



Debra Sue Dunham

April 27, 1955 - August 10, 2012

Debra Sue Dunham, age 57 of Newark DE, passed away on Friday, August 10, 2012 surrounded by her family after a long courageous battle against cancer.

Born April 27, 1955 in Dover DE, she spent her youth in Henderson MD before moving to Newark DE. Debra was the wife of John F Dunham with whom she shared 15 years of happy marriage and the daughter of John E Raughley and Betty Thompson Raughley.

Debra graduated from Newark High School and Goldey Beacom College; she spent her career as a paralegal in the city of Wilmington. She loved music, dancing, singing and playing the accordion, her summers were spent sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. When you heard laughter and good conversation you knew that is where you would find her.

Debra is survived by husband John F. Dunham (Jack), her children, Lawrence M. Volzone

(Jennifer, granddaughter, Madelyn), David B. Salinski, Kelly M Salinski, and Debra's children by marriage, Francis J Dunham (Stephanie), Jeanine M. Pennington (Ron), Paul G. Dunham

(Dawn), and Daniel J. Dunham (Erica), and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Debra is also survived by sisters, Patricia A. Marshall

(Franklin), Brenda Hall (Mike), and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family wishes to express special thanks to the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center (4701 Ogletown-Stanton Rd., Newark, DE 19713) and to Compassionate Care Hospice (5610 Kirkwood Hwy., Wilm., DE 19808) from both of whom she received excellent care. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the above. Thanks also to Pastor Grant Hasty and attorney Richard Abrams for their compassion and advice.

Friends may visit with the family on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 in the Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Rd., Newark, DE 19702 from 1:00 to 2:30pm followed by a service in celebration of Debra's Life at 2:30pm. Burial will be private. For directions and to express an online condolence please visit www.strano-feeley.com

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 14. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Service

AUG 14. 2:30 PM (ET)

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635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
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Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Deborah Simmons lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham*



deborah simmons - August 21, 2012 at 06:07 AM

DT

“ *Pat, Brenda,
So sorry to hear about Debbie. I saw her at John's house when I was on a visit up there. Alot of good times were had in Henderson. You are all in my prayers.*



Donald Thompson

donald thompson - August 17, 2012 at 08:42 AM

“ My darling Deb.

My first memory was a night of a big family reunion which we had every year. My parents, Aunt Marion, Uncle Lindy, cousins, all of us got to Henderson late one afternoon. There was a corn field grown right behind our house. Everyone was saying Goodbye forever like they always did. Guess who wondered off into the corn field? Yours truly. I remember hearing everyone, "Where's Brenda?", "Brenda, we are you?" I remember Deb coming into the corn field looking for me, "Brenda, where are you?". She never stopped until she found me.

Second memory. Terrified Brenda didn't want to go to first grade. Mom made 6th grade Deb hold my hand and take me to my class everyday for a week. Her friends teased her, "Aw. Walk the baby to class", but regardless of Deb being embarrassed, she still did it anyway.

I think that might have got to her because things changed a little after that. Mom worked and Deb babysat me a lot.

One day in Henderson, onery Deb and her onery friend Karen Allen (daughter of my Mom and Dad's best friends, Tom and Anna Allen) when Mom wasn't home, Deb sent me to Karen's house on foot (definite no) to pick up a record called "Brown Paper Sack". I cried all the way. I knocked on Karen's door, cracking up, Karen asked, "What do you want?", "Deb sent me for Brown Paper Sack". Karen gave me a paper bag, and sent me home with it. Deb cracked up so hard...

When I was 9 (3rd grade), and Deb was 14 (8th grade), our parents, and our family relocated to Newark, Delaware sometime in mid-year (December). I had a real hard time getting adjusted to school, but not 8th grade Deb. She was popular and beautiful. Her friends would come to me and try to help me deal. Deb was looking out for me again.

Don't think onery Deb disappeared, because there were times when we were alone, she would pin me down with her knees on my arms, and tickle me so bad that I cried. That stopped one day, when I woke up taller than her, and she tried pinning me down again, but I showed her my fist.

