



Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins

December 2, 1953 - February 17, 2022

On February 17, 2022, Deborah Brennan Collins peacefully passed away from complications associated with young onset Alzheimer's Disease. Debbie was surrounded by the warmth and love of her husband Kelly and of their children KC, Brennan, Ryan and Betsy, as well as the adoration of friends and family who shared fond memories and a comforting presence in the days prior.

Debbie was born in Springfield, MA on December 2, 1953 to Barbara and Edward Brennan, Jr. She was a strong yet kind leader of her siblings Barbara, Karen, EJ, Patti, Jim and Paul all of whom she held close to her heart as her best friends; in her adult years, these bonds flourished as their families grew and she welcomed in-laws and nieces and nephews. Extending her family brought such joy to Debbie, who was always a phone call away and showed up for important big moments and even smaller ones. The O'Donnell family also held a special place in Deb's life: shenanigans on Mandalay Road, celebrations at Fred's Kids Place and Nancy's Nest, and walks on West Dennis Beach with Aunt Nancy were among some of her most cherished moments.

Deb was a 1971 graduate of Cathedral High School before attending Newton College of the Sacred Heart (Class of 1975) and Boston College Graduate School of Social Work (Class of 1978). Deb's heart made her a natural: her

genuine curiosity in others and her generosity of love allowed her to support people of all ages and backgrounds through professional and volunteer work at Brockton Catholic Charities, Rainbows for All of God's Children, Pediatric Development Center, HospiceCare in the Berkshires, as well as companionship to local individuals at the ends of their lives.

Debbie married Kelly Collins on May 31, 1980. Immediately, she grew close with the Collins family, enjoying Sunday dinners with her mother- and father-in-law El and Bill, as well as countless family gatherings at her home with her sisters- and brothers-in-laws, PJ (Kevin) Taylor, Chrissy (Paul) Avery, Tim (Christine) Collins and Michael Collins. Her life's work was truly her children, whom she loved without bounds. She never missed a soccer game or ski race, and she found reason to celebrate each of her kid's successes; equally important, she invested the hard work of guiding them to be the best version of themselves with her compassion and honesty.

Deb was preceded in death by her mother Barbara and father Edward. She is survived by her husband W. Kelly and their children KC, Brennan (Emily), Ryan (Brittany) and Betsy (Casey Barber), as well as four grandchildren Abigail, Brennan Jr., Oliver and James; she leaves behind her siblings and their spouses Barbara (Bob) MacLaverty, Karen (Tom) Byrne, EJ (Carol) Brennan, Patti Brennan, Jim (Marilu) Brennan and Paul Brennan, her step-mother Judy Brennan, as well as so many other beloved friends and family.

Never too busy to stop and say "hello," Deb's presence always put others at ease. She loved music: Bruce Springsteen, the Beach Boys, and Adele were among her favorites. Above all, she loved being with others, sharing in the simple joys of life, offering her soft smile and kind laugh that emerged so easily.

Funeral Notice:

Visitation will be held at Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home at 220 East Street in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 1pm at Sacred Heart Church, 191 Elm Street Pittsfield MA 01201, celebrated by the Rev. Steven G. Montesanti, Pastor. For those unable to attend, the service will be uploaded and available to view on this site shortly after. In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations in Debbie's honor may be made to the Pediatric Development Center or HospiceCare in the Berkshires, in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield
220 East St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 445-4064
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

FEB **24**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
191 Elm St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall



“ *Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - February 24, 2022 at 05:24 PM

MS

Such a beautiful service ❤️

Megan Scully - February 25, 2022 at 08:13 PM

BS

“ *Debby was such a shining light wherever she went. I loved having some time talking to her wherever we happened to meet -often at Guido's. Unfortunately our last visits were at Berkshire Place when I was there to visit Mark's aunt. Debby's smiling face says everything! What a beautiful person in every way. Love to all of the family, Betsey Selkowitz*

Betsey Selkowitz - March 19, 2022 at 07:32 PM

GC

“ My condolences to the Collins and Brennan families. I was blessed to be a good friend of Debby, Kelly, PJ and Chris for many years through the college years. During our years in Boston and the Berkshires we spent much time together. I remember Debby for her good nature and she and Kelly were a wonderful couple. May Debby be at peace in heaven.

