



Diane Philips Rector

August 2, 1945 - March 28, 2023

A shining light was extinguished with the passing of Diane Philips Rector, 77, of Newark, Delaware, on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. She leaves behind her beloved husband, Bob Rector; son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Lisa Rector; sisters Debbe Philips and Carol Stoyack (Joe); brother, Bill Philips (Barb); brother-in-law, Ernie Rector (Sherry); grandchildren, Maya and Nate; nieces and nephews: Shelly Kelley (Adam), Aishley, Garth, Ernie Rector III, Shari Owens, and Aaron Stoyack; a pampered pooch, Stella; and countless woods-dwelling critters who depended on her diligent care and feeding.

Born August 2, 1945, Diane was known by all she touched as a woman with boundless empathy, love, and compassion for all living things. She led a life rich with friends, family, and particularly the love of her life for 55 years.

She grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, with her parents Frances and Bill, and her siblings Carol, Bill, Debbe, and Sharon. After attending P.S. DuPont High School, she graduated from Goldey Beacom College and worked as a model for the Carol Landrum Modeling Agency. This led to her role as the state's official "Lottery Lady," on WHYY-TV in the 1970s, where she would often draw the official numbers nightly.

She became a representative of Estee Lauder and later the Clinique company, where she managed the cosmetics department of Strawbridge & Clothier in the Christiana Mall before retiring in 2008.

In her retirement, Diane frequently traveled with Bob and friends throughout the U.S. and other countries. She volunteered at her former family farm at Greenbank Mills in Wilmington, Delaware, where she would tend to, and care for the resident sheep, and she was a cheerleader for every event featuring members of her family.

To all who met her, Diane was known as someone who loved life, her husband, and her family, and who treated all with compassion and respect. She led her life by demonstrating care, empathy, and concern for all. If one was in the room with Diane, it automatically made them a better person. In his memoir, her brother referred to Diane as “kindness itself.”

An avid animal advocate, Diane donated to countless charities, including the ASPCA, MERR Institute, and the Humane Society, among others, as well as established a backyard sanctuary for indigenous wildlife in her neighborhood.

An African proverb says that “when a person passes, a school is lost.” Thankfully, Diane had pupils throughout her life who learned from her wisdom, her kindness, and her love, and who will carry on all she taught, so that even if the school is now closed, her lessons live on.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to the animal rescue organization of your choice in Diane’s name. To send an online condolence, visit www.stranofeeley.com

Tribute Wall

LN

“ Sending deep condolences to the whole Philips and Rector family. Diane and I were childhood friends. Lived around the corner. Running around with all the kids on the block til the street lights came on and time to go home. Diane and I loved “performing “ in the back yard. Our favorite was the song “Sisters,” from White Christmas. Mrs. Philips had a magical laugh. Mr. Philips took us to the beautiful Quaker meeting house. The Philips home was warm and fun. Diane, even though I moved away, and regrettably we lost touch, you will always be my favorite “sister.” You were beautiful inside and out.

Lois Nachamie - April 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM

LR

“ Mom, you were the greatest mother-in-law anyone could ask for. I have always striven to be the selfless, thoughtful, peaceful, beautiful (inside and out) person that you were to me throughout my life. I still can't believe you are gone. It is just too hard to wrap my head around it The legacy you created will continue on and on through the lives of our children and the countless other lives you touched. You made us all want to be better people. I love you so very much and will miss you endlessly Lisa

Lisa Rector - April 05, 2023 at 03:50 PM

SO

“ Uncle Bobby & Rob, I don't have the words to say how much she will be missed. The world is not the same.

Shari Owens - April 04, 2023 at 01:24 PM

LT

“ To the Rector family,I would like to send my deepest sympathies. Diane was one of the sweetest lady I'd had the pleasure of knowing, she was a kind and beautiful woman inside and out. Once again my deepest condolences to the family.

Larry Thomas - April 03, 2023 at 11:38 PM

GA

“ Aunt Diane, I will never forget all the wonderful holidays we spent together. You were always were so warm & caring and wonderful to be around. You taught me so much about how to be considerate to family, animals and people in general. You showed love and compassion to people in such a way that no one will ever be able duplicate. Heaven has gained an Angel, you truly made the world a better place. Thank you, we all love and miss you. Love, Garth

Garth - April 02, 2023 at 05:04 AM

ER

“ My beautiful Aunt Diane. I will fail to do you justice. I'm not eloquent enough. I want to be. You were a shining example of what it is to be a good and decent person. A truly worthy person. I will fail to do justice, because words are not enough. I am smiling up at your Aunt D. You liked it when I smiled.....