Deb was my idol. I loved her so much, because there are things that she taught me that had the biggest impact on my life. She showed me how to skate, we were bad asses on wheels. She also taught me how to play jacks, how to cheer, and twirl baton. Deb was the Newark High School bee (mascot) one year and I was so proud of her. There was a riot when she was in High School, and her boyfriend pushed her under a lunch table to protect her from getting hurt. She also lettered in field hockey. Middletown Hockey Team attacked Newark and my Dad had to pick her up in a locked bus in Middletown. She got hurt, but not seriously. Deb graduated in business with honors.

I started High School and took all of the business classes just like her, and followed her career path in accounting.

I was terrified when it came time for me to learn to drive. Mom wouldn't attempt, Dad got frustrated. Deb took me up to Pike Creek, pulled over, got out, and said, "Move over, you're driving". Took me awhile, but I got it, credits to Deb.

We both became business women in Wilmington, and we car pooled for a few years. I got pretty skinny during one part of my life. She stopped every morning at Hardees and bought me a biscuit with butter for over a year.

I was in a car accident and needed stitches. I fought with the doctor in the ER until I heard my sisters voice come running in and she asked the doctor to let her talk to me and I gave in while she held my hand and saved me from a nasty scar on my face.

From that point on, our families grew, our parents grew older, and I

can't even count the times on my hand how many times she's saved my parents life for being a paralegal for doctors. In my eyes, there's nothing she couldn't do. Our lives have changed so much now, but we all know what she would want each of us to do. We'll all do it in her honor.

One day, at the very end, she asked me what I wanted her to send me from heaven. Brenda (me): "What do you mean?"

Deb: "You know, pennies"

Brenda (me): "That's Dad"

Deb: "How about quarters?"

Brenda (me): "That'

Brenda Raughley - August 15, 2012 at 05:25 PM

BH

“ To my darling Aunt Debbie,

You will always be here. I've never met anyone so strong and kind. You have always shown so much strength, proof that anyone can do anything that they put their mind to. You were a Fighter.

You weren't only my Aunt, but a role model, mother figure, my best friend. Always there for a hug and good laugh. You treated me like a daughter and always cared about seeing that I was happy. Not only for me, but everyone's lives whom you were in.

Everytime you would see me, I'd always get a hug, "My Brandy girl!".

I'll never forget you and will always remember you. I have always loved you since the day that I was born.

*Love always,
Your niece,
Brandy girl*

Brandy Hall - August 14, 2012 at 10:42 AM

DA

“ Dan lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham



Dan - August 14, 2012 at 10:19 AM

DA

“ To the family & friends of Debra,

I am deeply sorry for your loss. I am a good friend of Brandy Hall & the fact that Brandy had spoken so highly of me to her aunt was so touching! The moment I heard the news I was so sad. I shed a tear with Brandy as I was suppose to meet this lovely lady last year but didn't have the chance as she was deeply ill from having visitors.

I wish I had met this beautiful woman. My condolences are with your entire family. I love her deeply even though I have not met this woman, I am so grateful that she has gotten to know me through her niece.

Rest In Peace, Deb.

Lot's of love,

Dan from Australia.

xox.

Dan - August 14, 2012 at 10:18 AM

TU

“ Dear Uncle Jack,

I am so deeply saddened about Debra. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope in time the good memories of her, her larger than life personality and great laugh will overshadow the pain and hardtimes you have experienced over the last few months. I love you.

Tina, Jim, Tyler, Will and Alex

Tina Urquhart - August 14, 2012 at 09:38 AM

DB

“ Jack,

I just want you to know that my prayers are with you. I pray that you can somehow find comfort in knowing that her pain is now gone. I also pray that God will place his hand on you and help guide you through these difficult times .

