartfelt condolences to Rich, Kerri, and Shaun on the loss of your wonderful wife and mom.*

*May Deb rest in peace.*

*Rosie, Philip, Jake, Alex, Evie & Evan Kane  
Dublin Ireland*

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**Rosie Kane** - April 25 at 07:40 PM

JD

“ Deb was very thoughtful. She would always send Paige and Blair cards or sheets of stickers on random holidays. Blair loved all the doll clothes, hats and booties she knitted. I enjoyed receiving random texts about the latest true crime theories and shared the stories I was following with her. We will miss celebrating Christmas with her. Sending you all lots of love. Jen & Mark

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**jennifer Driscoll** - April 25 at 07:25 PM

JD

“ *Deb was very thoughtful. She would always send Paige and Blair little cards or sheets of stickers for random holidays. Blair loves all the doll clothes, hats and booties she knitted for her. I enjoyed getting a random text about the latest true crime gossip and shared with her the stories I was following. We will miss celebrating Christmas with her. Sending you lots of love. Jen & Mark*

jennifer Driscoll - April 25 at 07:21 PM



“ *It's hard for me to find the words. I pray that my friend is at peace now. I will cherish the memories of all our trips together and the fun times we shared. Sending love and prayers to Deb's whole family.*



Sue Sadusky - April 25 at 06:13 PM



“ *Debbie is the dearest friend to me! We are everyday talk friends. For years and years. We have been there for each other for everything!*

*Not sure how life will be but I will still speak to her everyday! She passed on my birthday, she gave me that gift. It will bond us forever! My family loves her all my children and my grand children! Stephen will miss her so without her who will be his buffer!*

*Million memories! Much love to Rich, Shaun and Lauren, Kerri and Jonathan and those four beautiful grand children! They were her heart!*



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**Susan Torrey** - April 25 at 06:05 PM