Ernie Rector - April 01, 2023 at 06:11 PM

MF

“ Our sincere condolences to the Rector family. Diane was a wonderful woman and she will be missed dearly. We pray that you will find comfort and peace in the days ahead through her memories and everlasting love. May you rest in peace Diane. ❤️



Michael & Cathi Fell - April 01, 2023 at 08:10 AM

BR

“ *Diane, for 55 years it has been Bob and Diane and NEVER just Bob, sometimes I feel like I don't want to be here or anywhere without you, then I want to sit and recall all our wonderful memories, hard to describe this love but it is sure everlasting, You are the best thing that ever happened to me I love you so*
Bob

Bob Rector - March 31, 2023 at 12:37 PM

PW

“ *Dear Bob, Rob and family.*

*Bob, what a beautiful eulogy for Diane.
Diane was a very kind, thoughtful, loving sweet friend, who I was privileged to have in my life for over forty years.
Diane's smile, her soft touch to my hand, and those loving hugs will be with me always.
I can still here her voice.
Her passion for life, love for family and friends will live on in the hearts of those she loved and those who love her.
My heart aches for you Bob and Rob.
I pray those wonderful memories you have for Diane, Mom, will ease the hurt and emptiness you feel.*

*My love.
God bless you all.*

Patty Wood - March 31, 2023 at 11:22 AM

JC

“ Dear Bob, Rob and Family,

On Tuesday, I lost one of my best friends. Diane was a shining star to the loving family and caring friends who had the privilege to know her throughout the years. Diane was so kind, sweet, and thoughtful, I will miss her terribly. I have so many fond memories of Diane. We spent many vacations together. Being with Diane on our hikes in many National Parks will be a remembrance I will always cherish. I am thankful for those wonderful times.

Bob and Rob, as you grieve and heal from your loss may you in time find peacefulness and solace in the memories you will cherish and hold dear in your heart forever.

Remember you have an angel in heaven and she is with you always.

Jeanne Curtis

Jeanne Curtis - March 31, 2023 at 09:08 AM

ER

“ Words are hard to come by on how much you will be missed. For over 55 years you have been a part of my life. My heart is broken for Bobby and Rob. I will miss seeing you walking the neighborhood and feeding the birds in the back yard and so many other things. As a brother in law to a great sister in law I Love You and will miss you always.

Ernest Rector - March 30, 2023 at 06:00 PM

CK

“ Dear Bob and family,
We will always cherish and be thankful for Diane's friendship and happy times spent together. Her kind, thoughtful, caring, generous and loving ways will never be forgotten.
So whenever you see the brightest shining star, a glowing full moon, birds happily chirping--and perhaps a beautiful jumping dolphin--that will be Diane letting you know she is OK and forever with you.
With heartfelt sympathy,
Joe and Charlotte

Charlotte Kisco - March 30, 2023 at 02:05 PM

KR

“ Dear Bob, Robbie and family,
What a beautiful tribute. Diane was someone so special, it is difficult to find the words to explain how I feel losing her. She was my neighbor first, and then my dear friend. To know I'll never see her again or experience the fun, love and kindness she has always exuded is difficult to comprehend. All I can do is carry on her legacy, to be kind to one another, and to hold dear everyone who I care about. Diane has touched my life forever and this void has to be filled by paying it forward in her name. And that's what I intend to do. Bob and Robbie, your wife and mother touched all our lives and we will never take for granted the impact she's had on us. God bless you and keep you during this most difficult time. I hope all the fond memories you've collected over the years together help you heal and find comfort. She will always be with you ❤️

Karen Rynkowski - March 29, 2023 at 06:49 PM

JH

Dear Bob, Robbie and Family, There are no words that could ever explain the sadness that I am feeling. Diane was surely a wonderful, caring and supportive friend to me for over 60 years. We shared photos of our kid's & grandchildren often. I loved that many thought that we looked like sisters, we would giggle. Dick and I both extend our condolences. Peace & Love . RIP my beautiful friend.

joyce Houston - March 30, 2023 at 09:22 AM

KP

“ I did not know Diane , but,I do know her son Rob and lisa, his wife. She raise a special boy. Rob has always had a special place in my heart. We send our deepest sympathies to him and his family. You are all in my prayers.



KATHLEEN Pombo - March 29, 2023 at 05:40 PM