



Diane Collins Whitfield

October 6, 1938 - March 30, 2020

Hampton - Diane "DeDe" Whitfield, 81, of Hampton, passed away peacefully on Monday March 30th, 2020 at the Rockingham County Nursing Center after a lengthy illness.

She was born in Lawrence, MA on October 6, 1938 to the late Joseph and Juliette (Lamoine) Collins. She was raised in Methuen, MA with her sisters, Susanne and MaryJane, and her brother, Frank. They spent countless hours at what became the family homestead at Hampton Beach. Memories of extended family gatherings for Sunday breakfasts, afternoons bodysurfing and cookouts in the backyard (of course following the all important cocktail hour) will forever be cherished.

DeDe was spunky. She had energy and was outgoing. In her youth, she was an avid equestrian spending hours at Hoopers Riding Academy in Rye, NH. She lived in Australia and New Zealand, and formed friendships with people there that would last a lifetime. Later, summers were spent walking in the surf and socializing at the Rye Beach Club.

She raised her daughters, Holly and Bonnie, to be hardworking, appreciative of what life had to offer. She taught them that a kind word, a "please" or a "thank you" can go a long way. Most importantly, she taught them to never forget their sense of humor. Above all, DeDe will be remembered for that sense of humor. That quirky, strange, sometimes inappropriate and occasionally shocking sense of humor. It kept us laughing through the years.

In her thirties, DeDe got to meet many people in Hampton through her job as the hostess at Lamie's Tavern where she delighted patrons with her smile and a cheeky comment. Later, she was employed at Hampton Academy Junior High. She truly enjoyed the wonderful people she had the pleasure to work with over the 18 years she was there.

DeDe's favorite job was being a grandmother to her two grandsons, Devon and Camden. The hours she spent with them, telling them outlandish stories and hugging them, are etched on their hearts and will help to fill the void her passing has left. DeDe loved deeply

and most of all cherished her family.

There will be a celebration of her life in a few months when the madness of the COVID-19 virus has subsided and it is safe to hug, laugh and toast to Dede's amazing life. All who sign this memorial website will be notified of the upcoming celebration so please include your email. Who knew such a little lady could leave such a big impression on so many people.

Comments



“ Bonnie,

So sorry to hear about your loss. DeDe was unforgettable--kind, brutally honest, and hilarious. Hard working, high standards, a great daughter and a great mom. I'm lucky to have known her. Love and prayers to you and your family and to Holly.

Dan Regan - April 15, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ I am so sorry Bonnie. I remember sleeping over your house on High Street as a child and being absolutely fascinated with your Mom's glass topped end table that was filled with sand and beautiful shells from far away places. I'll never forget all the backyard cookouts and time together at Hampton Beach. Keeping you and Holly in my prayers.

Susan Joy - April 07, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ I remember as a child growing up that Dede was mysterious !! I was fascinated they she lived far away and rode in helicopters. When she came home with here babies we all had so much fun playing together. Later in my Grandpas life Dede was always available for him and helped him in many ways. I loved when she had her condo and we could use her pool, you never knew what Dede would come out with or say. One day she offered total strangers (kids) to go to her garage and borrow what ever floats and toys they wanted. She had a big heart and I will miss her Love you Dede

Leigh Cleveland - April 06, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ God bless you/ DeeDee. We shared many laughs together. You were always a spit fire.
Love Dee Gough your school nurse

Dee Gough - April 07, 2020 at 09:34 AM



“ Dede was a force! I walked into Hampton Academy in 1994 and I saw her at the front office, we chatted and laughed never having met before. I told her I was interested in subbing and she told me to come in the next day for wok and deal with the paperwork later!

Over the years I have enjoyed catching up with her in her fun spirited hats in Hannaford's. Her delightful and positive disposition will be greatly missed! RIP my friend

carolyn Heps - April 06, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ I met DeDe at Parent Teacher Conferences at HAJH... Holly must have been in my 7th grade class. At the end of the Conference, DeDe stated: “You're divorced aren't you!” This was not something I wanted to discuss with parents, so I just looked at her, astounded. She patted me on the hand & said, with kindness, “You aren't alone. It's time to stop being angry”. I loved her for that moment & we were fast friends thereafter!!

May Youngclaus - April 06, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ I'm so sorry Bonnie- I'll always remember her Please let me know when you have a service. Ltimko5@gmail.com

Liz Stanford - April 05, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ I have the fondest memories of DeDe. She was always so kind to me. I enjoyed visiting with her the few times I was able to see!

Heather Swope - April 05, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ I send hugs to you Holly ,Bonnie and Paul. Your mom shared a pure honesty in her time with me. Her gifts embraced that being open with ones' Spirit shows our unique individuality we all need to honor. She spoke her Truths and that was what I liked about her.

Joyce Hersey

Joyce Hersey - April 05, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about DeDe's passing. I had the pleasure of working with DeDe at Hampton Academy. As a young, new teacher, DeDe helped me out many times. She was funny, blunt and a hard worker. I enjoyed talking to her. This is a loss.
~ Irene Grand

Irene Grand - April 04, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ As one of the neighborhood kids I remember DeDe being pretty firm, yet fair. Last time I saw your Mom, we were at the wall and she was telling me that she wanted to fly helicopters. She was always reaching for the sky. Hugs and good vibes.
Tim Manning

Tim Manning - April 05, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ We are thinking of you. Xo
The Hansen's

Whit Hansen - April 05, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ I have so many different memories but some of my favorites include riding in the pink VW Beetle, body surfing, watching her attempts at rollerblading (good Lord!) and hanging out at the Beach Club! She is the only woman I ever knew who could make me laugh till I almost cried, and then cringe at the same time! I'll miss you dear GodMother of mine!

Alison Cleveland - April 06, 2020 at 01:50 AM



“ Wow Dede- what a ride! So many fond memories of High St. as junior high studentgathering at the house that had the first MTV! To North Hampton house and you bringing me my first Tolberone chocolate bar from your ride on the Concord! You were always the mother of my friend that I would hang out and talk with, never boring. Many times hanging with you in the kitchen while a big party was going on outside. You were there for me as Bonnies friend no questions asked if I needed anything. I am happy to have shared my wedding, the births of my children and my life with you till now. You represented a strong woman to me as you ALWAYS spoke your mind...and stood up for what you believed to be right. Rest easy Dede...cheers to a life well lived. xoxo Laurel

Laurel - April 08, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ So many great memories of DeDe. I remember being very young and visiting Joe & Julie when she came to visit from Australia. I must have been 7. Oh how in love I was with her stories of flying helicopters and traveling the world. I know she will be missed by you all. -
Ken Ludwig

Ken Ludwig - September 29, 2020 at 03:06 PM