*Dean Bartlett
AVO Training*

Dean Bartlett - August 13, 2012 at 11:25 PM

JD

Dean: Thank everyone at AVO for their prayers and support, much appreciated. Jack

Jack Dunham - August 14, 2012 at 08:28 AM

SM

“ Sharon Tweed Murphy lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham



Sharon Tweed Murphy - August 13, 2012 at 06:42 PM

NC

“ NORMA COURTNEY lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham



NORMA COURTNEY - August 13, 2012 at 09:19 AM



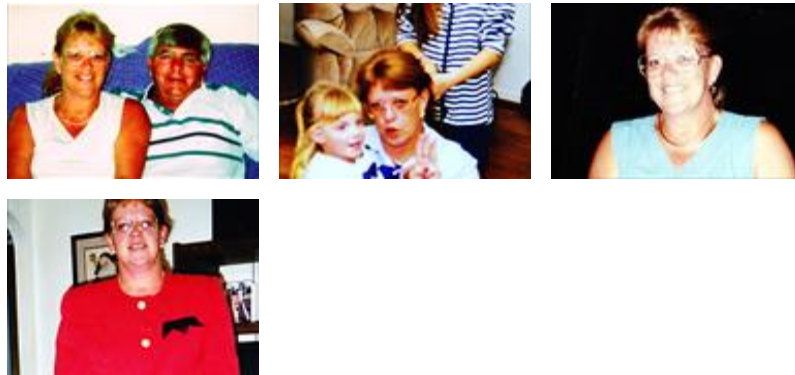
“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Debra Sue Dunham.*



August 13, 2012 at 07:40 AM



“ *4 files added to the album Debra's Smile Brightens A Heart*



Jeanine Dunham Pennington - August 13, 2012 at 06:26 AM



“ *Michael Hall lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham*



Michael Hall - August 12, 2012 at 01:00 PM

MH

“ one of my top ten best days was spent with debbie riding horses with her at my brothers horse farm,we went riding at fair hill,myself with no experience and her no fear,we came upon a trail that was on a hill ,she said i will go first to show you the way,when a deer popped up out of the side of the trail causing jake (her horse) to leap 3 feet off the ground,her laughing the whole time.jake took off full gallop,and myself with no riding skills went right behind her,when her saddle started falling off again her laughing the whole time i managed to get her attention to let her know what was happening to the saddle and we came to a stop ,i helped her fix the saddle and she got back on with no fear and took off laughing,fast as a lightening bolt,that was a great day with my sister-in-law.

Michael Hall - August 12, 2012 at 12:58 PM

VS

“ Victoriana Shively lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham



Victoriana Shively - August 12, 2012 at 11:36 AM

VS

“ Victoriana Shively sent a virtual gift in memory of Debra Sue Dunham



Victoriana Shively - August 12, 2012 at 11:36 AM

CF

“ *Cook Family lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham*



Cook Family - August 12, 2012 at 08:41 AM

JD

“ *Jeanine M Dunham-Pennington lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham*



Jeanine M Dunham-Pennington - August 12, 2012 at 07:31 AM

DC

“ *Deb was the best!! She always had a smile on her face and was a great friend. She was the best co-worker anyone could possibly imagine. When I moved down state, even though I lost contact with her, I never stopped thinking about how she made me laugh. She was indeed a wonderful person that words just can't describe. May God bless you and keep you Deb. I have and will miss you always!*

Denise Cunnigham

Denise Cunningham - August 12, 2012 at 07:13 AM

BH

“ 43 files added to the album Memories



Brandy L. Hall - August 11, 2012 at 10:22 PM

BH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



Brandy Hall - August 11, 2012 at 08:49 PM

BH

“ Brandy Hall lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham



Brandy Hall - August 11, 2012 at 08:49 PM

BH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Brandy Hall - August 11, 2012 at 08:47 PM

PD

“ *Paul Gerard Dunham lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham*



Paul Gerard Dunham - August 11, 2012 at 06:04 PM

DD

“ *Dawn Michelle Dunham lit a candle in memory of Debra Sue Dunham*



Dawn Michelle Dunham - August 11, 2012 at 05:58 PM