Gene Caligari

gene caligari - February 25, 2022 at 03:56 PM

BH

“ I first met Debbie during my Holy Cross fifth-year reunion reception in 1979. An attractive and spirited woman, it was my pleasure to witness her meeting one of my college apartment-mates Kelly there as well. They were an instant hit! Since then, I have thought of them as the ideal couple, the two that were meant to be together, a match made in Heaven. The sadly ironic twist is that Debbie, a genuine leader, arrived up there first but undeniably too young.

Often thought of as an old age affliction, young onset Alzheimer's Disease is a scourge that has now penetrated deeply into earlier ages. Hopefully, awareness of Debbie's circumstances among others will inspire more needed research into the cause and treatment for such a pervasive disease.

My condolences to Kelly and his family. May she rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon her.

Bill Haggerty

Bill Haggerty - February 24, 2022 at 11:25 AM

LW

“ Kelly, I am so sorry for your loss; a painful journey with your loving spouse. My prayers to you and your kids.
Lev White

Levering White - February 23, 2022 at 09:12 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 23, 2022 at 10:58 AM

LR

“ I so enjoyed working with Debbie on many projects when we were members of the Junior League. Gracious and always smiling. Linda M Ruberto

Linda Ruberto - February 23, 2022 at 08:50 AM

LS

“ Love, Lisa and Bob Sheehan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



Love, Lisa and Bob Sheehan - February 23, 2022 at 08:11 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 05:55 PM



“ *A Full Life* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 04:24 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *Ryan and Sarah Jones* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



Ryan and Sarah Jones - February 22, 2022 at 01:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 11:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *Dear Kelly, KC, Brennan, Ryan and Betsy, Dr. Knight and I are so very sorry for your loss. Debbie was just an amazing women full of beautiful smiles. I remember so fondly our kids growing up at the Country Club spending so many fun hours with Junior Golf and Tennis and of course the Lake. These memories we will cherish always. We are sending all our Love, Dr. Bill and Susan Knight*

Susan Knight - February 22, 2022 at 08:58 AM



“ *Matt & Emily Petricone purchased the Joyful Memory* for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



Matt & Emily Petricone - February 22, 2022 at 08:22 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 06:59 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 06:51 AM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 22, 2022 at 06:21 AM

SW

“ Dear Kelly, KC, Brennan, Ryan and Betsy,
My sincere sympathy on the passing of one great woman! One of the most unique and important programs at Sacred Heart School (Rainbows for all God’s children) was begun and planned weekly, solely by Debbie! Her love and compassion for children who were suffering loss of one kind or another was a gift to them. She loved them and they loved her in return! I am sure that they have always remembered the kindness and loving care that Debbie showered upon them week after week! She is now enjoying the reward of her life, well lived! Thank you for sharing her with us!
Sr. Kathleen Wallace, SSJ

Sr. Kathleen Wallace,SSJ - February 21, 2022 at 10:52 PM

CA

“ What a lovely family she built! Sending love and hope to them today.

Chrissy Anderson - February 21, 2022 at 07:50 PM

HS

“ My deepest condolences to the Collins and Brennan families. I have fond memories of a wonderful person. Hank Spring

Hank Spring - February 21, 2022 at 01:57 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 21, 2022 at 12:43 PM

MC

“ Matthew & Lisa Callahan purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



Matthew & Lisa Callahan - February 21, 2022 at 10:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 21, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 21, 2022 at 09:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.



February 20, 2022 at 06:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 12:45 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 08:30 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 20, 2022 at 08:25 AM



“ *Deb was a lovely lovely person who adored each and every one of her children. “And seven Spanish angels took another angel home.” Debbie WILL Rest In Peace and will protect her babies from above.*

Betsy Keady - February 19, 2022 at 09:49 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 19, 2022 at 09:18 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 19, 2022 at 09:13 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 19, 2022 at 09:04 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.*



February 19, 2022 at 08:31 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Mrs. Deborah Brennan Collins.* ”



February 19, 2022 at 07:17 PM